

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:06 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Brad Spencer, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Andrew Burak, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; Roz Davis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Don Johnston and Kathleen Luetmer, Medina.

**2. AGENDA.** Motion by Burak, second by Daniels to approve the agenda\* with the addition of item 6.c. 2023 Annual Report, and removal of item 4.d. Non-waiver of Tort Liability. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

**a. February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

**b. March Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \* totaling \$6,795.41.**

**4. OPEN FORUM.** Johnston and Luetmer inquired if the Commission had reviewed the project for the Medina pickleball courts which will install pervious surface adjacent to a wetland near their residence. Because the project is only 8,000 square feet it does not require a Commission review and does not fall within the Commission's purview. Vistad recommended the residents speak with Stacy Lijewski at Hennepin County regarding and concerns about impacts to the wetlands.

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

**a. 2024-002 5370 US Highway 12 Site Plan, Maple Plain.\*** This is a single lot commercial/industrial development to reconstruct the parking lot and loading area for the property. The existing site includes a small paved parking lot and larger gravel parking area. Stormwater from the site flows east and discharges to offsite wetlands, which discharge to Pioneer Creek via storm sewer. The plan was reviewed for Commission rules D, E, and I. After review, staff determined that the plans submitted meet Commission requirements and recommended approval contingent on receipt of payment and recording of an O&M agreement with the City for stormwater facilities. Motion by Workcuff, second by Vickery to approve project 2024-001 with the two contingencies listed and correct the WCA LGU from the Commission to the city of Greenfield. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**b. GS68 Pay Application #1.\*** Vada Contracting, LLC, the vendor completing Gully Stabilization 68 submitted the first pay request for \$23,125.62 out of the total contract price of \$29,337 for the project, less five percent retainage for a total request of \$21,969.34. The stabilization project is substantially

complete except for seeding, vegetation establishment and final site restoration. The earth moving, tree removal and installation of rock is complete. Once the project is deemed fully complete the final payment including retainage will be paid. The project will likely reach final completion in May 2024 and is likely to come in about \$1,000 under budget. Motion by Spencer, second by Daniels to approve this pay request. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**c. Adelman CIP Application.\*** This is a CIP application for shoreline restoration of 250 feet on the Adelman property, lots 9 and 10 of the Bridgevine development on Lake Independence. This project would be completed in 2024 or 2025 and proposes to reduce TSS by 3.83 tons per year and TP by 7.1 lbs per year. The CIP amount is based on a preliminary bid. Final site plans have not yet been finalized. This request is not for funding, but to add this project to the Commission's CIP. Motion by Burak, second by Wulff to approve adding the Adelman project to the CIP. *Motion carried unanimously.*

## **6. OLD BUSINESS.**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS.**

**a. 2023 Work Plan in Review.\*** Juntunen provided the 2023 Work Plan in Review for review and comment by Commissioners and Staff. This item will be incorporated into the 2023 Annual Report which must be approved at the April meeting and, per statute, submitted to the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) by April 30, 2024.

**b. 2024 Projected Work Plan,\*** Juntunen provided the 2024 Work Plan for review and comment by Commissioners and Staff. This item will also be incorporated into the 2023 Annual Report. Juntunen requested that comments be sent prior to the April meeting for incorporation and review in March with the draft Annual Report.

**c. 2023 Annual Report.\*** Commissioners were asked to review the draft annual report and submit any changes to Juntunen by April 10. The Annual Report must be approved at the April Commission meeting for submittal to the Board of Soil and Water Resources by April 30, 2024 per state statute. Workcuff noted that the Commissioner Responsibility column should be updated in Appendix 1.

## **8. EDUCATION.**

## **9. STAFF REPORTS.**

**a. Engineer's Report.\*** Vistad attended the pre-construction meeting for the Bridgevine ravine stabilization project with the developer and contractor. The contractor indicated that they would like to begin as soon as possible. Vistad also asked the developer about the irrigation pipes being installed on the Adelman property reported by an adjacent landowner. Vistad informed the developer that a water appropriations permit is required to pump water from the lake for any purpose. The developer confirmed that the landowner would not be running any water through the ravine. Juntunen will add the water appropriations application to the Commission website.

**b. HCEE Report.\*** County staff have scheduled an onsite visit at the Adelman property later in March and will also discuss water appropriations requirements with the owners and their contractor.

The fencing at the Shrine Horsemen property has been installed, inspected and approved. The Horsemen have been reimbursed by NRCS for that project. The Horsemen and all adjacent property owners to the wetlands that flow to Lake Rebecca, except one, have approved pulling sediment cores from the wetland to gauge nutrient export. This project will be completed in late spring or early summer 2024.

County staff have been working with Laura Treschel, landowner adjacent to the Shrine Horsemen, to evaluate three gullies in the wooded section of her property. County staff have surveyed the gullies and will provide pollution reduction estimates to determine water quality benefit of addressing these gullies.

The infiltration test at the Vinland National Center site has been delayed due to current freeze conditions. The survey cannot be completed until after the wetland has thawed to determine if drain tile will be needed under the wetland. Installation date for this project would most likely be in 2025.

The Soil Health Open House event is scheduled for April 11, 2024 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Independence City Hall. Information on Blue Thumb's upcoming workshops for Resilient Yards and Resilient Shorelines was also included in the meeting packet.

Tony Brough at Hennepin County has released an AIS report, included in the meeting packet.

County staff will likely present the 2024 Watershed Services Agreement at the April Commission meeting.

**c. TRPD Report.** Vlach noted that he will have updated lake report cards for the annual report. MPCA has requested TRPD to sample a small, unnamed lake south of Little Long Lake that TRPD is now calling Little Long South. The only previous data for this lake is from 1997 and 1999. The 2024 sampling season is gearing up and will include the same four stream sites as in 2023. Lake monitoring will include Lake Independence, both east and west bays of Lake Sarah to determine any differences between the bays, north and south basins of Whaletail Lake, Peter Lake and Schwappauff Lake.

No lake was monitored through the MPCA Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) in 2023 due to lack of a volunteer. Wulff will ask for a volunteer to monitor Lake Ardmore through the CAMP program in 2024.

TRPD is working on a partnership agreement with Hennepin County for the Kingswood Park Ravine project. TRPD will proceed with final designs for this project so it is ready when funding becomes available.

The next Whaletail alum treatment will be done in 2025 to allow sediment samples to be taken in 2024 that will determine the proper dosage for treatment.

TRPD is hiring seasonal staff to complete watercraft inspections in 2024 on Lake Independence and Little Long Lake.

TRPD is hosting a week long park service forum the week of June 10, 2024 with members

of park districts across the country to learn from each other. This will include a June 11 pontoon tour on Lake Independence followed by a fish fry. TRPD is also hosting the ISA International Tree Climbing Competition at Baker Park Reserve on May 17 and 19 with the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture.

**10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

**Wulff** invited all Commissioners to the Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) annual meeting on April 20 at Camp Iduhapi. Vlach will be a speaker at this meeting. Wulff noted the Lake Independence water level is up 0.37 inches since December when ice knocked the gauge over. Water is still flowing through the creek between Lake Ardmore and Lake Independence.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. The DNR have requested a **lake gauge reader** for Ox Yoke Lake to report lake levels on a weekly or bi-weekly basis for 2024.

b. The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for April 18, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Burak to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Administrator  
AAJ:tim

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