

PIONEER-SARAH CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Minutes - Regular Meeting

November 15, 2007

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 4:07 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2007, by Chair Lisa Whalen at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Sylvia Walsh, Greenfield; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; John Sweeney, Maple Plain; Don Johnston, Medina; Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; Jim Kujawa, Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES); John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson, JASS, Administrator.

Not represented: Independence.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA.*** Motion by Sweeney, second by Johnston to approve the revised Agenda. Motion carried.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS.** Motion by Walsh, second by Johnston to approve the consent items:

- a. **Minutes*** of the October meeting.
- b. November **Treasurer's Report and Claims.***

Motion carried.

Anderson will adjust NRICH and CWLA administrative costs on year-end Treasurer's Report. She will also include non-action items on a separate listing referencing the Staff Report.

4. **OPEN/PUBLIC.** No one wished to speak re non-agenda items.

5. **ACTION ITEMS.**

a. **2007-14 Park Estates, Greenfield.*** This site consists of four agricultural parcels (approximately 107 acres total) located at the southeast intersection of CR 92 and W. Lake Sarah Drive. The applicant is proposing to subdivide the properties into 20 single-family residential lots. A wetland restoration/banking project is also proposed on this parcel, but an application has not been received for that specified work. The current application was reviewed for floodplain and wetland impacts along with erosion controls, water quality and water quantity compliance with the Commission's management plan. In their Findings dated November 6, 2007, Staff recommended approval contingent upon receipt of final plan sheets containing the Commission's seeding and buffer signage requirements. Motion by Walsh, second by Sweeney to approve Staff's recommendations. Motion carried.

b. Motion by Walsh, second by Daniels to approve **letters of support for Clean Water Legacy Act grant applications*** for shoreline buffering and stabilization on Lake Independence (City of Medina) and stream restoration (City of Maple Plain). Motion carried.

c. **Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP).** Last month the Commission received an email from Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council, regarding an opportunity to purchase equipment for the new WOMP sites. They are interested in establishing or re-establishing WOMP sites on Pioneer and Sarah Creeks. The program would pay for the equipment (about \$17,500 for a permanent station) with funds provided by the MPCA. The Commission would pay for installation, lab costs, utility costs and any operation and maintenance costs. Estimated cost for utility fees and lab work is \$3,500/year/monitoring site. MPCA may also have funds available for a portable, multi- variable meter to help supplement other monitoring data. This partnership could assist the Commission in obtaining Lake Sarah or Independence TMDL data, but Met Council staff was more interested in re-establishing collection sites on the creeks. In either case, a significant amount of time and money must be committed to support the equipment purchased by Met Council. If the Commission chooses to move forward, Three Rivers Park District has volunteered their time; the Commission would need to provide the utility and lab fee costs. Staff indicated funding is currently available in the 2008 budget and would need to be budgeted in future years. Motion by Walsh, second by Daniels to approve participation in the program. Motion carried.

6. **PROJECT REVIEWS.** (See Addendum to Minutes for status of open project reviews requiring no action or updates.)

*enclosure in meeting packet or available at meeting

2007-15 Pillar Homes, Pinney Residence, Minnetrista.* This is a nine-acre residential lot in the Alexander Farms subdivision. Grading for a new home, barn and lawn area will disturb 3.2 acres. The Commission regulates residential developments or redevelopments greater than 2 acres but less than 8 acres in size for compliance with its erosion and sediment control requirements. The erosion and sediment control plans meet the Commission's requirements. Staff administratively approved the site plans. This item will be removed from the agenda.

7. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Correspondence.

1) Conservation Effort in Medina. Last month Emily Miller from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) contacted the Commission regarding a potential partnership opportunity. In essence, TPL is looking for money and staff commitment to purchase and maintain property until a permanent entity is available to oversee operation and maintenance on the Steve Martin parcel in Medina. This parcel is deemed to be of high value for future green corridor establishment. Eventually, TPL is looking for another entity to hold the rights to the property and take over the permanent operation and maintenance of the property for use in the corridor between Baker Park Reserve and Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. County and HCD staff are working with TPL toward this goal, but at this time the funds to purchase the property are not available.

Staff also contacted Commission attorney Joel Jamnik. His response: 103B provides authority for capital improvements and projects to improve water management. The purpose of this potential project seems to go beyond the generally accepted scope of operations for a 103B entity. Purchase of the easement could be expensive and would necessitate modification of existing and future budgets of the Commission. [He hasn't] had any previous experience with a metro watershed acquiring an interest (easement, ownership, etc.) in property with the intent to preserve it as open space.

2) Site statistics for the Commission's website have been set up and can be viewed at www.pioneersarahcreek.org/stats. Anderson will provide the Commissioners with the user ID and password.

- b. Lake Independence Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).** See addendum.
- c. MetroEnvironmental Partnership (MEP) Grant.** See addendum.
- d. Tomahawk Trail Wetland.** See addendum.
- e. Shriners Site, Independence.** See addendum.
- f. Camp Ihduhapi Shoreland Protection Project.** See addendum.
- g. Lake Sarah TMDL.** See addendum.
- h. Lake Independence Shoreline Project.** See addendum.
- i. Upcoming meetings** are scheduled for December 13 at 4:30 p.m. and January 17 and February 21 at 4:00 p.m.
- j. Adjournment.** Motion by Walsh, second by Sweeney to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Administrator
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