

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
March 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 6:01 p.m., Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

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

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina; and Scott Engle, Lake Sarah resident.

2. AGENDA. The following items were added to the agenda:

2.b.1) Additional claim from State Register.

4.e. Project Review 2022-19.

4.f. Water Appropriations Permit 2023-01

Motion by Wulff, second by Vickery to approve the agenda* with the additions noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

a. February Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. March Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$4,465.45, including

1) State Register \$69.00 for publishing biennial Solicitations of Interest.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a 2022-020 Crimson Woods, Greenfield.* This project is an eight-lot residential development on 39.7 acres. The existing site is a mixture of row crops and woodlands with some onsite wetlands. Stormwater from the site is generally split in two directions. The western half of the site drains to the south through wetlands eventually discharging into Hafften Lake. The eastern part of the site drains to the southeast to discharge into Lake Schendel. Stormwater is proposed to be managed by an infiltration basin located in the southeast portion of the development. The Commission's management plan requires compliance for Stormwater Management (Rule D), Erosion Control (Rule E), and Buffer Strips (Rule I). The development results in only small reductions to rate and nutrients because most of the land was wooded rather than cropland. Staff recommends approval contingent on receipt of recordation of an O&M Plan for the stormwater BMPs. Motion by Workcuff, second by Burak to approve the project with one contingency as noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2022 Work Plan in Review.* The Work Plan in Review details the activities and accomplishments of the Commission in 2022 and will be included as part of the Annual Report. Motion by Workcuff, second by Burak to approve the 2022 Work Plan in Review as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. 2023 Work Plan.* The 2023 Work Plan details the activities the Commission will undertake in 2023 and will also be included as part of the Annual Report. Motion by Vickery, second by Wulff to approve the 2023 Work Plan as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. 2021-2023 WBIF Work Plan Update.* The TAC recommends reallocating \$12,000 of the remaining \$68,000 in the 2021 North Fork Crow (NFC) WBIF grant to pay for the Lake Sarah sediment core testing. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) agreed that this project is eligible for WBIF funding because it will inform future water quality management by quantifying the amount of internal load and will be used to calculate alum dosage.

Out of the total of approximately \$95,000 in NFC WBIF grant dollars, approximately \$27,000 was spent on the Dance Hall Creek SWA update and BMP concept design. The funds remaining after the sediment coring project (approximately \$56,000) will be used for further feasibility and design work on BMPs identified in the SWA. Most projects identified will require application for additional grant funding. The 2021 WBIF grant expires December 31, 2023, but can be extended up to one year for identified projects.

The TAC met in February to discuss the 2023 WBIF grant. This grant work plan must be submitted next week for approval by the BWSR board prior to March 31, 2023. The Commission was awarded \$159,223 in the 2023 WBIF biennium. The TAC recommends four projects for this funding:

- 1) Lake Rebecca channel stabilization at \$75,000 with TRPD completing the design work at their cost and a 25% match from the Commission CIP fund
- 2) Lake Rebecca alum feasibility study at \$27,000
- 3) Lake Rebecca BMP implementation at \$20,098 including the Shrine Horsemen property improvements.
- 4) GS 68 Wetland scrape project at \$37,125

Motion by Baker, second by Vickery to approve the TAC recommendations for the 2021 NFC WBIF and 2023 WBIF project allocations as described above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

e. 2022-19 Sam's Landscaping, Independence.* Sam's Landscaping is a 7.05-acre site planned for the construction of a commercial/industrial landscaping business. The property is located within the City of Independence, located north of Highway 12 and west of County Road 90. The existing site contains a mixture of woodland, and meadow. The site is located in close proximity to and drains to Pioneer Creek located to the east, north, and west of the development. The existing site drainage is directed to the east under County Road 90 to eventually discharge into Pioneer Creek. The Commission's management plan requires compliance for Stormwater Management (Rule D), Erosion Control (Rule E), and Buffer Strips (Rule I).

Stormwater for the paved portion of the site is proposed to be managed by curb and gutter with inlets and storm sewer pipes. Stormwater for the gravel portion of the site is proposed to be managed by three area inlets located in the central area. One bio-filtration basin with iron filings will be constructed as part of this development. Because this site is currently grass/meadow, there will be minimal phosphorus reduction from

the site development. Staff recommends approval contingent upon updating the wetland buffer width to meet the 25-foot minimum on the site plans. The plans currently have a 20-foot buffer.

Motion by Wulf, second by Workcuff to approve project 2022-19 with the contingency listed. *Motion carried unanimously.*

f. 2023-01 Murphy Water Appropriation Permit.* This is a two-year application to appropriate water from Schwappauff Lake for lawn watering. In 2022 the water appropriations permit was modified to include pump capacity and horsepower to allow staff to determine maximum pumping that could occur per day, as well as additional applicant contact information to allow staff to notify applicants of revocation in a period of drought.

Motion by Workcuff, second by Burak to approve Water Appropriations Permit 2023-01 as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Workcuff, second by Burak authorizing staff to administratively approve future water appropriations permits. *Motion carried unanimously.*

[Vistad departed 7:28 p.m.]

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Kingswood Park Ravine Chanel Stabilization. Kingswood Park was purchased by TRPD from United Methodist Church in 2013. Seventy percent of the Little Long Lake shoreline is within Kingswood Park. Little Long Lake is known for having some of the best water quality in Hennepin County and meets state water quality standards. The Park is also protected by a Hennepin County Conservation Easement, which limits overall development of the area. There are walking trails and an unpaved road (Kingswood Road) running through the park.

TRPD has identified an area of erosion coming from Kingswood Rd and flowing through a culvert under the road to a gully/ditch and finally into Kingswood Pond, a tamarack bog adjacent to Little Long Lake. This erosion is causing 4.5 lbs. of TP and 1,600 lbs. of sediment to flow into the pond annually. TRPD reviewed three concept alternatives for stabilizing the erosion in this channel and decided the best approach would be to create a sedimentation basin to trap the sediment with an outlet pipe to the pond. This would keep the area looking natural and require the least amount of maintenance. Check dams would also be installed along the road to reduce sediment entering the basin. The overall project cost is \$204,000. TRPD would like to submit a CIP if the Commission is amenable to partnering on this project.

Commissioners noted that the erosion will not affect Little Long Lake and the pond is of little water quality concern. Vlach noted that while the Commission's main focus has been water quality improvement, maintaining quality habitat is also part of the Commission's Fourth Generation Plan. This project will be about maintaining pristine habitat within the watershed. TRPD plans to seek a DNR Conservation Partner Legacy or other grant funding for the project. Having the project on the Commission's CIP could help in the grant process.

Commissioners voiced support for further discussion of this project and consideration of a CIP application. Vlach will submit a CIP application for review at the April Commission meeting.

b. Lake/Stream Monitoring Report Cards.* One task identified in the Commission's Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan is monitoring of lakes and streams within the watershed. Four sentinel lakes (Independence, Sarah, North Whaletail and South Whaletail) are monitored annually. Two additional lakes are monitored on a rotating basis. In 2022 the additional lakes were Winterhalter and Thomas in preparation of the Spurzem Creek SWA. TRPD also monitors Spurzem, Half Moon, Ardmore and Rebecca at their own expense each year. Vlach presented the report cards and described the state water quality standards and how they are displayed on the report cards. Most lakes saw an increase in TP concentration in 2022 due to drought conditions. This is an anomaly, not a trend.

c. Hennepin County Cooperative Agreement.* This agreement is not yet final for 2023. This agreement is for the County's technical support to the Commission, as well as outreach and project work. The County will assist the Commission with project implementation for the WBIF grants, including landowner outreach, and identification and development of projects to design phase. The County does not charge for meeting attendance. Commissioners requested that since the Agreement includes use of WBIF funds for projects, which may be funded by the County and reimbursed by the Commission once WBIF grant reporting is complete, to separate the actual WBIF grant funds from the cost in the Commission's operating budget. County staff noted that they will break out the grant funding on the final agreement.

d. Hennepin County Cost-Share Outreach Plan.* There are three overarching goals with two strategies associated with each goal. The three goals are to: 1) increase the profile of the County as a Conservation District; 2) focus outreach on priority subwatersheds with the goal of implementing two to three BMPs in each subwatershed over the next two years; and 3) track and evaluate outreach efforts.

Strategies to achieve the first goal include in-person events such as hosting an open house in April at the Hamel Community Center, co-hosting a field day with a neighboring SWCD, and tabling at community events. 1700 postcards will be mailed to promote the April open house. The second strategy to increase the County's profile is to have a larger virtual presence by creating an E-Newsletter and two social media posts per month regarding watershed goals. Any photos in the watershed or article ideas are welcomed!

Strategies to achieve the second goal include ranking the subwatersheds and pushing information to target landowners with potential for cost-effective BMPs in the highly ranked areas, and reinforcing expectations about timelines and outcomes for cost-share projects.

The third goal will be accomplished by creating a master tracking system for landowner contacts to detail the type of outreach, landowner contact information, their resource concerns and potential BMPs identified. This system will allow the creation of outreach metrics and focus of staff efforts.

The County is open to ideas for partnering on outreach, including lake association meetings or creating lakeshore workshops for residents.

e. 2022 Annual Report.* The 2022 Annual Report was included in the meeting packet for Commissioner and staff review. Any additions or corrections should be sent to Juntunen by April 14, 2023.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* The staff report details ongoing project reviews and was included in

the meeting packet for review.

b. HCEE Report.* County staff are working with the Shrine Horsemen to complete a CIP application for Commission consideration.

c. TRPD Report. TRPD staff will meet tomorrow to discuss the Whaletail alum treatment and whether the buffer treatment is needed. TRPD uses a 21-day bid process and is hoping to get the process started within the next month.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS. None.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for April 20, 2023 at Maple P17lain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Baker to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

Z:\Pioneer-SarahCreek\Meetings\Meetings 2023\3 Minutes PSC.docx