



Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission

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REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

February 17, 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, February 17, 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 Wulff, second by Cahill 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. January Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. February Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$7,804.62

Hennepin County will separate items on future invoices to indicate WBIF-funded projects and Commission-funded projects. The County's invoice is below the not-to-exceed \$10,000 agreement for landowner outreach. The Commission is grateful for the County's support in BMP identification and implementation.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Officer Elections. Motion by Wulff, second by Cahill to elect the current slate of officers: Baker, President; Cahill, Vice President; Tschumperlin, Treasurer; and Daniels, Secretary. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2021 Work Plan in Review.* Vlach noted that monitoring under item E.3.b. should be changed to reflect one point on Dance Hall Creek, two points on the channel to Lake Rebecca, and one point on Spurzem Creek. Motion by Cahill, second by Tschumperlin to approve the 2021 Work Plan In Review with that edit. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. 2022 Work Plan.** The TAC requested more time to review. This item will be moved to the March agenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

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

*Included in meeting packet.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a. 2022 Monitoring Plan. The 2022 budget includes \$10,500 for bi-weekly lake monitoring at six sites. For 2022 the proposed lake monitoring sites are Independence, Sarah, Whaletail North, Whaletail South, Winterhalter and Thomas. Winterhalter and Thomas Lakes were selected for monitoring due to the Spurzem Creek SWA, which is in process. Monitoring these lakes now can provide measurements for the effects of implemented BMPs in the area. For 2023, lakes will be rotated in the monitoring schedule to prepare for the WRAPS update and completed SWAs. TRPD is monitoring a second site on Lake Sarah, and Spurzem, Half Moon, Rebecca, Little Long, and Ardmore Lakes at their expense.

The 2022 budget includes funds to monitor one lake through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). Volunteers will be solicited to monitor at either Schwappauf or Hafften Lake.

In 2021 the Commission monitored four stream sites. The 2022 budget includes \$12,200 to continue monitoring four sites. Due to drought conditions in 2021, there was a marginal number of samples and stream flow. Staff recommended continuing monitoring at the Dance Hall Creek site and the park site on the channel to Lake Rebecca to see changes after the TRPD channel excavation and Shriners projects. The second Rebecca site at CSAH 92 will also be monitored again, along with one site on Pioneer Creek to be determined after site visits.

b. TAC Update. The TAC met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 to discuss the WBIF Convene Process required by BWSR, review and update the current CIP, discuss 2023 budget needs for monitoring and TMDL updates, review the 2022 work plan, and discuss potential changes to the Commission Rules, water appropriations permit, fee schedule and project review application. Another TAC meeting has been scheduled for March 7. The TAC will make recommendations for Commission action at the March or April meeting.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

a. 2021 Progress Report Baker Park Ravine.* Informational, no action necessary. The total grant amount was \$416,000. As of today, \$394,628.21 has been spent. This grant deadline is December 31, 2022.

b. 2021 Progress Report NFC WBIF 2021.* The Dance Hall Creek SWA update is nearly complete to better reflect current land use. The County is preparing over 400 mailers to generate projects on private property for implementation in 2022 and 2023. This grant award is \$91,105. No funds have been spent as of today. The WBIF requires a 10% match. This grant deadline is December 31, 2023.

Staff expects to have projects identified for a Clean Water Fund Grant application in the Dance Hall Creek SWA area this summer. Feasibility studies and a 30% design must be complete prior to application.

c. 2021 Progress Report SFC WBIF 2021.* County Staff will review the phosphorus removal calculations and update if needed. There are three projects for these funds, the Lake Rebecca SWA, Spurzem Creek BMP Implementation, and Lake Independence SWA BMP Implementation. This grant award is

\$180,063. No funds have been spent as of today. The WBIF requires a 10% match. This grant deadline is December 31, 2023.

d. 2019 WBIF. County Staff were unaware of this grant. This was managed by Jim Kujawa and was used for the Ardmore channel carp barrier and Lake Independence shoreline restoration. Of the total grant award of \$58,317, total payments received were \$52,486. This grant expired on December 31, 2021.

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. Engineer's Report. Many project review inquiries have been received and some applications have been received but none are ready for Commission action. There should be two or three residential developments in Greenfield coming up.

b. HCEE Report.* The **Dance Hall Creek SWA** is in final draft stage. The **Spurzem SWA report** is being drafted now. The **Lake Rebecca SWA** needs more data.

The **Becker Road** and **Independence Road** projects will use the remaining Baker Park Ravine CWF grant funds. The Becker Road project is scheduled for spring 2022 construction and the Independence Road project is out for bid.

The **McComb project** construction will begin this spring. The project is shovel-ready. The project on **Copeland Road** is out for engineering. These projects will be funded by WBIF.

The **Shriner Horsemen** are working with NRCS and will be doing an extensive amount of grading on their property as well as rotating pastures.

The four priority areas in the watershed are Lake Independence, Lake Sarah, Dance Hall Creek and Spurzem Creek. There are 1600 parcels of private land and the County will be soliciting BMPs on all levels.

The County is hosting the **annual tree sale**. Residents can order online through the website with pickup anticipated April 28-30.

c. TRPD Report. The wetland delineation for the Rebecca channel excavation project has been completed. TRPD is planning to engage the consulting firm that completed the Lake Rebecca SWA to complete modeling. Once hydrologic modeling is done the design phase begins.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker noted that he attended the TAC meeting. The Lake Sarah CLPW treatment agreement was completed in 2018 for five years, so 2022 is the last year of Commission participation without a new agreement. The LSIA did apply for 2022 AIS prevention grants and just learned that they can apply for the east and west bays separately at up to \$5,000 each, which may reduce the Commission's share of treatment

costs. Lake levels remain low.

b. Workcuff reported that Greenfield does have new developments under review by their Planning Commission. The City is also reviewing the culvert height below Townhall Drive. A private landowner will be contacted regarding increasing the size of a private culvert since it's backing up the creek and creating upstream flooding on 55 acres.

c. Wulff invited Commissioners and Staff to the LICA Ice Party this Saturday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The wake boat study has been completed and more studies on other Minnesota lakes are expected. The report is causing a stir among boaters as the recommendation for use of surf boats 500-600 ft from shore could restrict access to many lakes for these types of boats. Any enforcement changes due to this report would need to be made at the state level because lake associations do not have any type of enforcement authority.

d. Tschumperlin reported that Minnetrista is still in the process of adding a well. Fiber optic cable will be installed in city street and county road ROWs in the northern part of the city by Midco this summer. The City Council has interviewed and narrowed the selection down to two candidates for the City Manager position. The search firm is currently negotiating with the top candidate. The goal is to have a Manager hired and in place by April 1.

e. Cahill. There have been a few developers interested in some lots but nothing has been submitted to planning yet.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for March 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 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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