

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
February 15, 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 6:02 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 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; Pat Wulff, Medina; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; 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: Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

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

a. **January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.***

b. **February Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$3,621.94.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. **2024-001 The Rock, Greenfield.*** This project will construct a non-profit venue for youth activities. The site is currently four acres of grass meadow. After construction, 1.35 acres of this site will be impervious. Stormwater will be routed to one wet sedimentation basin with an iron-enhanced sand filter and two biofiltration basins. This project will result in about 750 square feet of wetland impacts to allow access to the site. Staff reviewed the project for compliance with Commission rules D, E and I. After review, staff recommends approval contingent upon recording of an O&M plan for stormwater facilities on site and approval of the buffer establishment plan. Motion by Workcuff, second by Vickery to approve project 2024-001 with the two contingencies listed and correct the WCA LGU from the Commission to the city of Greenfield. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Officer Elections.*** Current officers in attendance volunteered to continue in their current positions. Vickery volunteered to serve as Secretary. Motion by Vickery, second by Wulff to approve the 2024 officers as follows: Baker, Chair; Workcuff, Vice Chair; Burak, Treasurer; and Vickery, Secretary. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Annual Appointments.*** Motion by Burak, second by Baker to appoint the following for 2024: Official Newspaper, *Crow River News*; Official Depositories, US Bank and the 4M fund; Deputy Treasurer, Amy Juntunen; and Auditor, Johnson & Co., Ltd. *Motion carried, Vickery abstaining from voting on depositories.*

d. Motion by Workcuff, second by Baker to not waive the **monetary limits on municipal tort liability coverage***. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **2023 Work Plan in Review.*** Juntunen provided the 2023 Work Plan in Review for review and comment by Commissioners and Staff. This item will be incorporated into the 2023 Annual Report which must be approved at the April meeting and, per statute, submitted to the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) by April 30, 2024.

b. **2024 Work Plan,*** Juntunen provided the 2024 Work Plan for review and comment by Commissioners and Staff. This item will also be incorporated into the 2023 Annual Report. Juntunen requested that comments be sent prior to March meeting for incorporation and review in March with the draft Annual Report.

8. **EDUCATION.**

9. **STAFF REPORTS.**

a. **Engineer's Report.*** Vistad will be joining the Adelmans and their home builder on-site at Bridgevine on February 27 for their pre-construction meeting. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the Commission's questions regarding the irrigation pipes and potential pumping from the lake, as well as inform the owner about water appropriations requirements. Wulff requested a copy of the water appropriation permit application. Vistad was asked to write a short newsletter article regarding water appropriation permit requirements for member cities.

The GS68 gully stabilization project is 90% complete. The final plantings will not be completed until spring. Vistad presented before and after photos and described the project for Commissioners. The contractor expects the project to finish right on budget. Baker asked if the vendor could put down some protection on the exposed tree roots the equipment is going over to prevent damaging the trees in the area.

[Daniels arrived 7:00 p.m.]

b. **HCEE Report.*** County staff completed the progress report for the WBIF grants and will provide that report as part of the March meeting packet. The FY21 WBIF grant was extended and will expire on December 31, 2024. The priority is to utilize those funds prior to the grant expiration. Staff propose an amendment to the grant workplan to combine the Spurzem Creek and Lake Independence implementation funds within the grant since it has been difficult to find ready projects within the Spurzem Creek chain and Spurzem Creek is part of the larger Lake Independence watershed. This amendment will be brought before the Commission for action in March.

Davis gave a presentation on Hennepin County's role as a Soil and Water Conservation District, SWAs completed, and current programs and grants. In 2023 the County dedicated staff time to outreach including soil health implementations and BMPs 1 and 2 identified in the Dance Hall Creek SWA.

Goals for 2024 include continued outreach regarding the Dance Hall Creek project to obtain landowner approval for the survey and completion of the 30% design. County staff will also focus on identifying other opportunities in the North Fork Crow watershed to supplement this project if it becomes infeasible. County staff will also continue to pursue the Vinland BMP implementation, the Adelman/Kingston shoreline restorations, and completing the Bridgevine/BohLand ravine restoration and the Spurzem Creek SWA in the Lake Independence watershed; completing the Shriner's rotational grazing project and wetland sediment cores for the Lake Rebecca watershed and identifying new BMP implementation projects for the upcoming FY25 WBIF grant of \$240,415.

Davis provided more information on the County open house in 2023, expectations to host another open house as well as a field day in 2024, and the County's soil health program.

c. **TRPD Report.** Baker asked how the warm winter is likely to affect **lake vegetation** in 2024. It is likely that vegetation management will be more challenging due to constant sunlight which would allow CLPW to continue growing throughout the winter season. Germination is likely to start earlier than usual which will necessitate treatments to begin early as well. One likely opportunity is that it will be harder to miss areas of growth since usually plants haven't begun growing right after ice-out. There may be higher algae blooms throughout the year as well.

The **Whaletail alum treatment report*** was included in the meeting packet. After treatment, TP concentration dropped significantly to where it meets standards, as well as standards for Chlorophyll a and water clarity for nearly the entire year. There was a small algal bloom at the end of the year. These results are good for the first treatment. This alum treatment grant expires on December 31, 2025. Instead of completing the second alum treatment in 2024, Vlach recommends waiting until 2025 to monitor water quality which will determine whether the alum dose should be adjusted.

The **Lake Rebecca Channel Stabilization** project has been delayed due to the warm weather because the equipment would damage the pasture area for project access. The bid packet for the project is complete and will be bid for construction in November-December 2024.

TRPD was not awarded a Conservation Partners Legacy grant for the **Kingswood Ravine** project and will continue to pursue other sources of funding.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

Wulff invited all Commissioners to the Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) meeting on April 20 at Camp Iduhapi. The LICA ice party scheduled for this coming Saturday has been canceled due to lack of ice. LICA will host another trolley tour of projects in the area in September 2024 and plans to host an Octoberfest event on October 5, 2024, pending approval from the City of Medina.

Baker shared a new law passed by the DNR focused on keeping winter ice clean because so many ice fishers leave messes when ice houses come off the lake.

Burak inquired about enforcement regarding landowners depositing yard waste into a ditch/gully area. This drainageway eventually flows to Pioneer-Creek. Because it is a conveyance for stormwater, this falls to the MS4 city for enforcement.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for March 21, 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 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

Z:\Pioneer-SarahCreek\Meetings\Meetings 2024\2 Minutes PSC.docx