

**MINUTES
May 21, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 21, 2015, by Chair Michael DeLuca at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Brad Spencer, Independence; Carie Girk, Loretto; Michael DeLuca, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, 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: Lorie Cousineau, Scott Johnson and Pat Wulff, Medina; Josh Tschumperlin and Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; and Katie Morforu, The Laker/Pioneer.

2. AGENDA.* One educational item, Water Words That Work workshop information, was added as a non-action item. Motion by Cook, second by Mortenson to approve the agenda with the addition of that item. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. CONSENT AGENDA.

a. April 16, 2015 meeting minutes.* Under item 6 it was noted that the Lake Independence weir was above the water. This was an incorrect statement as the weir remains below water. This item will be corrected.

b. Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.* Motion by Cook, second by McLaughlin to approve consent agenda items with the change noted to the minutes. *Motion carried unanimously.*

4. OPEN FORUM. Whalen stated that the Minnetrista Council did not discuss the Commission budget since the City voted unanimously in favor of the Commission becoming a District. If the Commission does not become a District, the City will look at other options.

5. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Resolution 2015-01 Adopt Third Generation Plan.* Motion by Spencer, second by Cook to adopt the Third Generation Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.* If the Commission becomes a District, the Plan will most likely carry over into the new organization.

[Girk arrived 6:14 p.m.]

b. Formation of Budget Committee. Baker, Cook, and Girk volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Staff will arrange a meeting date convenient for all members of the subcommittee.

1) Council Input on Budget. At the April meeting Commissioners were directed to seek information from their Councils regarding their willingness to increase the Commission's budget.

Independence reported that the Council is willing to increase up to 100% with the caveat that the Commission take the lead on projects, use ad valorem funding, and increase cost-share to 25%. If the Commission will not meet the caveat, the Council voted to convert to a District.

Minnetrista's report was addressed under Open Forum.

Medina is not interested in raising the budget significantly because the Commission isn't working well and it would be a waste of money. Medina is also in favor of converting to a District.

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

*Included in meeting packet.

Maple Plain is not in favor of a significant increase.

Greenfield is not in favor of any increase. They will fund projects for the watershed in 2016 through the Stormwater Utility District.

Loretto is comfortable with the two percent increase per the Third Generation Plan.

The Budget Subcommittee will take this input into account when creating the 2016 budget.

c. **Cost-Share Policy.*** The JPA and Plan states that the Commission will fund up to 25% of a project, but current practice and the CIP in the Plan note a 10% cost-share. The 10%-25% allows for more flexibility and the ability to fund more projects; however, there is currently no criteria for qualifications at either percentage. Most other WMOs contribute at 25% which is much more of an incentive for cities to do projects and shows more support to the cities from the Commission. The 25% match could be of the city's out-of-pocket expense or of the entire project. After discussion, the Commission's appetite seems to be to move to a 25% cost-share policy.

The Budget Subcommittee will discuss and bring an analysis back to the Commission of projects funded at different rates based on the current CIP.

The TAC should meet to work on clarifying criteria and evaluation/prioritization of CIP projects for 2016. A date for all 2016 CIP applications should be set.

It was noted that the Commission is not equipped to take the lead and drive projects and complete feasibility studies without full-time engineering/technical staff.

6. STAFF REPORT.*

a. **Lake Sarah TMDL.** Staff continues to work on the Ed Egan parcel to determine the feasibility of a wetland restoration project. Hakanson-Anderson provided survey information on two pipes $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile apart that control a portion of the watershed draining into the restoration area.

b. A grant was awarded to complete the **Lake Ardmore subwatershed assessment**. Kujawa met with Lake Ardmore residents to discuss the assessment.

c. **2015-02 Serenity Hills, Independence.** The project does not currently meet Commission standards. Spencer assumed the watershed approval was incorporated in the preliminary plat, which the city approved. The final plat will be presented to the city in June. The developer incorporated two BMPs into their outlot A with preserved acreage and were requested to include language allowing either the City or the Commission to install future BMPs, such as an iron filter bench, by right.

d. **WRAPS.** All models are set up and data on inputs from the big wetland complexes will be collected through the rest of the 2015 monitoring season.

e. The agreement for the **carp project** on Ardmore up to Spurzem is close to being signed. The first year will include capturing carp in Ardmore and implanting radio tags. TRPD staff will go out on the lakes every two weeks for up to 15 total visits to track movements. The project will include population estimates, biomass per acre, and movement tracking. The data will be used to determine whether carp exceed thresholds and are high risk to rooted aquatic plants.

f. The Burk property owner has agreed to give TRPD access to **sample Winterhalter and Thomas Lakes** for the first time. This will allow analysis of the whole Spurzem chain of lakes from the headwaters. The data will be used to identify problem areas and improve water quality prior to draining into Lake Independence.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Girk** reported that the City is working on being whistle-free from trains, budget talks, and getting redevelopment going.

b. **Cook** reported that the stormwater utility continues to move forward, has gone through the engineer review, and is close to implementation. TRPD is pursuing a document regarding a wedge in front of the Lake Sarah weir to prevent cattail bogs from plugging Sarah Creek. The City and TRPD are working together to take

the burden for clearing the cattail bogs from the Lake Sarah Improvement Association. There will be new signage re aquatic invasive species at the Lake Sarah launch. The launch will also be extended out into the lake with concrete strips installed to combat the washout from power loading. Spencer noted that the City had done the same repair in the early 90s and had received funding from the DNR at that time. Perhaps funding may be available again.

c. **DeLuca** noted that the new Main Street project has helped immensely with correcting the flooding and poor runoff that was experienced in 2014. The city is looking at the ravine area, which has been identified as a potential CIP in the Commission's Plan.

d. **McLaughlin** reported that the Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA) had their annual meeting and attendees included Lorie Cousineau and the Medina Mayor. LICA treated 10 acres of Lake Independence for curlyleaf pondweed at a cost of \$5,300. A DNR grant for the project covered \$1,000 of the cost. Funds were not requested from the Commission. Lake Ardmore residents are getting organized and want to help with any potential projects. A grant was awarded to complete the Lake Ardmore subwatershed assessment.

e. **Mortenson** noted that she would like to introduce one of her residents to Kujawa. The resident owns a five bedroom home on Deer Creek that is proposed to be used as a Redemption House. There are currently seven residents in the home now, with the expectation to increase to 12 residents. Neighbors in the area are concerned with how the increase of traffic, change in land use, etc., might impact wetlands and the creek. Current zoning allows no more than three unrelated adults to reside in one home and the owner has requested a variance.

f. **Spencer** reported that a city culvert directs water through a pasture with three horses, effectively "flushing" the manure and exposed sediments with each heavy rainfall right into the adjacent wetland which feeds to Loretto Creek and ultimately to Lake Sarah. As three horses can produce as much as 40-45 lbs of phosphorus per year in their manure, the City is looking at how it can cost-effectively redirect the stormwater flow around the pasture. Independence Public Works Dept has recently surveyed elevations in the area and has a potential ditch reconstruction project that may produce the desired results, if the landowner is willing. Kujawa previously noted that the County may be interested in funding this diversion project through a Green Partners grant.

A new cluster development, Shefer/Serenity Hills, has been approved by Independence Planning Commission and City Council as to preliminary plat with 14 new clustered home sites and significant protected acres. The City is requiring the developer to incorporate several previously identified BMPs from the recent Independence SRA (Wetland Restoration #97 and Filter Strips #89) into the proposed plat along with inclusion of a provision for the City to implement future BMPs in the outlot areas, especially the area immediately adjacent to Kochs Creek. Spencer and Mark Kaltsas will continue the discussions with the current landowner and the developer. This property and Kochs Creek feed directly into Lake Independence.

A 48-acre landowner is supportive of a hydrologic restoration identified in the Independence Sarah SRA (HR68) with a meeting scheduled to include Kujawa. Elevations in the area have recently been surveyed by Hakanson staff for use in project design and modeling.

The Lake Sarah Improvement Association received their grant and permit for the curly-leafed pondweed treatment and performed the chemical treatment on May 2, 2015.

The City has contracted its water resources staff to physically inspect the run-out control (weir) at Lake Independence which is now visible due to the lower surface water elevations. The inspection was performed on Tuesday, May 19, by Hakanson staff and will result in a replacement structure design, cost estimate, and plan for replacement in the very near future. Previous partners in the Independence Outlet Restoration project have indicated their continued willingness to cost-share on the device replacement by prior agreement. The permit from the MN DNR remains valid through the Fall of 2015. Independence will continue as lead manager on this project.

Two property owners have been contacted within the Lake Sarah sub-watershed within the City of Independence that are willing to consider rain gardens in areas of significant drainage as identified in the Sarah SRA study. (RG69 and RG74). Independence water resources staff have already been directed to design specific features and look for possible funding sources. The Delano Boy Scout Troop has been contacted regarding the possibility of incorporating labor and project management from prospective Eagle Scouts.

8. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. **HF No. 2307.*** A bill was introduced proposing to consolidate the 11 watersheds in Hennepin County into three watershed organizations, to be managed by a Board of elected officials. The bill was not discussed in the current session but may be brought up in the next legislative session.

b. The **next meeting** is June 18 and will be at the same location in Maple Plain.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Spencer, second by Girk to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Junturien
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

Z:\Pioneer-SarahCreek\Meetings\Meetings 2015\5_Minutes.docx