

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**January 16, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:05 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2025, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Matthew McSheehy, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Andrew Burak, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; Roz Davis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Nick Roehl and Mark Workcuff, Greenfield.

**2. AGENDA.** Motion by Daniels, second by Burak to approve the agenda\* as presented *Motion carried unanimously.*

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Vickery, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. **November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

b. **December Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \*** totaling \$51,943.34.

c. **January Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \*** totaling \$21,648.29.

**4. OPEN FORUM.** The new Commissioner and Alternate from Greenfield, Matthew McSheehy and Nick Roehl, respectively, were introduced.

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

a. **2025-001 Lake Independence Regional Trail, Medina.\*** This is a cost share project led by TRPD to stabilize a gully identified as Ardmore GS-3 on the Lake Independence SWA. TRPD is completing a realignment of their regional trail adjacent to the gully, bringing with it an opportunity to bring in equipment to complete this stabilization concurrently with their project since the trail will cross this gully. The project review fee is waived as a cost share project. The project was reviewed for erosion and sediment control. Staff submitted one comment on the SWPPP, likely due to a typo. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies. Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve project 2025-001 per staff recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Minor Plan Amendment – Review Comments and Approve.\*** Comments were received from several agencies. Staff recommends one change based on comments, to include additional funding partners of County and Grant to the subwatershed assessments for Hafften, Schendel and Schwappauf lakes. Motion by Daniels, second by Burak to approve the minor plan amendment with that change. *Motion carried.*

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **Lake Rebecca Channel Excavation/Stabilization Cooperative Agreement.\*** This project was on the Commission's Fourth Generation Plan CIP and approved for \$75,000 in FY23 WBIF funding in 2022. The project was originally slated for construction over the winter of 2023-2024, but warm conditions did not allow for access. This project will be constructed in early 2025.

b. **Lake Independence Hydrology Study.** Baker has been in regular contact with Wes Saunders-Pierce, the MN DNR Area Hydrologist. The DNR has completed a geomorphic assessment of flow and culverts and would like to share the study results with the Commission and interested parties. Juntunen will schedule a virtual meeting with DNR staff for a presentation.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. **Letters of Interest.\*\*** Per statute, the Commission solicits letters of interest for legal, technical and administrative services on a biennial basis. After review and discussion, the Commission decided to retain the current vendors: Cambell Knutson, legal; Hakanson Anderson, technical; and JASS, administrative.

b. **Appointments.** Baker, Daniels, Wulff and Vickery have been reappointed by their Councils for Independence, Loretto, Medina and Minnetrista, respectively. Burak will be replaced by Rochelle Arviso for Maple Plain and Workcuff will be replaced by Matthew McSheehy as Commissioner with Nick Roehl as Alternate for Greenfield.

## 8. EDUCATION.

## 9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. **Engineer's Report.** The construction bid for the GS68 pond scrape project was approved in November with work completed on December 13, 2024. The purpose of this project was to remove accumulated sediment from a wet pond created by upstream gully erosion. The gully was stabilized last year. An adjacent property owner allowed the sediment to be placed on his property, which lowered overall costs. About 50 yards of sediment was removed.

Hennepin County has contacted Commission staff regarding upcoming resurfacing of CSAH 10 in Greenfield. The project will also include widening the roadway, possible turn lane additions and culvert replacements from Corcoran to Rockford. A project review is expected to be received within the next two months.

b. **HCEE Report.\*** County staff reviewed the concept design for Dance Hall Creek BMP #3 with Jared Stotts. Stotts expressed interest in moving forward with the project but hasn't responded to a request to schedule a meeting.

Survey work on the Vinland Center ravine was completed in December. It's estimated that the ravine restoration would result in a reduction of 9.5-10 lbs. of TP to Lake Independence. EOR is completing design work for the restoration. Designs are expected to be complete in Spring 2025.

Survey work has been completed on the Flakne and Crees properties on Lake Independence for a shoreline restoration and a native prairie restoration project. Additional survey photos

will be required once ice is out for lake elevation data. Concept designs are underway.

Most of the fencing was completed for the Shriner's Horsemen project in 2024, covered by NRCS funding. The waterers will be installed in 2025. Sediment cores were taken from the wetland on the west side of CSAH 92. Additional sediment cores will be taken from the wetland on the east side of CSAH 92 to gauge TP export through tributary to Lake Rebecca.

Good Steward grants are open for application through January 23. Grace Barcelow, HCEE, wrote an article on chlorides which was published in the APG local papers in December 2024. The *Star Tribune* also published an article on chlorides in January 2025. Hennepin County is sponsoring a "plastics free challenge." Information is in the staff report.

Davis has started the FY25 WBIF work plan and funding request, along with annual grant reporting for FY21 and FY23 WBIF grants.

**c. TRPD Report.** Construction on the Lake Rebecca channel excavation/stabilization project is expected to begin later this month. The Shriners have moved their fence to allow access through their property. Part of the construction plan is to restore any impacts to their property.

The regional trail realignment /Ardmore GS3 project is moving forward. Tree removal will be completed by April 1 and construction will occur later this spring.

The Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) will submit a grant for CLPW control in 2025. TRPD will assist with the grant writing.

## 10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

**a. Vickery.** Minnetrista is in the preliminary phase of creating a new joint powers agreement (JPA) for a joint Fire District with Mound, St. Bonifacius and Shorewood.

**b.** This will be **Burak's** last meeting as a Commissioner. He will be moving to the Fire Commission. Independence and Maple Plain are considering a joint Fire District as well.

**c. McSheehy** noted that there is an open position on the Greenfield City Council, Greenfield Fire Service and Highway 55 Coalition. The Greenfield Road project will continue north of CSAH 50 this spring in two sections – CSAH 50 to 82nd Avenue, then 82nd Avenue to CSAH 10. Greenfield Road was originally a logging road built in the 1880s and is moving from gravel to pavement.

**d. Wulff** will attend a City Council meeting in late January or February to provide an update to the Council.

**e. Baker** will attend the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) Water Quality Committee meeting for discussions on spending to control Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) to ensure good communication between the Commission and the Association. Independence's Mayor of 44 years has retired; Brad Spencer is the new Mayor.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS.

**a.** Commissioners are reminded that **appointments**, if not made for longer than one year in

previous Council resolutions, are due. Appointments have been received from Greenfield and Loretto.

**b. Election of Officers and Annual Appointments** occur in February. If you are interested in serving as an officer in 2025, please advise Administrator Amy Juntunen. Current officers:

Chair - Joe Baker, Independence      Vice Chair - Mark Workcuff, Greenfield

Secretary - Peter Vickery, Minnetrista      Treasurer - Andrew Burak, Maple Plain

**c. The next regular meeting** is scheduled for February 20, 2025, at Maple Plain City Hall.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Burak, second by McSheehy to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Administrator  
AAJ:tim

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