



Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: 3235 Fernbrook Lane N • Plymouth, MN 55447
763.553.1144 • Fax: 763.553.9326 • amy@jass.biz • www.pioneersarahcreek.org

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

January 20, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, by Chair Joe Baker.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Caitlin Cahill, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also Present: Kyal Klawitter, Greenfield; Greg Elsen, Loretto; and Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

a. November Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. January Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$2,978.62.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

Appoint Nominating Committee for Election of Officers. No Commissioner appointments are expected to change in 2022. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to appoint a committee of the whole as the Nominating Committee. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. 2021 Work Plan in Review.* Commissioners will review and discuss at the February meeting.

b. Draft 2022 Work Plan.* The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet and review the workplan to update specific actions planned for 2022 and clarify actions taken in 2021 to add to the Work Plan in Review. Both documents must be completed and approved by March for inclusion in the 2021 Annual Report.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

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

*Included in meeting packet.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. **Campaign Finance Annual Reporting.*** Reminder for Commissioners to complete their campaign finance annual reports online. Contact staff with questions.
- b. **Annual Appointments.** Annual Commissioner and Alternate appointments must be emailed from the Cities to the Commission's administrative office at amy@jass.biz.

12. REPORTS.

- a. **HCEE Report.* A year-end summary*** was included in the meeting packet. County priorities include the implementation of existing SWAs for Lake Independence and Dance Hall Creek, as well as completion of an update to the Dance Hall Creek SWA and the Spurzem Chain SWA. County Staff have been focusing on working with Ag producers as the land use changes to large lot residential to restore features like ditches or lost wetlands before the land is sold. The County is looking to reconnect with residents who haven't had much interaction with the County in the past.

The Dance Hall Creek SWA update is about 80% complete, with completion expected in March. The Spurzem SWA is important as the chain drains to the eastern side of Lake Independence and completion is expected by April 30, 2022. The Lake Rebecca SWA kicked off in December 2021 and should be complete in summer 2022.

WBIF has been secured for the 2020-2022 period for North Fork Crow at \$91,105 and South Fork Crow at \$180,063. The North Fork funds are being used for the Dance Hall Creek SWA update, outreach efforts and SWA implementation. The South Fork funds have been allocated for BMP implementation in the Lake Independence and Spurzem SWAs and completion of the Spurzem and Lake Rebecca SWAs. Most of these funds will be expended in 2022.

County Staff have spent 1,076 hours working in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed in 2021, primarily in landowner outreach. These hours do not include staff time for the Spurzem SWA, buffer law implementation, WCA enforcement or lake program assistance. Hennepin County also contributed \$9,126.94 in engineering fees paid to Wright County SWCDs and permit fees for the McCombs and White projects.

Projects in 2021 include the Greenfield HOA gully stabilization and Slavec Texas crossing. Projects designed in 2021 for completion in 2022 include the McCombs channel stabilization and White wetland restoration. Projects in the design phase include the Ibler lakeshore restoration, Malecek drainageway and several others. The County completed 12 buffer inspections in the watershed.

In 2022 the County will launch a soil health program to implement cover crops and nutrient management practices, as well as targeted outreach for implementation.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

- a. **Baker** reported that the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) held a virtual meeting with the DNR re the lake vegetation management plan. There was good discussion and a presentation regarding past applications for CLPW and EWM treatments and results. LSIA is interested in pursuing funding for an alum treatment within the next 2-3 years. LSIA applied for County AIS prevention grants to complete resident education and AIS prevention monitoring at the public access.

b. Tschumperlin noted that Minnetrista has authorized WSB to proceed with requirements for the 2022 MS4 permits. Baker Tilly was hired to recruit a new City Administrator and the City Council will be interviewing six candidates in early February. The goal is to have a new Administrator starting by the end of March.

c. Workcuff stated that both he and Klawitter have been reappointed to the Commission for 2022. Stewart is aware of a potential WCA violation in Greenfield that is currently under review.

d. Cahill. Maple Plain will be conducting a study as the current water rates are not covering costs. The City also declared a health emergency and is meeting virtually again. The City will also survey residents about their needs and desires for city infrastructure in upcoming years.

e. Wulff inquired about the Ibler shoreline restoration on Lake Independence. The engineer completed survey work in late November 2021 and draft designs are expected in February 2022. Other interested property owner projects are too small for state grants, but WBIF funds may be available later this summer.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for February 17, 2022 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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