

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 21, 2020**

**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, May 21, 2020, by Chair Joe Baker via online Zoom.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; John Fay, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson, Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also Present: Kyal Klawitter, Greenfield; Scott Johnson, Medina; Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates.

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Fay, second by Tschumperlin to approve the consent agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. **April Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

b. **May Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.\*** Claims total \$20,966.74.

c. **Approve non-waiver of monetary limits on tort liability.\***

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

a. **Consider 2021 Operating Budget.\*** Baker, Fay and Tschumperlin worked with Staff to create the 2021 budget. The budget does not include any increase to member dues for 2021. Motion by Wulff, second by Tschumperlin to approve the 2021 operating budget as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **2021 Member Assessments.\*** While the overall member assessments have not changed, the amount assessed to individual cities is based on the taxable market value of the cities area within the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed. Fluctuations in the taxable market value have affected every city's member assessment for 2021. Motion by Fay, second by Daniels to approve the 2021 Member Assessments as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

**7. NEW BUSINESS** (see Staff Report\*).

**8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

a. **Draft Plan-Update.\*** Spector reviewed the updates to the draft plan. Commissioners and Staff discussed and provided comments and verbiage changes recommended for the four priority statements that will lead the Plan for the next ten years. While goals can be exceeded, and stretch goals are good to include, the Commission is also judged on progress toward measurable, achievable goals. Spector will re-word and send to the Commissioners, Staff and partners for review prior to the June meeting. Baker offered to work with Spector on the wording.

b. **Appendices.\*** The TAC met to review the CIP. The major change to the existing CIP is the

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reorganization of projects by drainage area. This will allow residents and cities to more easily see what projects are being proposed for their lake/area. Instead of prioritizing projects, a linear flow to project order needed to achieve goals was put in place. I.e., some projects, such as alum treatments, require external loading projects or studies to be completed before they can move forward. Projects marked (1) will be the first focus. Projects marked (2) need other activities to be completed before they can be considered. Projects marked (3) are opportunistic projects, or projects that would be considered later in the life of the plan. The Plan allows for CIP projects to be moved from year to year without a Plan Amendment. There are also generic projects listed that require participation from landowners. Most, such as wetland restorations, are included in the line item for general BMPs.

Further comments, recommended changes, or questions regarding the CIP table should be sent to Juntunen.

**c. Budget Table.** Spector will begin with the approved 2021 budget and make minor adjustments for inflation and to follow the proposed monitoring schedule. The budget table will include projected budgets for the next 10 years to inform the public of anticipated spending, but is not required to be strictly adhered to.

**d. Public Input.** Spector recommended sending the draft plan to cities and agencies, including BWSR, for informal comment, as well as making it available online for interested parties to review and comment. Comments received during an informal period are not part of the formal record submitted to BWSR with the formal plan. Spector will draft a press release and have the draft plan updated for posting to the website and sending for informal comment in the next 2 weeks. If the 60-day review process is started at the June meeting, it does not allow much time for informal comment. Comments received during the 60-day process must be logged and responded to formally, as well as included with the Plan submission to BWSR. A platform for receiving public comment will be added to the website for the 60-day public comment period. Steward will work to obtain agricultural input.

*Working Schedule.*

- 1) ~~May 21, 2020 - Review preliminary comments and revise plan~~
- 2) June 18, 2020 - Review final draft plan and authorize start of 60 day review
- 3) August 21, 2020 - Approximate end of 60-day review
- 4) Sept 17, 2020 - Public Hearing
- 5) Sept-Oct-Nov 2020 - Agency review and approval
- 6) Dec -Jan 2021 - Commission adoption

**9. EDUCATION.**

**10. GRANT UPDATES.**

**11. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**a. Final Report Lake Independence Carp Study.\*** Vlach reviewed the report. Installation of carp barriers, along with occasional removals, will assist in managing the population on Lake Independence. One carp barrier will be installed as part of the Ardmore channel project this year. TRPD recommends installing a second carp barrier at Pagenkopf because that channel has the most carp movement throughout the season. TRPD is currently working with a consultant on the carp barrier design for the Ardmore channel.

**b. Letter from Met Council re Maple Plain Local Plan.\*** No comment/action necessary.

**12. STAFF REPORT.\***

**a. Baker Park Ravine.** The final project walk-through will occur next week, at which time the project will be closed out if all is satisfactory. The project is currently \$25,000-\$35,000 under budget, which may allow for some of the grant funds to be used on other projects in the Lake Independence watershed area. HCEE and TRPD will look at potential projects that could be funded.

**b. Subwatershed Assessments.\*** Guentzel provided an overview of the upcoming Spurzem chain

subwatershed assessment. The Loretto wastewater treatment plant is scheduled to go offline by the end of 2020. This will allow an opportunity for beginning to address this chain that is upstream of Lake Independence and identify projects to address source controls and mitigation practices that will ultimately result in less pollutant loading to Lake Independence.

**c. BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF).** The watershed-based funding pilot program resulted in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Commission receiving over \$30,000, which will be used this year on the Ardmore channel projects. The WBIF runs on a biennium basis. The current biennium funding expires on December 31, 2020.

The pilot WBIF program was based on funding by County. For the new biennium beginning July 1, 2020, the funding is based on major watershed. The Pioneer Sarah Creek watershed falls within two major watersheds, the South Fork Crow River and the North Fork Crow River. The South Fork Crow includes the watershed area from Lake Sarah and south and voting members include the Carver SWCD, Carver County, Hennepin County, the cities of Independence and Watertown, and the PSCWMC. The North Fork Crow includes the land area from Lake Sarah and north up to the confluence of the Crow and Mississippi in Dayton, MN with voting members from Elm Creek WMC, Hennepin County, the cities of Independence and Rogers, and the PSCWMC. The total amounts funded are \$330,063 for South Fork Crow and \$91,105 for North Fork Crow.

Juntunen and Guentzel, as representatives for PSCWMC and Hennepin County, respectively, will be meeting with BWSR representatives and the voting members of each major watershed to create a list of projects and apply for the WBIF. BWSR has noted that they would like to see semi-competitive applications for specific projects to receive funding, rather than allocation based on land area/taxable market value as occurred in the pilot program. BWSR is facilitating creation of a targeted, measurable program that will identify goals, current issues, and set actions/projects to use the funding. The current CIP will be used to identify potential projects. Cities are encouraged to submit potential projects for consideration.

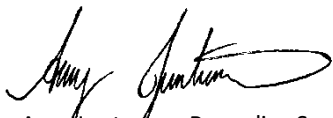
**13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

**14. OTHER BUSINESS.**

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for June 18, 2020 and will most likely be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

**15. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Fay, second by Tschumperlin to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary  
AAJ:tim

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