



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek  
Watershed Management Commission**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**Minutes**

**April 15, 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, April 15, 2021, by Chair Joe Baker.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Caitlin Cahill, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson, 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 Cahill, second by Wulff to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**a. March Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

**b. April Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \*** totaling \$5,678.98.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

**a. Project Review 2021-001 CenterPoint Energy Gas Main, Maple Plain.\*** The applicant is proposing to install a section of gas main along Highway 12. The gas main will be installed by horizontal directional drilling which is a trenchless method. The method does require some pits to be excavated to make the connection between gas main sections. Some of the pit locations are within floodplain and wetland buffers. The project will also require some dewatering, which entails pumping water from either the excavated pits or adjacent wells to lower the ground water to facilitate connections. This project was reviewed for Rules E and I. Staff recommends approval with no conditions. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Cahill to approve project 2021-001. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**b. 2021-002 CSAH 92 Culvert Replacements, Independence and Minnetrista.\*** Hennepin County is proposing roadway reconstruction for a section of CSAH 92. In conjunction with the roadway work multiple culverts are proposed to be replaced. The culvert replacements will be in-kind and no hydraulic or hydrologic changes are proposed with this project. One cattle crossing structure is proposed to be removed. This project was reviewed for Rules D and E. Staff recommends approval with no conditions. Motion by Cahill, second by Tschumperlin to approve project 2021-002. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**c. 2020 Annual Activity Report.\*** Motion by Cahill, second by Workcuff to accept the 2020 Annual Activity Report with the following revisions:

- 1) Name Wulff as the Medina commissioner
- 2) Replace the project review sheet with the completed spreadsheet
- 3) Include Baker's edit as submitted to Amy Juntunen.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

Greenfield • Independence • Loretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista

\*Included in meeting packet.

**d. Selection of Budget Committee.** Following discussion, it was a consensus to conduct the Budget Committee meeting as a meeting of the whole. It was scheduled for 4:30 p.m., May 20, 2021, prior to the regular meeting. Notice of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's official bulletin board. Juntunen will draft a preliminary working budget and distribute it to the members prior to the meeting.

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

**2021 HCEE Cooperative Agreement.\*** If Commissioners have any additional comments on the draft cooperative agreement presented at the March meeting, they are asked to provide that feedback to Guentzel by the end of April. Due to delays getting consulting costs related to subwatershed assessment studies, County staff were not able to finalize the agreement for action at this meeting but hope to have it available for action at the May meeting. Details of the agreement were itemized in the March minutes. The entire Cooperative Agreement has a not-to-exceed amount of \$229,621.

**7. NEW BUSINESS.**

**8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**9. EDUCATION.**

**10. GRANT UPDATES.**

**11. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**12. REPORTS.**

**a. Engineer's Report.\*** Vistad met with HCEE staff on site on October 19 at a gully leading into Lake Sarah. The gully is currently dry due to low rainfall in the fall. They were requested to examine the site and determine if a project is possible and the potential scope of the project. Based on previous projects completed, it is estimated that stabilization with rock would cost approximately \$100 per linear foot. There is roughly 400 linear feet of bank that would benefit from stabilization and armoring.

**b. HCEE Report.\*** Items discussed in the report included the Services Agreement (Item 6, above); South Fork and North Fork Crow River WBIF workplans which are currently under review by BWSR; Dance Hall Creek SWA project proposals; and the Hennepin County annual tree sale.

The Zuhrah Shriners have met onsite with NRCS staff to review pasture management and BMPs outside of the drainage system. Staff continues to consult with the Horsemen on wetland permitting related to a desire to shift the location of a crossing between the barn and pasture areas to the west. Staff are also continuing to make efforts to initiate contact with the landowners to the north who will be critical of any projects to manage stormwater from the Zuhrah site.

A number of individual landowner outreach projects were described in the report.

Three grant programs were also described:

**1) Environmental education grants.** Funding is available to support organizations in educating and motivating residents to become environmental stewards and take environmentally friendly actions. Green Partners environmental education grants are available to nonprofit organizations, community groups, youth programs, schools, congregations, early childhood family education programs, and park districts. Applications are being accepted until May 6, 2021. <https://www.hennepin.us/greenpartners> For more information, contact Patience Caso at [patience.caso@hennepin.us](mailto:patience.caso@hennepin.us) or 612-348-9352.

**2) Contaminated land cleanup grants.** Grants are available for the assessment and clean-

up of contaminated sites where the added environmental costs hinder site improvements or redevelopment. Environmental Response Fund grants are available to cities, local public entities including economic development agencies and housing and redevelopment authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses. <https://www.hennepin.us/business/property/brownfields#environmental-response-fund-grant>. Applications are being accepted until May 3, 2021. Prior to applying, contact [brownfields@hennepin.us](mailto:brownfields@hennepin.us) to discuss your project and funding needs.

**3) Grants for deconstruction to salvage building materials.** Framing being taken apart during deconstruction project. Funding is available for building projects that use deconstruction techniques instead of standard demolition to remove materials during the destruction, alteration, or renovation of a building. In a deconstruction project, a building is taken apart mostly by hand, and materials are sorted into categories for efficient recycling and reuse. Property owners and developers can receive up to \$5,000 to help offset the additional time and labor costs associated with deconstruction. Grants are available for demolition or renovation projects on residential properties up to 4 units that are 500 square feet or larger on structures built prior to 1970. Learn more and apply at <https://www.hennepin.us/deconstruction>.

### 13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

**a. Medina.** Wulff reported that the Lake Independence Citizen Association's annual meeting will be held this year in person on May 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Camp Ihduhapi. The meeting will be held outdoors in one of the camp's covered pavilions. To conform to guidelines established for larger groups, ice cream and beverages will not be served. LICA is planning to have at least one guest speaker.

**b. Independence.** Baker reported that the Lake Sarah Improvement Association applied for DNR AIS grants for the first time as both the west bay and east bay lake ID's. Each application was awarded a grant of \$5,000.

### 14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for May 20, 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 Baker to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
JAA:tim

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