



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek  
Watershed Management Commission**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**Minutes**

**February 16, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:15 p.m., Thursday, February 16, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Pat Wulff, Medina; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Mark Gronberg, Project 2022-10.

Vickery introduced himself before the meeting was called to order.

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

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

**a. January Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

**b. February Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \*** totaling \$4,655.97.

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

**a. Election of Officers.** The officers for March 2023-February 2024 were nominated as follows: Baker, Chair; Workcuff, Vice Chair; Andrew Burak, Treasurer; Brenda Daniels, Secretary. Motion by Workcuff, second by Vickery to elect the officers as nominated. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**b. Annual Appointments.** Motion by Baker, second by Workcuff to appoint the following for 2023: 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.*

**c. 2022-10 Pioneer Highlands, Medina.\*** This plan was previously approved by the Commission. However, the proposed additional buffer for water quality treatment created an unwanted encumbrance on one lot and the developer resubmitted the plan with a filtration basin and removed the additional wetland buffer. Staff recommends approval contingent on receipt of a resubmittal fee of \$1,050. Motion by Wulff, second by Vickery to approve Project 2022-10 with the contingency noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**d. 2022 Work Plan in Review.\*** Add easement presentation to F.3. Commissioners requested additional time to review the Work Plan in Review. This item was tabled to the March meeting.

**e. Cooperative Agreement with TRPD for Lake Sarah Sediment Coring.\*** The original Lake Sarah TMDL estimated internal loading based on hypolimnetic concentrations. Sediment coring will provide

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\*Included in meeting packet.

better data on internal loading for the Lake Sarah TMDL update, as well as inform dosing for any future alum treatment for Lake Sarah. TRPD has already pulled the sediment cores, three from each basin with two cores in each basin from deeper areas and one core from shallower areas. The pulled cores include the areas near the inlets of Dance Hall Creek and Loretto Creek to help determine loading from these sources. This Agreement is to cover the lab testing costs on the sediment cores at a total not-to-exceed \$12,000. This project is in the Commission's CIP schedule at this cost and funds will come from the 2021 WBIF grant. TRPD will provide the 10% match through in-kind services. Motion by Baker, second by Vickery to approve the Cooperative Agreement as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

## 6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. **North Fork Crow 2021 WBIF Progress Report.\*** The progress report was included in the meeting packet for informational purposes. No action necessary.

b. **South Fork Crow 2021 WBIF Progress Report.\*** The progress report was included in the meeting packet for informational purposes. No action necessary.

c. **Comments on Minor Plan Amendment.\*** The DNR Area Hydrologist submitted "no comments" regarding the Plan amendment.

d. **Lake Independence TMDL Contract Amendment.\*** As discussed at prior meetings, TRPD is no longer able to complete the modeling portion of the TMDL update in-house due to staffing changes. The work will be subcontracted to Stantec at an increased cost. In May of 2022 the Commission signed an agreement with TRPD for the TMDL update including modeling at \$30,000. The amended contract includes a cost increase from \$30,000 to \$45,500 to cover the cost of modeling. No further changes are expected for this project. Motion by Danelis, second by Wulff to approve the contract amendment as proposed and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

## 7. NEW BUSINESS.

**2023 Work Plan.** Will be much the same as the 2022 Work Plan with some minor changes. This item will need to be approved at the April meeting.

8. **EDUCATION.** The **No Salt Low Salt Minnesota\*** campaign was created through the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative, funded through the 2019 WBIF grant. Campaign materials are available and open to all Hennepin County watersheds and cities. Commissioners directed Staff to set this as an education topic for the October Commission meeting and to invite city staff to attend and review the Chloride campaign materials.

a. **Low Salt No Salt Campaign.\***

b. **Star Tribune Article.\***

c. **Limited Liability Legislation.\***

## 9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. **Engineer's Report.\*** Staff is working with the Windsong Golf Course applicant to create a reasonable Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as a requirement for project approval. The applicant is also required to have an approved wetland replacement plan prior to review. Two additional projects are outstanding. A fisherman reported catching several 9-10 inch crappies on Lake Sarah last weekend.

**b. HCEE Report.** County staff continue to work with the Shriners and expect to submit a CIP application later in 2023. HCEE is serving as the County Soil and Water Conservation District, working directly with private landowners to reduce erosion, conserve and restore natural areas, provide grants to protect water quality, restore habitat, prevent the spread of AIS, and to administer the state buffer law. County staff presented the County's 2023 priorities in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed to the Commission. Priorities include completion of the Lake Rebecca and Spurzem Creek SWAs, preliminary work on SWA identified projects, and outreach to landowners in those and the Lake Independence and Lake Sarah drainage areas. Hennepin County plans to host an open house in April at the Hamel Community Center for both Pioneer-Sarah Creek and Elm Creek watershed residents.

**c. TRPD Report.** Lake report cards will be shared at the March Commission meeting. Vlach completed the Whaletail alum treatment CWF grant work plan in Elink. The grant will need to be signed and executed to allow TRPD to begin working with the alum applicator. BWSR is no longer requiring an agreement that lakes meet water quality standards for 20 years after an alum treatment.

#### 10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

**a. Vickery** noted that Minnetrista is still focused on expanding drinking water and water treatment with work beginning on two new wells this spring and a treatment plant to follow in one to two years. Minnetrista instituted a tier system for water utility charges because much of the city's treated drinking water is used for lawn watering.

**b. Wulff** announced the LICA Ice Party this weekend has been canceled due to poor ice conditions on Lake Independence.

#### 11. OTHER BUSINESS.

**a.** The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for March 16, 2023 at Maple Plain City Hall.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Baker to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Administrator  
AAJ:tim

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