



## Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 15, 2018

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Thursday, March 15, 2018, by Chair Joe Baker at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mike Hoekstra, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; John Fay, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; James Kujawa, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Minnetrista.

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Fay, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda:

**a. February Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

**b. March Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.\*** Claims total \$9,856.80.

1) WaterShed Partners membership (\$500).

2) Wetland Conservation Escrows:\*

a) Return to applicants - \$5,796.78

b) Retain by Commission - \$8,566.44

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. ACTION ITEMS.**

**a. Revised 2017 Work Plan – Draft 3.\*** Motion by Fay, second by Hoekstra to approve draft 3 with the inclusion of verbiage regarding a March 2017 meeting of Baker, Brad Spencer, and Kevin Bigalke at BWSR. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**b. New Generation Management Plan.** Motion by Fay, second by Daniels to assign \$25,000 from reserves to the New Generation Management Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**c.** The **draft 2018 Work Plan\*** was emailed to Commissioners and Staff on March 13. They are requested to provide review and comment by April 10 in anticipation of final approval at the Commission's April 19, 2018 meeting.

**5. OPEN FORUM.**

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

**a. Updated CIP.** To date only three modifications to the existing CIP have been received. Staff will send a reminder to the cities requesting any projects for inclusion on the Commission's CIP and attaching an Exhibit A application form. [The reminder was emailed on March 16.]

The Commission will convene a **meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**, 4:00–5:45 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2018, at Maple Plain City Hall/Discovery Center. The purpose of this meeting is to update the CIP in anticipation of undergoing a Minor Plan Amendment (MPA). An MPA is required so that projects can be listed on the CIP and, therefore, be eligible for future grant funding. Notice of the TAC meeting was also emailed on March 16.

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

\*Included in meeting packet.

**b. BWSR Funding Update.** A second “pre-meeting” of watershed administrators was held February 27, 2018 to discuss options for allocating the Metro Area One Water One Plan (1W1P) Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program dollars over the next few years. Juntunen was present to represent the Commission.

Hennepin County will be receiving from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) \$1.018 million per year for the next two years, to be expended by December 31, 2021. The group discussed several issues and will meet one more time before Hennepin County convenes the formal planning meeting to which all eligible entities will be invited.

One question from the previous meeting was whether all 57 cities and watersheds in the county would be eligible and involved in deciding priorities and writing the work plan for the coming planning period. BWSR confirmed that all 57 entities are eligible to apply, but that any activities and projects must be in a watershed plan. Projects that are on a city CIP but not on a watershed CIP by July 1, 2018, are not eligible. In addition, all 57 entities are eligible to participate in the planning process. However, when the formal meeting invitation is issued, a city can decline to participate, or simply not attend the formal meeting, which will be considered declining. A city that declines to participate can still apply for funding for a project through the watershed if the project is on the watershed’s CIP.

Other counties tend to be leaning towards passing through the funds to the WMOs in the county based on some formula, typically 50% land area/50% tax base.

There was extensive discussion to consider allocating some amount of funds “off the top” to undertake collaborative activities regarding chloride management. All agreed that it was something everyone had in common, and could benefit from a wider ranging, more visible approach. Topics discussed included more and wider geographical range of certification workshops; mass marketing; possible partnership with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA), which is already spearheading the StopOverSalting movement and the proposed limited liability legislation; targeted outreach to churches, school districts, multi-housing associations, etc.; and possibly a small grant program to help smaller owner-operators to afford to retrofit their equipment and purchase items such as temperature sensors, etc. to help them make more informed decisions about rates of salt application. An ad hoc subcommittee volunteered to flesh out this idea and come up with a rough cost estimate.

One of the options discussed at the first pre-meeting was considering allocating funds and making prioritization decisions based on basins. The watershed representatives spent time in their basin groups to talk about their potential priorities. For the Minnesota River basin, the priority was on chloride reduction. For the Mississippi River basin, it was on nutrient reduction and chloride reduction. For the Crow River basin, it was nutrient reduction, noting that they were especially dependent on willing landowners.

**Table 1. Allocations to major basins based 50% land area/50% tax base.**

Basin	Estimated Annual \$	WMOs in Basin
Minnesota	\$219,048	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Cr WD, Nine Mile Cr WD, Lower Minnesota WD, Richfield-Bloomington WMO
Mississippi	\$784,147	Bassett Cr WMO, Elm Cr WMO (part), Minnehaha Cr WD, Mississippi WMO, Shingle Cr WMO, West Mississippi WMO
Crow	\$64,783	Elm Cr WMO (part), Pioneer-Sarah Cr WMO

The group preliminarily discussed the following three funding options for further refinement and presentation at the formal planning meeting:

1. Set aside a certain dollar amount for chloride management, allocate the balance on either 2. or 3., below.
2. Allocate the full amount to basins based 50% land area/50% tax base (Table 1), basin WMOs would then allocate based on their own strategies.
3. Allocate the full amount to WMOs based 50% land area/50% tax base (Table 2).

**Table 2. Allocations to WMOs based 50% land area/50% tax base.**

	Simple Allocation (50/50)
Lower Minnesota WD	\$ 34,638
Minnehaha Creek WD	276,923
Nine Mile Creek WD	102,104
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD	62,098
Bassett Creek WMO	76,185
Elm Creek WMO	149,456
Mississippi WMO	116,559
Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO	64,784
Richfield-Bloomington WMO	20,208
Shingle Creek WMO	75,690
West Mississippi WMO	39,355

A subcommittee of watershed reps will meet over the next few weeks to flesh out possible collaborative chloride management ideas and rough costs, and basin reps will flesh out their priority projects.

The informal group will meet one more time to refine options to be presented to the formal planning group in 6-8 weeks and to discuss possible priority projects. The final work plan, priorities, and measurable outcomes must be completed by June 30, 2018.

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Commissioners must set aside some time prior to the June 30 deadline to identify a shovel-ready project(s) that could be funded under this pilot program.

**7. NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Representatives from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will attend the Commission's April 19 meeting to present an overview of the **Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP).**\*

b. The **2018 Lake Sarah Curlyleaf Pond Weed agreement** will be considered at the April meeting.

**8. Education.**

a. **319 Grant Application.\*** Fortin Consulting, Inc. has applied for a 319 Grant: Nutrient Reduction through Better Lawn Maintenance to continue the turfgrass maintenance certification classes they have offered in the past. They are seeking partners to host the classes. Partner in-kind costs will be for room rental, a light breakfast, and a box-type lunch for attendees and presenters. The intended audience includes private contractors, city park staff, property managers, and school maintenance staff. Classes are approximately six hours in length and include the certification test. Best times of year to hold these classes are mid-February to early April and late July or August. The grant term is Spring 2019 to December 2021.

The purpose of this project is to reduce loading of nutrients to surface waters and groundwater from outdoor maintenance activities through pollution prevention. The project will include training over 500 maintenance professionals through 20 Turfgrass Maintenance trainings, and a pilot test(s) working with an estimated 50-100 homeowners to test their soils and provide individualized recommendations for fertilizer and other BMPs.

Cities and other organizations are asked to consider hosting a turfgrass workshop.

b. Included in the meeting packet is a press release for the upcoming **Metro Blooms workshops.**\* Two workshops are being offered this year – *Learn How to Create a Resilient Yard* and *Turf Alternatives*.

**9. STAFF REPORT.\***

a. Kujawa noted that a wetland restoration order has been issued for **project 2018-02W.**

b. Cities must complete and submit their **local plans** for review and comment to the Commission by December 31, 2018.

c. Staff provided an update on the status of the **Leuer property.**

\*Included in meeting packet.

d. The workplan for the **Baker Ravine project** has been approved by the Minnesota Pollution control Agency (MPCA). An agreement with Hennepin County for the Natural Resources Opportunity Grant must also be signed as part of this project.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS.**

Friends of the Mississippi River **2017 Environmental Legislation Overview.** \*

**11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

Due to the length of the meeting, the Commissioner Reports were not received.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS.**

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for April 19, 2018, preceded by the meeting of the TAC.

**13. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen, Recording Secretary  
AAJ:tim

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