

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2019**

**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 21, 2019, by Chair Joe Baker at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mike Hoekstra, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; John Fay, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Karen Galles, James Kujawa and Kirsten Barta, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

**2. AGENDA.** Motion by Fay, second by McLaughlin to approve the agenda with the change that the next meeting is scheduled for April 18. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by McLaughlin, second by Tschumperlin to approve the Consent Agenda:

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

**b. March Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.\*** Claims total \$4,951.02.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

Karen Galles, HCEE, discussed the retirement of Kujawa and **HCEE's changing role** with the Commission. As of January 1, 2020, HCEE will no longer be providing engineering services to the Commission for project reviews or WCA. HCEE will be realigning its role to serve as a soil and water conservation district (SWCD) to develop implementation projects identified in SWAs, especially working with private landowners and grant opportunities. HCEE is in the process of hiring a new Rural Conservationist at this time. The County also expects to have a staff person attend TAC meetings, but the Commission will need its own representative on the TAC as well.

The Commission has served as the WCA LGU for the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain. The Commission has discussed discontinuing this service for all cities, meaning those cities would need to hire their own consultants to provide those services. The Commission could continue that service but would need to charge costs for acting as LGU back to the cities, so it would not be advantageous to the cities to funnel WCA work through the Commission. It is recommended that Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain adjust their fee schedules to cover the WCA costs.

Due to this change, the cost for technical services will be increasing for the Commission. Currently, about half of the annual engineering invoice is for WCA services. Kujawa's hourly rate for project reviews was \$75/hour. A private firm is likely to charge \$150-\$200/hour for the same services. In addition, the County did not bill the Commission for time spent on the phone with city staff and residents. The Commission should be prepared for an increase to the engineering line item on its budget. The Commission may also look at adjusting its fee schedule for project reviews to help cover the additional costs.

Staff will contact the County for a breakdown of Kujawa's hours to use in planning the 2020 budget.

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

**a.** Commission **2019 appointments** have not been received from Maple Plain. Fay noted he had

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asked his City Administrator to forward the appointment to the JASS office.

**b. 2018 Work Plan in Review.\*** Motion by Baker, second by McLaughlin to approve the 2018 Work Plan in Review. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**7. NEW BUSINESS.**

**a. 2019 Projected Work Plan.\*** Commissioners were asked to provide comments to JASS by March 29. A reminder will be sent to Commission members on March 27. The work plan must be approved at the April meeting because it is part of the 2018 Annual Activity Report which is due to BWSR by April 30, 2019.

**b. Preliminary Draft 2018 Annual Activity Report.\*** Comments or changes regarding the Annual Report were requested to be received in the JASS office by April 4. Edits to the Annual Report, including the Work Plan, will be shown in a different color at the April meeting for ease of review.

**c. Lake Report Cards.\*** The Commission contracts with TRPD to monitor five sentinel lakes annually. The sentinel lakes are Lake Independence, Lake Sarah, Little Long Lake, and both basins of Whaletail Lake. The north basin of Whaletail is defined as a shallow lake, while the others are defined as deep lakes. Shallow and deep lakes have slightly different parameters for meeting state standards. In 2018, TRPD also monitored Lake Ardmore, Half Moon Lake, Spurzem Lake, and Lake Rebecca.

The lake report cards detail the size of the watershed, bathymetry, and annual monitoring results compared to the state standards for total phosphorus, chlorophyll A, and Secchi disk transparency. All data is averaged annually to determine a letter grade for lake water quality. Vlach reviewed the report cards and answered Commissioner questions.

Tschumperlin and Baker noted that they would be interested in joining TRPD staff during a monitoring trip to learn the process.

Staff will post the report cards to the Commission website as well as a link to the TRPD site which contains more scientific data and information for the public. TRPD has not yet completed that web page.

**8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**a. Maple Plain.** Staff is reviewing Maple Plain's Plan and expects to have a recommendation at the April meeting.

**9. STAFF REPORT.\*** Kujawa is working with Medina city staff on the Ardmore SWA project slated for 2019 using watershed-based funding from BWSR. After further review, the pond cleanout portion of the project was estimated to reduce only 0.2lbs of phosphorus at a cost of \$40,000. An iron-enhanced sand filter for the pond or additional channel restoration may be considered. Staff will need to update the project work plan and receive approval of those changes from BWSR before moving forward with the project.

**10. EDUCATION.**

Juntunen reviewed the upcoming **2019 Water Summit\*** hosted by the Freshwater Society on May 9-10 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Suggested audience includes water resource staff, planners, landscape designers, local decision-makers, lake and river association members, citizen volunteers, and other environmental advocates concerned about water protection. The Commission education budget can cover the cost for Commissioners to attend.

**11. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.**

**12. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**a. Lake Independence Carp Abundance Estimate.\*** The study estimates a carp biomass of 114kg/hectare. The threshold for ecological impacts to lakes is 100kg/hectare. An additional study will be performed in 2019 to ensure the estimate is accurate prior to implementation efforts as the current level is not high enough to interest a commercial fisherman in performing removal. PIT tags on fish showed 33 of 88 tagged carp moving downstream from the lake to the Pagenkopf station and four moving into Lake Ardmore, though that station's data loggers were not working 24/7. Only one fish moved through the County Road 19 station.

**b. Lake Independence Zebra Mussel Survey.\*** The DNR published a report on zebra mussels in Lake Independence in 2015 and 2016. A summary completed by TRPD is included for 2017-2018. Population has seen significant increases in three of the seven areas monitored (stations 5, 6, and 7). TRPD is specifically monitoring areas with substrate for the mussels to attach to. Eleven of twelve collector plates have no mussels, while one plate did have one mussel. Population increases may have been slowed because Lake Independence has blue-green algae, while the mussels prefer green algae. As the population expands, changes in water quality can be expected as they consume algae, most noticeably improved water clarity.

**13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

**14. OTHER BUSINESS.**

**a.** Fay noted the Orono Rotary is hosting a **2019 Party in the Park** at Maple Plain. Fay will provide JASS with information regarding the event.

**b.** The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for April 18, 2019.

**15. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by McLaughlin, second by Hoekstra to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:59. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen, Recording Secretary  
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