

**MINUTES
Corrected
January 15, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Thursday, January 15, 2015, by Chair Tom Cook at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Cari Girk, Loretto; Michael DeLuca, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, Medina; Pam Mortenson, Minnetrista; James Kujawa, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina; Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; Rachel Olmanson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and Steve Christopher, Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR).

2. AGENDA.* Motion by McLaughlin, second by Girk to approve the revised agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. MINUTES.* Motion by Girk, second by McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014 regular meeting with the names of lakes added, Brasch's edits to item 6.a., and the spelling correction of Belle Street under item 9. *Motion carried unanimously.*

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND CLAIMS.* Motion by DeLuca, second by Girk to approve the Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$3,666.81. *Motion carried unanimously.* DeLuca recommended leaving fund balances as is, including negative amounts.

5. OPEN/PUBLIC.

6. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Review 2014 Work Plan.* Staff requested Commissioners to review and comment on the 2014 Work Plan. The 2015 Work Plan will be based off the 2014 Work Plan and the Third Generation Plan and will be presented in February for review.

- b. Annual Appointments.** Currently:
- 1) Official depositories - 4MFund/US Bank
 - 2) Deputy Treasurer -Judie Anderson
 - 3) Auditor - Johnson & Company
 - 4) Official newspapers – *Crow River News*.

Motion by Girk, second by McLaughlin to approve the appointments as listed. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Review Capital Improvement Program documents. *See item 13.b. below.*

d. Approve Letter of Support – TRPD carp management grant request.* Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to approve the letter of support as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

7. WRAPP.

a. Update. Brasch has received the preliminary report on sediment core analyses for Ardmore, Half Moon, Spurzem, and Whaletail Lakes. The data will be used to develop watershed models of the lakes. In addition, PCA is assisting in the process of lakeshed mapping for point source identification. Brasch, Olmanson and Anderson are working together to develop the phase two work plan.

1) **CROW – One Watershed, One Plan.*** CROW was selected for the One Watershed, One Plan pilot project. The Commission is not expected to participate because the portion of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed's jurisdictional area inside the CROW watershed's hydrologic boundaries is only 1.5%. The Commission can choose to remain informed in the process but take a non-active role in planning. Motion by McLaughlin, second by Girk to support but not collaborate or participate in the project, JPA, or any mutual agreement relating to One Watershed, One Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Community Conversation.*** Juntunen will Email Commissioners the list of attendees from the November Civic Engagement meeting. A subcommittee will meet on January 21 to begin planning the next Civic Engagement meeting. Council members will be re-invited to the next Community Conversation.

8. **STAFF REPORT.***

a. **2003-20 Greenworks, Greenfield – Wetland Banking Approval.*** The Greenworks wetland bank application was approved by the Commission in October 2003. The initial bank plan proposed establishing 4.72 acres of New Wetland Credit through excavation/berming and removal of a tile line, and 0.83 acres of Public Value Credit through creation of a 25-foot wide native grass buffer, for a total of 5.55 acres of mitigation bank credit. An as-built survey of the bank site, completed in 2005, revealed the actual New Wetland Credit area to be 4.64 acres. A Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) recommended and the Commission approved an initial 15% (0.7 acres) wetland credit deposit into the BWSR wetland bank in 2005. Since that time, Grygelko has periodically monitored the site and requested additional banking credit deposits. The last site visit by the TEP was in the fall of 2011. During that visit, the outlet control structure that maintained the wetland was not functioning. No additional credits have been recommended by the TEP since the initial 15% deposit in 2005.

This fall, Grygelko requested another TEP. A wetland delineation and monitoring report were completed November 4 by Grygelko's consultant. The TEP met on site November 6 and determined that the wetland buffer did not meet the native vegetation requirements, buffer signage was necessary and the wetland delineation was not adequate. An adequate delineation was received and verified by Staff after the TEP meeting. With the updated delineation, the TEP agreed that, if requested, up to an additional 75% of the type 3 wetland on this site could be certified. That would equate to 2.0 acres of additional wetland credits. Grygelko requested 2.0 acres be certified by the LGU for deposit into the BWSR wetland bank. Staff recommends that the Commission approve 2.0 acres of wetland be certified for deposit. Motion by Girk, second by McLaughlin to certify 2.0 acres for deposit into the BWSR wetland bank. *Motion failed.*

Commissioners expressed concern re the continuing deficiencies in the buffer after 12 years with no assurances that the deficiencies will be remedied. Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to deny the application on the basis that the native vegetation and buffer signage requirements have not been met. The Commission will reconsider this action contingent on the applicant meeting the aforementioned requirements by June 30, 2015. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment.** The final report was provided at the December meeting meeting.

c. **Lake Independence Outlet Channel.** McLaughlin noted that the water level continues to be above the weir. Staff suggested McLaughlin talk with Kate Drewry at DNR regarding changes to the weir and how to accomplish those changes with the higher water level.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE.**

10. **EDUCATION.**

a. An information piece on the **Wright County MN Filter*** was provided by Becky Wozney. This system is ideal for upland areas with a good ratio of cost per pound of reduction. The City of Minnetrista has one functioning at the Dutch Lake Outlet, a project constructed by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Typically the sand and iron in the filter bench need to be replaced every seven to ten years to remain effective for trapping dissolved phosphorus. A tour of the project may be available.

b. **Farm to Stream*** is an informational piece regarding the upcoming January 30 nitrogen report by Freshwater Society and Farmwise program findings. While not focusing on reductions, the piece details the findings of a pilot program working with farmers and makes recommendations for changes to how ag programs are funded. The

purpose is to make legislators aware that the voluntary form of reductions isn't working well. The authors of the report will be presenting an overview and engaging in a discussion of the findings on January 30.

11. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES. Clean Water Partnership* grant applications are due March 6. Commissioners should inform their cities of this grant opportunity because items identified in the subwatershed assessments may qualify for grant funding. Completed applications need to be presented to the Commission at the February meeting for approval.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Notification of **Commissioner and Alternate appointments** need to be provided by the cities of Independence, Loretto and Maple Plain.

b. Statutes require the Commission to **solicit for interest proposals** bi-annually for administrative, technical and legal services. Staff will publish the request in the *State Register*.

c. **Election of officers** will occur at the February meeting. Current officers: Tom Cook, Chair; Mike McLaughlin, Vice Chair; Cari Girk, Secretary; and Mike DeLuca, Treasurer.

d. **Upcoming Commission meetings:** February 19 and March 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

13. THIRD GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a. **BWSR Review – Metro Region Committee Meeting.** Cook reported on his attendance at the January 12, 2015 BWSR Metro Region Committee meeting. The Committee will forward a recommendation to the BWSR Board that, based on BWSR staff recommendations, the plan be approved for six years, expiring in December 2020 instead of the full ten years. This would necessitate writing the Fourth Generation Plan four years earlier than anticipated, and include the full cost of writing another Management Plan. BWSR stated that this would allow them to review and monitor progress made on the Third Generation Plan. BWSR did like the idea of member cities setting up stormwater funding in order to fund projects in the CIP but expressed concern about the cities being expected to shoulder 90% of the costs for projects.

Commissioners expressed disappointment and concern regarding the financial burden of having to write a new Plan after only six years. The consensus was to not accept a plan that expires in six years. The Commission would accept the following options: 1) Approve the Plan for ten years; 2) Allow for a major plan amendment after six years to extend the Plan to a full ten years; or 3) Deny approval of the Plan so the Commissioners can make changes that would allow the Plan to be approved for a full 10 years.

The Commission asked Christopher to determine whether the plan can be delayed from going to the BWSR Board for approval, but he said that isn't likely because there is no BWSR meeting in February and they must take action within the 90-day review period. The Commission has the option to attend the January 28 Board meeting and request that the Plan be denied in order to re-work it into an acceptable ten-year Plan. DeLuca and Baker stated they could represent the Commission at the BWSR Board meeting. Whalen offered to attend as well. Cook noted that Mark Holten could attend to represent Greenfield.

b. **Capital Improvement Program.** This item was postponed to the February 19 meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by McLaughlin, second by DeLuca to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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