

**MINUTES
March 19, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2015, by Chair Michael DeLuca 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; James Kujawa, Hennepin County Environment and Energy; Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Cari Girk, Loretto; and Scott Johnson and Liz Weir, Medina.

2. AGENDA.* Motion by McLaughlin, second by Baker to approve the revised agenda with the additions of *Appointment of Consultants* under Old Business and *Zebra Mussel Discussion* under New Business. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. MINUTES.* Motion by Cook, second by Baker to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 regular meeting with the removal of "The general agreement is that the numbers are inaccurate" under item C.2. *Motion carried unanimously.*

McLaughlin noted that after further review, the Ardmore Avenue Retrofit Project will remove eight to nine pounds of phosphorus per year, rather than the three pounds reported at the March 4 meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA.

a. TREASURER'S REPORT AND CLAIMS.* Motion by McLaughlin, second by Daniels to approve the Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$3,492.04. *Motion carried unanimously.*

5. OPEN/PUBLIC.

6. OLD BUSINESS. The Commission is required to bi-annually **solicit for interest proposals** for administrative, legal, and technical services. The solicitation was published in January and interest proposals for all consultant positions were received and discussed at the March 4 meeting.

Motion by Cook, second by Baker to approve Campbell-Knutson as the Commission's legal consultant for 2015-2016. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Cook, second by Daniels to approve JASS as the Commission's administrative consultant for 2015-2016. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Cook, second by McLaughlin to approve Hennepin County Environment and Energy as the Commission's technical consultant for 2015-2016. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Cook, second by McLaughlin to approve Bay West as the Commission's wetland consultant for 2015-2016. *Motion carried unanimously.* Staff will contact Bay West to request a no-charge visit to a regular meeting for the purpose of learning more about the company.

7. NEW BUSINESS. McLaughlin inquired regarding the Commission's position on zebra mussels, such as if a CIP project was submitted for zebra mussel control. The Commissioners agreed that the Commission would fund projects that contribute to improved water quality. Staff noted that John Barten, TRPD, gave a 20 minute presentation to educate the Shingle Creek Commission re zebra mussels. Commissioners requested Brasch to give a similar presentation at a future meeting, possibly in May or June.

8. STAFF REPORTS.

a. TRPD Update. The **WRAPP phase two contract** and work plan have been submitted to and approved by MPCA. This phase will carry the project through completion in June 2017. A copy of the project contract will be provided in the April meeting packet.

TRPD has decided to self-fund a scaled down **carp project** on Spurzem Creek and Lake Ardmore. This project will begin in late June, early July 2015 and last two years. The project will assess movement and survival of carp through the project area. TRPD monitored Lake Ardmore for water quality as part of the WRAPP project in 2013 and 2014. TRPD will monitor Lake Ardmore during the carp project in 2015 and 2016 at no charge to the Commission. CAMP volunteers will not be needed for Lake Ardmore until 2017. The Commission thanked Brasch and TRPD for funding and performing the carp project.

Scott Walsh recently organized and held a meeting re the **Lake Sarah Outlet**, specifically about managing floating bogs that plug the outlet and cause safety concerns. Citizens have been managing the outlet channel and bogs, but have suffered injuries during maintenance. Many bogs come from a property adjacent to TRPD's Lake Sarah Park that is currently for sale. Greenfield will request that TRPD, if it purchases the property, takes a more active role in the channel maintenance.

b. 2014-02 Leuer Farms Drainage Exemption, Greenfield.* This project has been completed and the property owner is interested in pursuing additional ditch cleaning. There is no action necessary at this time; the owner has the right to clean out ditches.

Commissioners asked if Leuer has been approached regarding projects from the Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment. Kujawa has talked to the owner who is somewhat interested in installing a wetland, but is not yet ready at this time. Such a project would be expensive - \$100,000 just for the technical aspects, not including construction, but it could create 20-30 acres of ponding. A great opportunity for the property would be to install grassed waterways to control erodible land. After the surveys are returned and discussed at the April meeting, the Commission can plan how it will interact with land owners regarding projects identified in subwatershed assessments. Kujawa is in the process of scheduling the Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment review with the Greenfield City Council during a work session.

c. 2015-03 Mike Kuka Riding Arena and Pasture Parking, Independence.* This site is located on County Road 92 just north and west of its intersection with County Road 11. Kuka is proposing to build an enclosed riding arena, a fire lane access road to the arena, a ponding area, and grade out his pasture area to accommodate parking during show events. This site is considered agricultural/residential. The new impervious area from this work will be less than 1.0 acre, but the disturbed area will be greater than 1.0 acre. This triggers Staff review for compliance with the Commission's grading and erosion control standards. At this time, the grading and erosion control plans do not meet the Commission's requirements. Commissioners asked if the project may impact runoff to the adjacent Shriners property. Staff noted there is drain tile in place and the proposed ponding area will be a dry pond, so it will actually slow current runoff rates from the property.

d. WMWA 2014 Annual Report. Staff will Email the 2014 WMWA annual report to Commissioners for review. Cities could take credit for WMWA efforts in their NPDES reports if the Commission were a member. Membership cost is \$9,750.

e. WaterShed Partners Annual Report. Staff will Email the 2014 WaterShed Partners annual report to Commissioners. Cities could take credit for WaterShed Partners efforts in their NPDES reports if the Commission were a member. Membership cost is a minimum contribution of \$500 and up to 10 hours of Staff time.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker reported that Independence has contacted property owners with projects identified in the Lake Independence Subwatershed Assessment. One project involved five property owners near Baker's property at a cost of \$70,000. The property owners are willing to participate. A gully project and a few smaller projects have also been identified but all projects are on hold until the future of the Commission is decided. Independence is committing \$100,000 per year for water quality improvement projects. Engaging owners can be an exhaustive process.

b. **Mortenson** noted that Minnetrista's largest issue is water treatment. Minnetrista has decided to focus on a decentralized treatment process. The City is also in the process of creating a new Strategic Plan with three new council members recently elected. That process includes a motivational/team-building effort and will involve discussion of water issues/projects that could be identified for the Commission. Steve Christopher, BWSR, met with the Council twice regarding options for the Commission. The Council has discussed the Commission survey. Minnetrista is adding a building inspector to its staff. If local cities need help with a fill-in for those services, Minnetrista is already working with Orono and Victoria in sharing that staff person.

c. **McLaughlin** stated that the Medina Council will be discussing the survey at their April 7 meeting. An informational meeting re resurfacing streets and curbing in a neighborhood bordering Lake Independence was held last night. McLaughlin thanked the Commission for the letter of support for the Lake Ardmore Retrofit project. The water level at the Lake Independence outlet is still above the weir. No work can be done until the water level falls below the weir. The City and Lake Association intend to make any repairs as necessary.

d. **Cook** affirmed that Greenfield is moving forward with the stormwater district funding mechanism to fund their membership and water projects in the city, with the process to be completed within 60 days of Council final approval. It is anticipated the stormwater district will generate a total of \$70,000, which includes Commission dues, pond and ditch maintenance, and up to \$20,000 for projects. The City Council discussed the survey at their meeting last Tuesday. Hurdles regarding the watershed for cities include that cities prioritize Roads, Police and Fire as most important for funding. Changing the mindset to include water quality is an effort of cultivation that will take time.

e. **Daniels** reported that two council members missed the last Council meeting and the survey was not discussed. Their next Council meeting occurs after the Commission meeting. Loretto's biggest water issue is the sewer system. Met Council has changed the proposed hook-up plans and the City is still awaiting new plans. There are some flooding issues along Chippewa.

f. **DeLuca** commented that the Main Street Rainbow project is in the last stages of completion and has already resulted in significant decreases in inflow and infiltration from 2014. Independence and Maple Plain are currently engaged in discussions regarding shared services/shared staff. The Council will discuss the survey at their meeting on March 23.

10. OTHER BUSINESS.

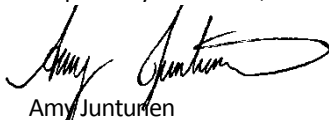
a. Commissioners were requested to submit any **additions to the agenda** to Staff instead of adding items at the meeting to allow all Commissioners to be prepared for discussion. Items added to the agenda at the meeting may be kept to discussion only as necessary to prevent rushing into decisions without research.

b. The **next meeting** is April 16. DeLuca noted that Maple Plain would be happy to host a Commission meeting in the future.

c. In the future, **meals** will consist of pizza paid for by the Commission. Commissioners will not be asked to pay for the meal.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by McLaughlin, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Junturien
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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