



Watershed Management Commission

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REGULAR and TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 17, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2018, by James Kujawa at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

Present: Shane Nelson, Hakanson Anderson for Greenfield, Independence and Medina; James Kujawa and Kirsten Barta, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Loretto, Maple Plain and Minnetrista.

Also present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; John Fay, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, Medina; and John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista.

2. CIP Review. The purpose of this meeting is to complete the review of the CIP as submitted in the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan and proposed amendments.

2018 IN-01 and 2018 IN-02, Lake Independence Carp Study Phases one and two, respectively, were submitted by TRPD. The cost of the project is \$20,000 per phase, with TRPD covering 75% of the cost and requesting a Commission match of 25%. The Commissioners questioned why a study had to be performed. The study is necessary to determine the biomass, which at 100kg/ha is considered ecologically damaging to a lake. The biomass is also needed to bring in a commercial fisherman and the monitoring will prove if fish are moving up/downstream and fish barriers are needed. Phase one of the study includes tagging fish and collection of data. Phase two continues collecting data to show a two-year seasonal movement to ensure there isn't a "fluke" year. The Lake Independence Citizen's Association may donate to the project. Motion by Kujawa, second by Baker to add these two projects in 2018 and 2019 to the CIP. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Project 2017 MI-1 was resubmitted as project 2018 MI-1 Whaletail South Alum Treatment. The original 2017 project was proposed by Rich Brasch at TRPD prior to his retirement. The TMDL for Whaletail is complete and determined 70% of the phosphorus loading is internal, with very little coming from the watershed. Sediment core analysis has also been completed and indicates that alum is a good solution for improving water quality. Vlach has used that data to determine an alum dosage and current alum costs. Alum treatment would occur at depths greater than 20 feet so wind/wave action would not create bottom disturbance. Motion by Kujawa, second by Barta to add this project to the CIP for 2020. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Project 2017 IN-2 was resubmitted as project 2018 IN-04 Hydrologic Restoration 95. This project was identified in the Lake Independence Subwatershed Assessment and will remove 9.64 lbs of phosphorus per year. The project may be eligible for EQUIP funding from Hennepin County. Motion by McLaughlin, second by Baker to add this project to the CIP for 2018. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Project 2018 IN-03 was submitted by TRPD. The original TMDL showed 30% of loading (630lbs.) was attributed to internal sources. Since then, sediment core analysis proves that the internal load was well underestimated (over 2,000 lbs.). This new information will require an amendment to the TMDL with MPCA to support the argument for alum treatment. External loading from the watershed will still need to be addressed prior to any alum treatment. This alum treatment is expected to last a minimum of 10 years and the project will be eligible for grant funding. This project is submitted for the year 2023 and submitted now due to the high cost for planning purposes. Motion by McLaughlin, second by Barta to add this project to the CIP for 2023. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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*Included in meeting packet.

Ongoing opportunity-based watershed-wind projects WW-1 through WW-6. Projects WW-4, WW-5 and WW-6 were eliminated for redundancy. Projects WW-1, WW-2 and WW3 were allocated \$10,000 in Commission funding each for a total of \$30,000 available for these types of projects. Motion by Kujawa, second by Cook to add these three ongoing projects to the CIP at the funding noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Under "No Year Assigned" projects, the following will be removed as they do not fall under Commission purview: LO-3, LO-4, LO-5, LO-6, MP-1, MP-2, MP-3, and MP-5.

All completed projects will be removed from the revised CIP.

Project GR-2, Whisper Creek WWTP will be left as-is with no Commission funding at this time.

The consensus of the TAC is to recommend the discussed changes for additions and removals at the April and May meetings be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

3. ADJOURN TAC. Motion by Kujawa, second by Baker to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:22 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2018, by Chair Joe Baker at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Rd 90, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

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

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

2. AGENDA. Motion by Fay, second by Daniels to approve the revised agenda moving Kirsten Barta's staff report to directly after the consent agenda. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Cook, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda:

- a. **April Regular Meeting Minutes.*** Correct typo under item 6.b.
- b. **May Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.*** Claims total \$10,676.72.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. STAFF REPORT.*

a. Barta congratulated Vlach on the **delisting of Lake Rebecca** from the Impaired Waters List. The delisting should be official in June.

A letter was sent to 4,000 area residents requesting **feedback on water issues**. Responses are coming in via postcard. Most feedback relates to issues with drainage and horses. More letters will be mailed as time allows. Baker requested a copy of the letter/postcard.

The County is implementing a cleanout of **County Ditch 9** in Greenfield which has been neglected since 1951. Residents are agreeing to pay 25% of the cost, with in-kind, labor and maintenance, in addition to or in place of, funding. Barta is applying for a grant for this project in August 2018. The ditch runs from Schwappauff to Hafften, though a portion that was altered without County approval will not be included, nor will the portion from Hafften to the Crow River. Cook requested additional clarification. The survey will begin in two weeks. The County Transportation Dept. has identified a number of ditches that need work. Different techniques may be used, such as evaluating culvert sizes.

MPCA is looking for ten small watersheds for a **319 grant opportunity** to pilot a new, voluntary Focus Grant Workplan using the EPA's handbook. Barta would like to submit Dance Hall Creek. Selected watersheds will be prioritized to receive four four-year grant awards spanning a total of 16 years. The Commission

would be under no obligation and Barta would take the lead to shepherd the process to evaluate how the handbook and new nine-step plan works. The only current commitment would be for Barta to read the 400-page handbook and try the process. Barta will do this as a County employee because it will benefit the County.

Farmers along north/south county roads will be offered MnDot rates to leave five rows of corn along the roadsides all winter as **snow barrier**. Farmers will be allowed to hand-pick the corn. A lilac border will also be planted along the cemetery on County Road 50 since drifting snow usually occurs there.

There are only four **wetland buffer violations** in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed. Barta staked the buffer areas on those properties.

The **final salt usage tally** for the 2017-2018 season showed a reduction of 25%, even with the hard winter. With a milder winter, reductions of 50% are believed achievable. There was no sand/salt mix used this year. Use of brine allows for a large reduction and keeps the salt on the road where it does the most good. The temperature sensors help to decide when to stop salting. Calibration is also a big help in determining proper application rates. Costs for the sensors were about \$600 per truck and brine tanks were \$2,000-\$3,000. The road sensors also allow for varied brine content. Baker requested a write-up for the cities, mentioning a positive piece on Channel 9.

Barta announced that she will no longer be the Rural Conservationist for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed as the County will be hiring a new technician in the coming months. Barta will continue to work for the County in another role.

b. Kujawa is working with Grygelko in Greenfield who is interested in **excavating an existing shallow wetland** to provide more of an open-water wetland system. The project will not affect the existing channel/ditch adjacent to the project. Staff will issue an excavation permit for the activity.

Minnetrissa has submitted their **Local Water Plan** for review.

c. Vlach will provide an update on the **Baker Park Ravine project** later in the agenda.

d. There are no current **administrative updates**.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Approve Lake Sarah CLPW JPA.* This Joint Powers Agreement defines the cost-share between TRPD and the Commission, as well as the partnership with the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA). It's possible that grant funding for this type of project may be available again in the future. Motion by Cook, second by McLaughlin to approve the Lake Sarah CLPW JPA. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Call for Public Meeting in June. The proposed revisions to the CIP require a Minor Plan Amendment to the Commission's Third Generation Management Plan. A public meeting is a required part of that process and notice must be published in the Commission's legal newspaper, as well as sent to member cities and reviewing agencies to solicit comments either in writing or in person. The legal notice must be published in the newspaper 14 and 21 days prior to the meeting date. Motion by Daniels, second by Cook to call for a public meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Consider Funding for Lake Independence Carp Project.* This project was discussed as part of the CIP review. This item will be discussed at the June meeting.

d. Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Update.* At the May 16, 2018 Official Convene Meeting regarding BWSR's pilot watershed-based funding program, the consensus of the eleven watersheds in Hennepin County was to disburse the funds to each watershed on a 50/50 basis by land area/market value for the FY2019-2020 biennium after dedicating 10% of the total \$1,018,000 to a county-wide chloride management program. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO share of this funding is \$58,317 for the 2019-2020 biennium. These funds require a minimum 10% match of non-state funds. Projects using these funds can also apply for additional Clean Water Legacy grant funds. This 10% match also applies to the chloride management program. The eleven Hennepin County watersheds would need to split that 10% match, about \$950 per watershed for the biennium.

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A project must be submitted by the Commission to use the \$58,317 in funds by July 2, 2018. This project should not be reliant upon receiving additional CWL grant funds because, if the grant is not received, the Commission will not be able to use those funds for another project. This project must also be on the Commission's approved CIP by July 2. Staff recommends submitting two projects, in case one project falls through, so there is a backup. Staff needs Commission direction on which projects should be submitted for this funding by the July 2, 2018 deadline.

Motion by McLaughlin, second by Daniels to submit projects 2017 ME-1 Ardmore Neighborhood Stormwater BMPs and 2018 IN-01/2018 IN-02 Lake Independence Carp Study Phase 1 and 2 for BWSR's watershed-based funding. *Motion carried unanimously.* Baker was recognized for his contribution in pulling together the Medina project with Kujawa and McLaughlin.

e. Approve Comments – Minnetrista Local Plan.* Kujawa reviewed the Minnetrista Local Water Plan (LWP). The final draft update was submitted to the County in April. Staff reviews LWPs for conformance with the Commission's Third Generation Management Plan, updated land use, and how the City will assist in achieving water quality actions and goals in approved TMDLs. Staff has four main recommendations: 1) the LWP as submitted does not meet Commission regulations for wetland buffers; 2) the LWP does not include the non-production animal operation and siting ordinances adopted by the Commission; 3) The City could make improvements regarding the WRAPS and TMDL studies to include problem-solving actions and; 4) the Whaletail alum treatment project should be included in the city's CIP. Staff requests approval to send these four items back to the City to be addressed in their LWP. Motion by Cook, second by McLaughlin directing Staff to detail these four items in a memo with recommendations for resolution to the City of Minnetrista. *Motion carried unanimously.*

f. Accept CIP Recommendation. Motion by Daniels, second by McLaughlin to add an action item to the agenda to accept the TAC recommendations regarding the CIP. *Motion carried unanimously.* Motion by McLaughlin, second by Daniels to accept the recommendations of the TAC for the CIP projects to be added, changed, and/or removed via a minor plan amendment as discussed at the TAC meetings in April and May. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OPEN FORUM.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. 2018 CIP Update.** The TAC met prior to the regular meeting to finish reviewing the CIP. See TAC meeting minutes above for actions and recommendations.

b. PRAP Update. Commissioners and Staff were requested to complete the survey sent via Email. Staff will upload the approved 2017 Annual Report to the website.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Draft 2019 Operating Budget.* Baker and Cook met with administrative staff to create this proposed budget which keeps the total member contribution at the same level as 2018, though individual amounts may vary slightly with changes to market value. This item is currently for review only and will be voted on at the June meeting.

b. Baker Campground Ravine Stabilization Cooperative JPA.* This JPA between all partners details the duties, responsibilities and financial contributions of each partner. All partners in this project should review the JPA, which will be on the agenda for action at the June meeting. Any changes or revisions should be identified and submitted by June 14.

9. EDUCATION. Administrative staff were directed to schedule an orientation with Tschumperlin. Staff will update the Commissioner Handbook and schedule a time to meet with Tschumperlin.

10. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. Clean Water Partnership Loans.* More information will be provided at the June meeting.

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*Included in meeting packet.

b. 2017 Annual Activity Report.* Due to a server migration at the administrative office, paper copies will be available at the June meeting. A paper copy was sent to BWSR on time to meet the deadline requirements.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. McLaughlin. Lake Independence Citizens' Association (LICA) is hosting their annual ice cream social and meeting at Independence City Hall on Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome.

b. Fay. The Orono Rotary is hosting a Party in the Park at the Maple Plain water tower on June 2 from 5:00-11:00 p.m. This event will benefit the veteran's memorial at Northside Park in Maple Plain. The party will include food, beverages and live music. Fay requested staff to forward the flyer regarding this event when it is available. All are welcome.

The Maple Plain street projects begin in earnest in June on Howard Avenue and Independence Street. The Planning Commission will also be reviewing a new project for a 135-bed assisted living/memory care facility.

c. Cook. The new dock at the Lake Sarah landing has been installed. The first water sample on Hafften was taken today. The water clarity was 2.5 meters, the clearest it's been for testing.

d. Baker. Dependent on DNR approval and cooperative weather, the Lake Sarah CLPW treatment is scheduled for next Monday or Tuesday. Baker complimented the Commission on the TAC process for reviewing and revising the CIP.

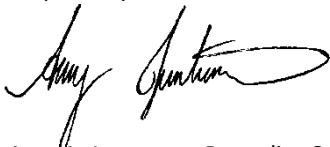
e. Tschumperlin. Minnetrista Days is on Saturday, May 19. Free hotdogs, chips and pop will be available from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Minnetrista Days is held on the third Saturday in May each year.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for June 21, 2018.

13. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Cook, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen, Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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