



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

February 18, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:06 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2021, by Chair Joe Baker.

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

2. AGENDA.* Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve the 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 Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.*

4. OPEN FORUM. Cahill introduced herself to the Commissioners.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Officer Elections. Motion by Wulff, second by Workcuff to elect 2021 officers as follows: Chair-Baker, Vice Chair-Cahill, Secretary-Daniels, Treasurer-Tschumperlin. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2020 Work Plan in Review.* Motion by Baker, second by Daniels to approve the 2020 Work Plan in Review as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. 2021 Work Plan.* Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve the 2021 Work Plan as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment Cost-Share.** Hennepin County has created an RFP for the Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment (SWA) update. The original subwatershed assessment for the area was completed in 2015. However, changing land use has rendered the agricultural BMPs identified obsolete and presents new opportunities. The County would like to pursue this SWA in partnership with the Commission and TRPD and is seeking a 50% cost-share from the Commission. Staff estimates to complete the SWA are \$50,000 or less. The Commission is receiving \$90,000 in watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) for the biennium 2021-2023. This study is eligible for WBIF funds. This item will be on the March agenda for discussion after bids are received.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a. 2021 Monitoring Plan. A TAC meeting will be convened to discuss the monitoring schedule. With additional SWAs occurring in the watershed, monitoring of different lake and stream sites may be beneficial.

b. Review CIP and Funding for 2021-2023. Staff will convene a TAC meeting to inform member cities about the WBIF funds available for projects in approved areas and solicit potential future CIP projects from cities, as well as review projects on the CIP for the next two years to discuss their readiness.

9. EDUCATION.

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

*Included in meeting packet.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

a. **Lake Independence Shoreline Restoration Final Report.*** This project was completed with WBIF funding from the 2018-2020 biennium, partner cost-share and a Hennepin County grant. The total cost of the project was \$35,312.20. The project has an expected 20-year lifespan and results in a cost of \$883 per lb. of phosphorus removed.

b. **Ardmore Channel Carp Barrier Final Report.*** A major phosphorus internal loading source identified in the TMDL for Ardmore lake was the abundance of common carp. The Lake Independence/Ardmore Lake carp population and movement were monitored from 2015-2019. A carp barrier was recommended to block carp movement within the Ardmore channel because Ardmore lake was identified as a primary nursery area for carp based on movement through the channel. The carp barrier was installed to prevent carp migration between Lake Independence and Ardmore Lake in November of 2020 at a total project cost of \$58,092.40 The Commission will monitor the effectiveness of the barrier and focus now on removal of carp from Ardmore Lake to improve water quality.

The total cost of these two projects together was \$93,404.60 funded as follows: Commission CIP Funds \$4,500, City of Medina cost-share \$4,500, TRPD cost-share \$18,926, Hennepin County Opportunity Grant \$20,000, and BWSR WBIF Funding from the 2018-2019 biennium \$45,478.60. This leaves \$12,838.48 in WBIF funding that must be used by December 31, 2021 on projects in the Lake Independence/Ardmore Lake subwatershed. Staff have identified and are currently pursuing three potential projects to use this remaining funding prior to expiration.

c. **Baker Ravine Final Report.*** Identified as a significant source of nutrient and sediment loading in the 2014 Lake Independence subwatershed assessment completed by the City of Independence, a feasibility report was completed and the project was submitted for a Clean Water Fund grant through BWSR. This project stabilized the ravine at the Baker Park Campground at an estimated cost of \$520,000. The Commission received a Clean Water Legacy Fund grant from BWSR for \$416,000, a Hennepin County Opportunity grant for \$59,500, with the remaining cost to be funded between the Commission, City of Independence, City of Medina, and TRPD at \$10,500 each, and the Lake Independence Citizen's Association at \$2,500. The project has a life expectancy of 30 years with a cost of \$130/lb of phosphorus removed. Construction occurred in the winter of 2019-2020. The project was completed on-time and under budget at \$498,600, leaving approximately \$21,000 in Clean Water Grant funds available for use. Staff has applied for an extension to the grant to December 31, 2021 and has identified projects to use those funds.

d. **Watershed-Based Implementation Funding.** For the 2020-2021 biennium, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission has been awarded \$180,063 for projects in the South Fork Crow major watershed and \$91,105 for projects in the North Fork Crow major watershed. The projects identified for the South Fork Crow funding are: 1) Lake Rebecca subwatershed assessment and implementation-\$30,000, Lake Independence Area BMPs-\$115,000, and Spurzem Area BMPs-\$35,063. The projects identified for the North Fork Crow funding are Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment and BMP implementation-\$91,105. Staff will discuss this with city engineers at the TAC meeting and will solicit assistance from the cities in reaching private landowners re BMP implementation.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

Hennepin County Tree Sale.* Hennepin County will be selling small saplings (not nursery size trees) for reforestation and planting shelter belts. Trees are sold in bundles of 10-20 and there will be 2,500-3,000 trees available. This is a pilot year for this program. The order form is in the meeting packet. The deadline to submit orders is Friday, April 19. The trees will be picked up at the Hennepin County Public Works facility in Medina. Commissioners were asked to distribute these materials at City Hall and share with city councils and private landowners.

12. STAFF REPORT.* (See Engineer's Report)

a. **Engineer's Report.*** Updated plans and drainage have been received for the County Road 92 intersection. The project review will be completed for the March meeting.

b. **HCEE Report.*** The county has completed an RFP for the **Lake Rebecca SWA**. Bids well exceeded cost expectations so the RFP will be revised and sent out for bid again. This will delay the anticipated start of this project by a month or two.

MnDoT and BWSR have opened an RFP window for a **wetland banking process**. Private landowners will be able to apply for the program and choose three options for banking.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Cahill** reported that there is a new City Administrator at Maple Plain, Clarissa Hadler. She will provide contact information to Staff.

b. **Wulff** noted that she received a great communication piece from the city in her water bill titled *Cleaner Waters Starting in Your Home and Yard*. She will share the piece with Staff. Beavers have created tremendous shoreline damage on Lake Independence this winter, providing an education opportunity on how homeowners can protect their trees.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for March 18, 2021 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Cahill to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously*. The meeting was adjourned at 822 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary
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