



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

May 19, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:04 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2022, at Maple Plain City Hall at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

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

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

a. April Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. May Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$5,383.05

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2022-005 Koch Farm Sanctuary, Independence.* This is a 141.4 acre residential development with 33 lots. The existing site is predominantly row crops with some vegetation located onsite in wetlands, as well as an old farmstead with outbuildings. The site is adjacent to and drains to Lake Independence, which has an approved TMDL for nutrients. The development is proposing to treat stormwater via eight wet sedimentation basins due to high groundwater making infiltration infeasible. To offset increased runoff generated from impervious surfaces the development proposes significant tree preservation areas and additional wetland buffers. The Commission's management plan requires compliance for Stormwater Management (Rule D), Erosion Control (Rule E), and Buffer Strips (Rule I). Post development runoff rates for the 2-, 10-, and 100 year events are decreasing. Due to the size of the development a SWPPP is required but has not yet been received.

Staff recommends approval contingent on: 1) receipt and approval of a SWPPP for the development; 2) receipt of a recorded Operations and Maintenance plan; 3) and receipt of a letter from BWSR affirming that the plat meets the RIM easement requirements.

Motion by Baker, second by Workcuff to approve project 2022-005 with those three

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

*Included in meeting packet.

contingencies. *Motion carried unanimously.* Vistad will follow up with the developer re incorporation of HR 95 in the project. There is a BWSR RIM wetland easement on the property in the HR95 area so any project in that area would need to be approved by the SWCD and BWSR.

b. Approve Engineering Expenses for Project Plans.** At the TAC meeting staff discussed the need for engineering design services to move projects to shovel-ready status. HCEE does not have the resources to provide this for several projects identified and recommended that the Commission fund the preliminary engineering work as lead on the projects identified in subwatershed assessments. This work will result in plans that can be used to obtain bids for construction. Proposed engineering cost to design a stream restoration project is not-to-exceed \$7,000. Vistad will research and develop an engineering cost estimate for designs for the HR 84 and HR 68 projects for consideration at the June meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

12. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report. An application for Bushwood Hills Reserve in Greenfield for a 34.8 acre residential development of five lots has been received but revisions have been requested from the City. It is expected to be on the agenda at the June meeting. Greenfield and Independence have a few other developments in the preliminary plat phase. Baker and Vistad visited the HR68/JB Gully project site today.

b. HCEE Report.* The **Watershed Services Agreement** has been approved and signed by both the Commission and County.

The **Spurzem Creek SWA** rough draft was just completed and TRPD provided comments to be incorporated into the report. HCEE will schedule a meeting with stakeholders to share the findings in June and expects to conduct a project meeting in early July.

HCEE Staff are working through the design phase with landowners on two **lakeshore restoration opportunities** on Lake Independence with a goal of having the projects ready for implementation in early summer.

The **Dance Hall Creek SWA Update** report is in the refinement process and should be completed within the next two weeks. Small projects have been identified for fall implementation.

HCEE Staff are working with landowners on culvert elevations and farm structures from the **Lake Rebecca SWA**.

The **McComb project** is awaiting drier weather to begin construction. The Zurah Shrine Horsemen have been approved for USDA funding for pasture work and some subwatershed BMPs.

Engineering on the **1215 Copeland Road project** found larger than expected flow through the area, which is an issue for NRCS. The project is also within a CRP boundary which makes the construction design project more complicated. HCEE Staff will want to work with Vistad on this project to completed a larger hydrologic analysis to determine what can be done within CRP rules.

Over **700 mailers** were sent to Lake Independence and South Lake Sarah watershed residents based on the completed SWAs to solicit landowners to participate in project implementation. So far 40 mailers have been returned from interested landowners. HCEE will provide outreach and due diligence for potential projects with a goal of installing BMPs this summer/fall.

A feasibility study is needed for the **Budd Street project**. This may be another project for Vistad to provide an estimate for engineering costs.

The County **tree sale** was a success with a little over 2,000 trees sold.

c. TRPD Report. The **Whaletail alum feasibility study Agreement** and **Lake Independence TMDL update Agreement** will be executed by next week so work can begin on those projects.

A phone call from the homeowner on the channel between Ardmore and Independence reported that **carp are going over the barrier** while the water levels were elevated. Several were caught downstream and died when the water level dropped. If carp regularly get past the barrier, a retro fit may be needed.

Vlach met with Hennepin County regarding a potential project on the west side of Kingswood Road in Minnetrista to reduce erosion flowing to the wetland area.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker thanked Vlach for presenting at the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) meeting. The CLPW herbicide application is expected to occur within a month. The lake vegetation study was recently completed.

b. Wulff noted that Lake Independence shore owners are talking about how high the water level is this year.

c. Workcuff. New manure piles were showing up on Sioux Trail. The issue has been referred to MPCA for enforcement. One homeowner with plugged culverts is causing upstream flooding near Dance Hall Creek. The homeowner doesn't want to pay for culvert replacement.

d. Tschumperlin. Three landowners requested a zoning change from Ag Preserve to Ag with intent to sell as 10+ acre lots. The city granted the zoning change.

e. Cahill. Maple Plain's Party in the Park event will be held June 4 at 5 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for June 16, 2022 at Maple Plain City Hall.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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