



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

January 18, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 18, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Andrew Burak, Maple Plain; Joel Settles, Medina; Kris Guentzel and 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: Brad Spencer, Independence; and Scott Johnson, Medina.

2. AGENDA. Motion by Daniels, second by Burak to approve the agenda* with the addition of item 3.c.1. Hakanson Anderson claim. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

a. November 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. December Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$66,893.56.

c. January Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$2,159.78

1. Additional Claim. Hakanson Anderson, \$860.00**

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2023-007 CSAH 19 Rehabilitation.* This project will resurface CSAH 19 in Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain and Medina, and replace and extend culverts that cross beneath CSAH19 to convey Spurzem Creek under the roadway. The project was reviewed for Commission rules E and H. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies. Motion by Burak, second by Settles to approve project 2023-007. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. GS68 Bid Approval.* This is a CIP project for gully stabilization adjacent to Lake Sarah. Due to the cooperative weather, Staff reissued the RFQ for this construction project and received twelve quotes out of fifteen requests. The engineer's estimated cost for the project was \$37,000. The lowest bid came in at \$29,337. Staff recommends approving the low bid from Vada Contracting LLC. The contractor would like to start on the project next Monday, January 22, 2024. This project will be completed prior to the pond scrape just downstream. After reviewing the project area, the iron-enhanced sand filter was deemed infeasible due to lack of space and gradient for the filter to dry.

Motion by Settles, second by Daniels to approve awarding the contract to Vada Contracting

Greenfield • Independence • Loretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista

*Included in meeting packet.

LLC. *Motion carried unanimously.* Vistad will schedule a pre-construction meeting with the homeowners as soon as possible.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Lake Rebecca Channel Culvert Replacement. Eric Megow from Stantec asked whether the Commission would charge a project review fee for Capital Improvement Projects funded by the Commission. The Commissioners agreed unanimously not to charge a project review fee for this project. The time for the project review will be tracked and included as an in-kind match to the grant. Vistad has already reviewed the plans for the culvert replacement and identified no issues. Juntunen will research how adjacent WMOs address reviewing grant-funded projects.

Vlach noted that the Shriners will allow TRPD to access the project area through their land, though they will need to communicate about when horses will be in that pasture area. Vlach has created the RFQ and will publish the RFQ next week with the hope of having bids reviewed and ready to approve at the February meeting. This project involves replacing a culvert, some excavation and hard-armoring some sections of the channel. The project will likely take about a month to complete. The cost estimate for this project is \$87,000 including a 10% contingency.

b. Campaign Finance Board Reporting,* Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners must review, update and certify their statements of economic interest with the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board by January 29, 2024. The Board sent letters directly to all public officials in late December notifying them of the filing requirement and providing them with the information necessary to file online.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* Once the gully stabilization GS68 project is completed an RFQ will be created for the adjacent pond scrape project.

A landowner on Lake Independence called to express concern about a neighbor in the Bridgevine development installing a pump to use lake water for irrigation and a continuously running stream. Vistad will reach out to the new owners to discuss a water appropriations permit and their intentions with a potential pump.

b. HCEE Report.* Staff are working to gain homeowner consent for Stantec to complete the survey work for the **Dance Hall Creek project**. There are two owners who were unable to be contacted. Baker was asked to help with outreach to the Gaalswyks and Fultons. Baker will meet with Guentzel, Davis and Workcuff to discuss strategies to bring these landowners into the discussion.

Survey work has been completed at the Vinland facility. A full survey of the wetland will be completed in the spring. Preliminary design work for the project may be available as early as the February meeting, though final designs cannot be completed until ice-out.

HCEE has enrolled several properties in north Greenfield in the cover crop/soil health program this year.

c. TRPD Report. The annual progress report for BWSR grants are due February 1 for the alum treatment project on Whaletail Lake. Vlach will submit the report and include in the February meeting packet. TRPD is completing the sediment analysis on cores taken from Lake Sarah in 2023 and creating a report. The sediment release is higher than most other area lakes showing significant internal loading. The release rates have not yet been compared to the TMDL estimates.

Baker asked if the Lake Sarah Association and TRPD may be duplicating efforts since both are completing vegetation surveys and collecting data. Vlach noted that TRPD data collection is required for consistency, but it doesn't appear that duplication of efforts is an issue. TRPD will continue spring and fall surveys to maintain consistency. The Association should only contract services not being completed by TRPD currently.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

Baker reported a full thaw and re-freeze of lakes Sarah and Independence. Nothing like that has happened in the previous 23 years. Due to a lack of snow cover, algae growth continues with access to sunlight. This is likely to affect water clarity in 2024. Dissolved Oxygen issues are not anticipated this winter, though aeration is likely to begin on the lakes soon. Lake Sarah is near the ordinary high water level with inflow and outflow currently.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for February 15, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Burak to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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