

**MINUTES
April 16, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2015, by Chair Michael DeLuca at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Michael DeLuca, Maple Plain; Liz Weir, Medina; Pam Mortenson, Minnetrista; James Kujawa, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Becky Wozney, Hakanson Anderson, Independence and Medina; Cari Girk, Loretto; Lorie Cousineau and Scott Johnson, Medina; Randy Anhorn, HCEE; Rachel Olmanson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates;

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA.

- a. **March 19, 2015 meeting minutes.***
- b. **Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.***
- c. **2014 Audit Report.****

Motion by Weir, second by Baker to approve consent agenda items as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. NEW BUSINESS.

a. **2015 Work Plan.*** The work plan is a required part of the 2014 Annual Activity Report. Motion by Cook, second by Daniels to approve the 2015 work plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **2014 Annual Activity Report.*** Motion by Weir, second by Baker to accept the 2014 Annual Activity Report with the inclusion of the approved audit. *Motion carried unanimously.* Staff will submit the report to BWSR by the deadline of April 30.

c. **MN GreenCorps Host Site.*** This program supplies full-time interns for a period of 9 months for qualifying organizations and projects. The Commission does not have a qualifying program at this time. Staff will forward the information to city administrators.

6. STAFF REPORT.* Brasch is reviewing the internal loading results from sediment cores taken from Spurzem, Half Moon and Ardmore lakes and performing supplemental monitoring this year to fill gaps in information for Spurzem and Half Moon due to their big wetland complexes. A project management conference call on the WRAPS is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21.

TRPD is exploring the possibility of installing a blocking type of dock on Lake Sarah, similar to the one at Baker Park. More information will be made available as it is ready.

The top of the weir at the Lake Independence outlet is still below the water. LICA may investigate the weir's condition when the water level drops below the weir. The water level would need to fall further before repairs can be made.

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*Included in meeting packet.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

- a. **Daniels** reported Met Council has approved their connection to the sewer pipe in 2020.
- b. **Cook** reported the Greenfield City Council had a productive stormwater utility work session last week with interesting dialogue regarding using funds for projects. A later meeting occurred with the city engineer to handle the technical aspects of implementation, including identifying potential landowner questions. The Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment will be reviewed with the Council after a decision on the direction of the Commission is made.
- c. **Baker** noted that he and Brad Spencer met with a landowner regarding a city culvert that directs water through his three horse pastures, contributing 40-45 lbs of phosphorus to Lake Independence annually. The landowner is willing to work with the city which is looking into costs to change the culvert direction to re-direct the stream into non-pasture area. Kujawa noted that the County may be interested in funding this diversion project through a Green Partners grant.

A new 18-unit cluster development is open to a rain garden concept that was included in the subwatershed assessment. Two of the four landowners that would be involved in the HR68 project have been contacted, as well as two other large landowners in Independence regarding projects identified in the subwatershed assessment.

The Lake Sarah Improvement Association received their grant and permit for the curlyleaf pondweed treatment today.

- d. **DeLuca** had no updates.
- e. **Mortenson** stated the water treatment is an ongoing topic in Minnetrista. Their Council has chosen an engineer but can't divulge the name until the contract is signed. An 80-acre family trust farm is creating the first wetland bank in Minnetrista.
- f. **Weir** stated that Medina is participating in a large project on Elm Creek in Hamel, a 17.5-acre development from the 1960s will be retrofitted with a series of two ponds. The Elm Creek WMO provided ad valorem support in the amount of \$68,000 as a 25% match. Stormwater from the development currently wells up from a drain and is undercutting the railway embankment, making this a priority project.

The Council has expressed interest in sponsoring another NEMO (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials) workshop for the Council and interested citizens. Staff will send information on the upcoming NEMO workshops in the west metro to all member cities.

8. SURVEY RESULTS. The completed surveys were provided at the meeting along with a summary document. Independence was the only city to support a budget increase of 100%. No city supported a budget increase of 200%. The cities were split 3-3 on supporting water improvement projects within their cities through city taxes, and supporting ad valorem taxation of residents by the Commission. The cities were split 4-2 in favor of replacing the Commission with a watershed district. There is no clear alignment on increasing the budget by those percentages, using the ad valorem tax option, or converting from a Commission to a district.

Each Commissioner explained their Council's decisions further in depth. Two cities that indicated in their survey they are supportive of replacing the Commission with a district have a clear desire to remain a Commission and retain local control, but don't want to carry the burden for cities that refuse to fund clean water projects. There is a lack of trust in the Commission regarding how projects will be done.

Approval of the Third Generation Watershed Management plan and continuity of the Commission will be independent decisions. If the Commission does not adopt the Third Generation Plan at their May meeting, the Commission will be out of compliance with BWSR, ineligible for any grant funding, including the current and ongoing WRAPS grant from MPCA.

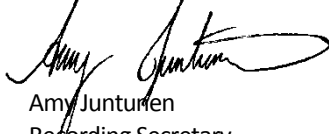
The Commissioners were tasked with gathering information from their City Councils regarding their support of the Third Generation Plan and willingness to increase the budget by more than 2% but less than 100%. Even if the Commission were replaced with a district, that district would most likely follow the adopted management plan for the period of its approved duration, saving taxpayer the cost of creating a new plan. The Commission will also

discuss increasing the cost-share match from 10% to 25% at the May meeting if the Plan is approved.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS.** The **next meeting** is May 21 and will be at the same location in Maple Plain.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Weir, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Junturien
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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