

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
March 18, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER. A virtual meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:03 p.m., Thursday, March 18, 2021, by Vice Chair Caitlin Cahill.

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

Also Present: Kyal Klawitter, Greenfield; and Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

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

a. February Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. March Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report* totaling \$22,124.47.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Project Review 2020-007 TH 12 & CSAH 92 Improvements, Independence.* This project will realign CSAH 92 and construct an overpass over TH 12 and corresponding roundabout. The realignment will create a new crossing of the outlet for Lake Robina. This project was reviewed for Commission rules D, E, F, H, and I. Staff recommends approval with no conditions. Motion by Spencer, second by Daniels to approve project 2020-007. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Approve 2021 Monitoring Agreement.* Four stream monitoring sites were selected: Dance Hall Creek, Spurzem Creek and two along the Lake Rebecca SWA stream area. All four sites will sample for flow and water quality, with the goal of collecting 15 samples from each site through the monitoring period of April-October. The 2021 budget included monitoring for three sites. However, due to the SWAs on both the Spurzem chain and Lake Rebecca, the additional sites will be valuable. The increase to add the fourth site and monitor for water quality is \$2,700.00

The Fourth Generation Plan requires the monitoring of the sentinel lakes each year – Independence, Sarah, Little Long, and Whaletail (north and south basins). The 2021 budget included monitoring for those five lakes. Staff recommend also monitoring Winterhalter and Thomas Lakes in the Spurzem chain as part of the Spurzem SWA. Sentinel lakes will be monitored bi-weekly. The additional lakes will be monitored on a monthly basis. With the addition, and TRPD monitoring Little Long at their expense, the additional cost over budget is \$868.00.

Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Daniels to approve the 2021 monitoring agreement as presented at a cost of \$21,168.00, with the overage to come from retained earnings. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Approve 2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Agreement.* Motion by Wulff, second by Workcuff to approve the 2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Agreement with a correction to the Commission's address. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment Cost-Share.* This bid was re-done but hasn't been sent out yet. Baker and Vlach will represent the Commission on the panel with the County and City of Greenfield on the

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consultant selection committee, tentatively scheduled for March 31, and on the Technical Advisory Team for this project. No action needed at this time.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

Review 2021 HCEE Cooperative Agreement.* This Agreement seeks to formalize the relationship with Hennepin County regarding the watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF). The agreement is broken into five areas. The County will actively identify and propose projects to the Commission. The County commits to 10% of the implementation cost, with the landowner committing 10%, the Commission funding 10%-25%, and the remainder coming from the WBIF grant. The Agreement also includes other cost-share projects outside of WBIF identified in the Fourth Generation Plan and SWAs. The County is requesting a 25% cost share for the Spurzem, Lake Rebecca, and Dance Hall Creek SWAs.

Technical Services and Conservation Promotion - This will include expenses for County staff time to market, develop, and implement the projects under the WBIF grant including engaging with the public. They're expecting a total cost of \$100,000 and are setting a Commission share of 10% match in their cost for the development and outreach portion, not-to-exceed \$10,000. This amount is not budgeted for 2021.

Clean Water Fund/WBIF Implementation - The County will actively identify and propose projects to the Commission. The County commits to 10% of the implementation cost, with the landowner committing 10%, the Commission funding 10%-25%, and the remainder coming from the WBIF grant at a cost not-to-exceed \$146,371. Most of this cost is expected to be funded by grant dollars. The Commission portion would be funded by the CIP fund or retained surplus.

Subwatershed assessment completion and project implementation – The County is requesting a 25% cost share for the Spurzem, Lake Rebecca and Dance Hall Creek SWAs at a cost not-to-exceed \$66,250. Spurzem and Dance Hall Creek SWAs may be funded using WBIF funds.

2021 volunteer monitoring program and educational service – This is for the County's Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) and includes training volunteers and paying for testing at a cost not-to-exceed \$750. While this amount is unbudgeted, the Commission did budget \$750 for the RiverWatch program which will not occur in 2021 due to COVID.

The entire Cooperative Agreement has a not-to-exceed amount of \$229,621. Commissioners were asked to review the Agreement in anticipation of approval at the April meeting.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

HF1586-0 Legislation.* is a proposed bill introduced by Rep. Torkelson to appropriate money for a feasibility study for merging soil and water conservation districts and watershed districts. Staff will update as necessary.

12. REPORTS.*

a. Engineer's Report.* The landowner at Gaalswyk Acres in Greenfield emailed Staff today regarding creating a pond and some wildlife habitat on the property. Paul Stewart will contact the owner tomorrow to discuss further.

b. HCEE Report.* County staff will develop the work plan for the WBIF grants. There are three identified projects for the South Fork Crow WBIF with breakdowns of cost allocated to each. The North Fork Crow WBIF is all for the Dancehall Creek SWA and project implementation in that area.

The Lake Rebecca SWA RFP has been released and responses are expected within the next two weeks.

The County tree sale is currently ongoing with 56% of stock sold as of now. This sale is for all county residents. The online order form has been updated with sold out varieties.

County staff are working with LICA residents re lakeshore restoration inquiries. The Zurah Shriners met onsite with NRCS staff two weeks ago to review pasture management and BMPs outside of the drainage system. Their recommendations were well received by the landowner.

2772 Becker Rd – Baker Park grant. The engineer has completed the concept plans. County staff will perform a site visit tomorrow to complete a more detailed plan for the culverts, wetland complex, and potential downstream projects.

215 Budd St – This was a previous Hennepin County project that needs some maintenance and updates. Staff will look for funding opportunities because this project is outside current grant/WBIF areas.

c. **TRPD Report.*** Proposed carp management activities for 2021 include reassessing the carp population in Ardmore Lake to remove enough carp to reach a biomass of <100 kg/ha. Previous removals resulted in an estimate of 352 kg/ha reduced to 205 kg/ha after removal in the winter of 2015-2016. The second objective of the project is to measure the effectiveness of the carp barrier installed in 2020 through PIT tag monitoring upstream and downstream of the barrier. The overall cost for this project is \$32,300 and does qualify for the remaining 2018 WBIF grant funding (approximately \$12,800). A report will be prepared December 31, 2021.

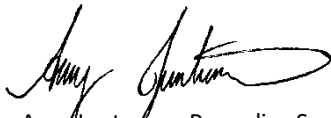
13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for April 15, 2021 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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