

**MINUTES  
March 4, 2015  
Corrected**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2015, by Chair Tom Cook at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Michael DeLuca, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, Medina; Pam Mortenson, Minnetrista; Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Cari Girk, Loretto; Scott Johnson and Liz Weir, Medina; Becky Wozney, Independence and Medina; Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; Rachel Olmanson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

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

[Mortenson arrived 6:02 p.m.]

**3. MINUTES.\*** Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 regular meeting with clarifying language to state "hydrologic boundary" under item 7.a.1. One Watershed One Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND CLAIMS.\*** Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to approve the Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$19,058.93. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**5. OPEN/PUBLIC.**

**6. ACTION ITEMS.**

**a. Election of officers.\*** Baker nominated DeLuca as Chair. Mortenson nominated Baker as Vice Chair. Daniels nominated Cook as Treasurer. Daniels self-nominated for Secretary. Each nomination was followed by a vote of acclamation for the nominee. 2015 officers are DeLuca, Chair; Baker, Vice Chair; Cook, Treasurer; and Daniels, Secretary.

DeLuca suggested combining the Secretary/Treasurer role. However, JPA rules state that there will be a minimum of the four officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) and that no person may hold more than one office at a time.

**b. Project Review 2015-01 Verizon Wireless Cell Tower, Independence.\*** Verizon Wireless is proposing to build a 120 foot cell tower and a 12 x 30 foot equipment building at 6705 U.S. Highway 12. There is floodplain located on site and the project is considered commercial. The Commission rules require review and approval of the grading and erosion control site plans. Disturbance and grading on this project will be less than 1 acre. Approximately 6,500 square feet (0.15 acre) of new impervious area will be created. The disturbance and new impervious area do not trigger the thresholds for the Commission's review of stormwater management for this site. Staff recommends approval contingent on all disturbed, non-landscaped areas being restored with a permanent seed mix and straw mulch at MnDoT standard rates.

Motion by McLaughlin, second by Daniels to approve the project with the contingency noted by Staff. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**c. 2015 Work Plan.\*** The proposed work plan was modeled on the 2014 work plan and incorporates aspects of the Third Generation Plan. Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to postpone approval of this item to the April meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.* The work plan must be approved by the April meeting in order to be included in the 2014 Annual Activities report which must be transmitted to BWSR by April 30.

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

d. **Ardmore Avenue Stormwater Retrofit – Clean Water Partnership Grant Application.\*** The City of Medina is requesting a letter of support and CIP funding for this project, which has been on Medina’s CIP for the past few years. The project is to install an 0.1 acre infiltration basin along Ardmore Avenue during street reconstruction. The basin will treat stormwater from a 6.8 acre drainage area and remove three pounds of phosphorus per year that currently impacts Ardmore Lake and, ultimately, Lake Independence. The total project cost is \$66,325. The grant application deadline is March 6. Cook recommended the TAC review the project prior to approval of support.

Motion by DeLuca, second by McLaughlin to provide a letter of support outlining the Commission’s cost share policy. *Motion carried, Cook opposed.*

e. **Responses to Solicitation of Interest Proposals.\*** Staff did not receive a letter of interest from SRF, the wetland consultant used in the past. Commissioners discussed the effectiveness of current consultants and decided to continue reviewing all four consultants every two years. Decision regarding the current consultants and any possible changes was postponed to the March meeting.

## 7. **THIRD GENERATION PLAN.\***

a. **BWSR Decision.\*** BWSR approved the plan at their January 28, 2015 meeting with an expiration date of December 31, 2020. The cost to update the plan at that time is estimated to be \$20,000 since most of the new rules are already incorporated into the Third Generation Plan. The Commission is required to adopt the plan within 120 days of BWSR’s adoption. Once the Commission adopts the plan, member cities will have two years to update their local water management plans to meet compliance with the Third Generation Plan. Cities may be excepted from this timeline if their city participates in more than one watershed and the other watershed(s) is currently updating its Management Plan. Elm Creek Watershed’s plan is expected to be approved later in 2015 and Minnehaha Creek Watershed is expected to update its plan in 2017.

b. **Effectiveness of Commission.\*** Commissioners requested input from Spector regarding the six-year recommendation from BWSR. Spector noted that BWSR is concerned about the Commission’s ability to persuade or help cities to complete water quality projects. The BWSR decision did not hinge on the CIP or other items in the Plan. Spector gave her own personal opinion when questioned by BWSR, not as a representative of the Commission. DeLuca suggested the verbiage, “I can’t answer that because the Commission never discussed it,” be used in the case of any questions that a person is not prepared to answer regarding the Commission. Neither Cook, who also attended the BWSR meeting, nor Spector were privy to BWSR Staff’s recommendation to the BWSR Board prior to that meeting.

Options for the Commission at this point are to: 1) Adopt the Plan as approved by BWSR and prove that projects will be done; 2) Reject the Plan; 3) Change watershed political boundaries; 4) Terminate the Commission. Commissioners will take options back to their respective cities for review. Further discussion and decisions will occur at the April meeting.

### c. **Other Information.**

1) **Funding Survey.\*** DeLuca prepared a funding survey and asked Commissioners to bring it to their city’s next council meeting. The question “Would you favor the creation of a watershed district?” will be added to the survey. Completed surveys should be returned to Anderson by April 8.

2) **WMO Impact on Market Values.\*** A graph provided by Hennepin County in 2012 noting the watershed tax burden on a \$300,000 home in each of 11 Hennepin County watersheds was provided. The disparity in the size of a watershed’s taxable market value was noted.

d. **Draft Adopting Resolution.\*** Approval of the resolution was postponed to the April meeting.

## 8. **WRAPP.**

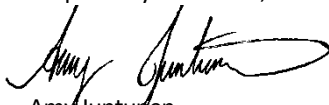
a. **Update.** Brasch, Olmanson, and Anderson are in the process of drafting the phase two work plan that will go through December 2016. Two additional lakes are proposed for addition to the WRAPP, Peter Lake and Robina Lake. Peter Lake is part of the chain of lakes including Spurzem and Ardmore feeding into Lake Independence. Both lakes have public access. Sediment cores will be taken from the additional lakes.

The Carp Study grant was not funded. TRPD will fund a reduced-cost project focused on the carp

in Ardmore and the Spurzem Lake chain, tracking the carp by radio telemetry. The total cost will be approximately \$50,000.

- b. **Community Conversation.** This item was postponed until the April meeting.
  - c. **North Fork Crow – One Watershed, One Plan.\*** Informational, no action necessary.
  - d. **South Fork Crow Water Quality Assessments.\*** Informational, no action necessary.
9. **STAFF REPORT.\***
- a. **2003-20 Greenworks, Greenfield.\*** No action necessary.
  - b. **2015-02 Serenity Hills, Independence.\*** No recommendation at this time.
  - c. **Subwatershed Assessments.**
    - 1) **Dance Hall Creek.** A meeting with the stakeholders group was held on January 15.
    - 2) **Lake Ardmore.\*** Medina passed the resolution and will work with the County to complete the Lake Ardmore subwatershed assessment.
10. **CORRESPONDENCE.**
- a. **A new call to protect water and wildlife, *StarTribune*, January 17, 2015.\***
  - b. **Farmers adapt to big rains but send trouble downstream, *MPR News*.\***
11. **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.** Clean Water Partnership grant applications are due March 6. MPCA's Section 319 grant applications are due April 3.
12. **EDUCATION.**
- a. **MECA Conference.\***
13. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.** This item was postponed to the April meeting.
14. **OTHER BUSINESS.**
- a. **Upcoming Commission meetings:** March 19 and April 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
15. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by McLaughlin, second by DeLuca to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Recording Secretary  
AAJ:tim

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