

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 20, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:03 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

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

Also present: John Dailing, Ahren Habict and Derek Lash for Project 2022-18.

2. AGENDA. The following item was added to the agenda:

4.f. Non-waiver of Tort Liability.

Motion by Daniels, second Wulff by to approve the agenda* with the addition noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

a. March Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. April Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$9,936.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2022-018 Windsong Golf Club, Independence.* This project is an expansion of the Windsong Golf Course to include an additional 18 holes north of CSAH 6. The site drains in two directions, either to Fox Lake or under Copeland Road with all stormwater ultimately discharging to Pioneer Creek about 0.5 miles west of the project location. The Commission's management plan requires review for Stormwater Management, Erosion Control and Buffer Strips (rules D, E and I). The applicant has submitted a SWPP and meets rules for Erosion Control. Wetland buffers have been provided meeting Buffer requirements. Stormwater from the parking lot will be routed to two bio-infiltration basins and an on-site irrigation pond. Applicant meets water quality requirements. Modeling shows a slight increase in discharge from the portion of the site draining under Copeland Road for the 100-yr event, which does not meet rate requirements.

Staff recommends approval contingent on receipt of 1) updated water quality modeling results; 2) meeting the 100-year event rate to Pioneer Creek; and 3) recording of O&M agreement regarding stormwater facilities and maintenance.

Motion by Daniels, second by Burak to approve the project with the three contingencies as noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2022 Annual Report.* The Annual Report details the activities and accomplishments of the

Commission in 2022. Motion by Workcuff, second by Wulff to accept the 2022 Annual Report as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Hennepin County Cooperative Agreement.* The 2023 cooperative agreement between the County and the Commission includes Attachment A* which outlines technical services, subwatershed assessments and WBIF implementation, including all reimbursable expenses, not to exceed \$257,903 in grant funds and \$77,726 in Commission grant match and operating funds. Motion by Burak, second by Daniels to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. CIP Application – Zurah Shrine Horsemen.* This property straddles Greenfield and Independence along CSAH 92. This is an operational ranch with two main parcels. Currently the paddock area is heavily used with trampled ground that increases sediment export. The proposed CIP is to install fencing and waterers for six separate grazing areas to allow rotational grazing. This will reduce trampled areas and sediment export from the property as well as spread out manure so it will be less concentrated. The most expensive part of the project is running the piping for the waterers. The project includes interseeding the pasture areas. The total cost of the project installation as proposed is \$75,159. The proposed funding includes an EQIP grant of \$16,893 (22%), a County grant of \$7,515.90 (10%), landowner cost share of \$11,862.35 (16%), Commission WBIF grant of \$20,098 (27%), and Commission CIP contribution of \$18,789.75 (25%). Staff is considering changing the piping design to reduce costs if possible. This project is cost effective, anticipated to capture 4.9 tons of sediment and 9.6 lbs. of TP per year. This property was identified in the Lake Rebecca Subwatershed assessment as a priority to improve water quality to Lake Rebecca. This project will be completed in two phases over two years, beginning with the fencing and seeding in 2023 and completion of the pipelines and waterers in 2024.

Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Workcuff to approve inclusion of the Zurah Shrine Horsemen on the CIP as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

e. CIP Application – Kingswood Ravine Stabilization.* This project is to correct an eroding ravine in Kingswood Park, just west of Kingswood Road and south of the tamarack bog. The project will excavate the area at the culvert where sediment has been deposited and install a sediment basin/rain garden with an overflow outlet pipe to the bog. This project will remove approximately 4.2 lbs of TP and 1,456 lbs of TSS per year. This is an ecologically unique habitat in Hennepin County. The total estimated cost is \$204,000, with the largest cost for directional boring the pipe from the basin to the bog. This is a pristine tamarack bog and the project will help to ensure that the area remains non-impaired. TRPD is managing this project and plans to seek additional grant funding. The County will partner on the project for design and permitting work. Tschumperlin noted that bank stabilization isn't included in the project, but with the rain and runoff this spring the slopes could use stabilization work. Vlach will review on the next site visit. This area eventually drains to Deer Creek, which is impaired.

Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Burak to approve inclusion of the Kingswood Ravine Stabilization on the CIP as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

f. Non-waiver of Tort Liability.* Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve the non-waiver for signature by staff. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

Baker Park Ravine CWF Grant. The final Financial Report* for the grant was included in the meeting packet as an informational item. BWSR chose to perform an audit on this grant and found no issues. No action

is necessary.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. EDUCATION.

Commissioner Handbook Review.* Juntunen created and updated the handbook for Commissioners and provided them at the meeting. A short review of the contents occurred. Commissioners asked for an index of all available grants and their regular application periods to be added to the handbook.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* The staff report details ongoing project reviews and was included in the meeting packet for review. Vistad and Baker met on site to review the GS68 project prior to the meeting. The two landowners are in favor of completing the project but do not want to bear any cost. Both landowners are willing to make in-kind contributions through tree and brush removal in the project area. Juntunen noted that most streambank stabilization projects in other watersheds are funded by the Commission and member city, not the landowners since it is not a direct benefit to landowners or caused by landowner activity. The total cost estimate for the project is \$48,000 and the project is on the CIP for 2023. Estimated benefit is 80 lbs of TP removal over a 20 year lifespan. The pond scraping project is separate but completing both at once may save on mobilization costs. Baker and Guentzel will reach out to the landowners for the scraping project to ensure cooperation.

b. HCEE Report.* The County held an open house at the Hamel Community Center last Thursday. Baker and Peter Vickery attended on behalf of the Commission. There were 25-30 landowners in attendance. The County will plan another open house event in the fall and is planning to partner with a neighboring county in 2024 for a soil health event. On Saturday, April 29, County Staff will be at Heidi's GrowHaus in Corcoran to gauge people's interest in protecting farmland from development and answer questions about BMPs and other County materials. Staff have a site visit planned with a Dance Hall Creek resident next week regarding conservation in the area and will be following up on the postcard mailing to residents around Lakes Sarah and Independence that was sent out last year. The County tree sale just ended. About 5,000 trees were sold through the event.

c. TRPD Report. The bidding period for the alum treatment closed on Monday of this week. One bid was received at \$183,000, slightly lower than expected. It was determined that the pH buffer will not be needed for the alum treatment, further reducing anticipated costs. The total cost of the project is now estimated at \$423,000 rather than the original estimate of \$504,000. Vlach met with the Minnetrista City Administrator. The City will contribute \$15,000 toward the project. The next steps will be to complete an agreement with funding partners to be signed at the May Commission meeting to allow the alum treatment to begin at the end of May.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker noted that the Otten property project was approved by the Commission last fall and is waiting for agreements from Greenfield and Loretto to be allowed on the sanitary sewer pipeline. Medina has approved the sewer hookup and pipes have been installed.

Lake Sarah remains high so the LSIA members are no longer as worried about an outlet control structure. TRPD also measured the weir and found it slightly higher than original specifications,

which would allow it to hold more water in the lake. Even if a different outlet control was approved by DNR, it would most likely need to meet the current outflow rates to avoid downstream impacts.

b. Wulff thanked Vlach for presenting at the LICA meeting. Tony Brough from Hennepin County also attended and discussed county programs and funds available, as well as getting attendees to take the Lake Pledge. Turnout for the meeting was smaller than expected. Medina is having a tree sale on April 29.

c. Tschumperlin commented that Minnetrista is in the process of bidding for road construction projects. The cost estimate was \$8 million for the road projects and bids came in at \$7.5 million.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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