

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 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; Steve Christopher, Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR); Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates.

2. AGENDA. Items 5.d. Final Payout Baker Park Ravine, and 10.a. Unspent Funds from Baker Park Ravine Project were added to the agenda. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve the agenda as amended. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

a. May Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. June Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.* Claims total \$12,411.81.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Accept 2019 Audit Report.* The 2019 audit found no material issues and that the financials as provided by Staff were fairly represented. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to accept the 2019 Audit Report as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Project Review 2020-004 Lake Ardmore Fish Barrier, Medina.* As presented at last month's meeting, carp migrate from Lake Independence to Lake Ardmore to spawn. A fish barrier will reduce this migration and help control the carp population, which has water quality benefits for both Ardmore and Independence. The design was reviewed for potential flooding to adjacent structures. The plans include riprap and a concrete pad beneath the barrier to allow access for easy cleanout without erosion issues. Staff recommends approval with no conditions. TRPD will monitor the barrier for effectiveness with a pit tag system after installation. Motion by Fay, second by Baker to approve project review 2020-004 as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Letter of Support.* Staff has drafted a letter of support for the Crow River One Watershed One Plan grant application. Motion by Workcuff, second by Daniels to approve the letter as written and authorize Staff to send on behalf of the Commission. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Baker Park Ravine Project Final Payout. The final walk through occurred in May. The project is considered complete with the proven germination of the plantings. Photos and a drone video will be shown at the July meeting. The overall project was completed approximately \$34,000 under budget. The final pay request totals \$27,490.30. Motion by Fay, second by Wulff to approve the final payout request covering retainage and the final invoice. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS (see Staff Report*).

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a. Plan-Update.* Informal comments received from Hennepin County were reviewed. Suggestions included adding a goal statement regarding developing guidance for landowners regarding drain tile, modifying one statement from “exploring development of a cost share policy” to a more firm “develop a cost share policy,” addressing the documented changes in precipitation patterns, and adding an action to review the livestock policy annually to ensure it conforms with current regulations of other agencies. Motion by Wulff, second by Baker directing Staff to incorporate the four proposed changes/additions as noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Initiate 60-Day Review. Motion by Wulff, second by Daniels directing Staff to initiate the official 60-day review process. *Motion carried unanimously.*

As part of the 60-Day review process, a public input session is usually required. Due to COVID-19, any session would need to be held virtually. Wulff and Baker noted that they will each post the information in newsletters for Lake Independence and Lake Sarah, respectively. Guentzel and Stewart will reach out to the Ag community. Motion by Fay, second by Wulff to direct Staff to implement an online public input session via Zoom between July 20 and August 14. *Motion carried, Baker abstaining.*

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. There is approximately \$34,000 in **grant funding unspent from the Baker Park Ravine project**. Vlach proposed using those funds, at the same 25% match required for the original project, to fund additional projects within the watershed. A list of potential projects was provided. BWSR has stated that they would be amenable to a time extension to the grant, which currently expires December 31, 2020. Motion by Wulff, second by Tschumperlin to direct Staff and partners to develop these potential projects to use the remaining grant funds. *Motion carried unanimously.*

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

The **2020 approved budget** and **member assessments*** were included in the meeting packet for informational purposes.

12. STAFF REPORT.*

a. May Staff Report.* A citizen complaint was received regarding the Protolabs parking lot causing more stormwater in the existing pond. Staff, City Staff, and Baker will review the original project review approval.

HCEE Staff are working on two lakeshore restorations on Lake Independence, a failed grassed waterway and a gully erosion issue that is also on the list of potential projects for the unused grant funds mentioned above.

b. June Staff Report.*

c. BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). The watershed-based funding work

groups for North and South Fork Crow River have requested that each qualifying entity submit a list of projects for review and consideration for potential funding through the program.

Staff reviewed a list of potential projects in both North Fork Crow and South Fork Crow areas and requested Commissioner input on prioritization. All projects are on the CIP except a recent addition, the Shriners project.

In the South Fork Crow region there are seven proposed projects. Commissioners noted the Whaletail alum treatment should be the highest priority since it is one of the Fourth Generation Plan's primary goals. Lake Rebecca's alum treatment is the second highest priority and the Shriners project would also be high priority. The Commission noted that between those three projects, the TAC should decide which project(s) to submit for funding.

In the North Fork Crow region there are three proposed projects – Dance Hall Creek SWA BMPs, JB Gully stabilization/HR 68, and the Hafften-Schendel-Schwappauff Lakes SWA. While Hafften Lake is impaired, it is viewed as a lower priority for projects since the surrounding area is private land. Dance Hall Creek BMPs was rated as the highest priority, HR 68 moderate, and the SWA as lowest priority. Staff will summarize and use this feedback in future WBIF meetings to move projects forward.

d. Zurah Shrine Horse Facility.* Earlier this spring the Commission, in partnership with Hennepin County and TRPD, met with the Zurah Shrine Horsemen regarding wetland flooding issues. Potential projects have been identified, including hydrological restoration options and BMPs, that can provide more predictable pasturing and feeding conditions while also benefiting natural resources. This project will be added to the Fourth Generation Plan CIP and WBIF list.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker has shot eight carp in Lake Sarah and Lake Sarah Creek so far this year. The Culyleaf Pondweed (CLP) post treatment in Lake Sarah has been completed and shows great success. An evaluation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was completed yesterday showing a few pockets of CLP among the EWM, with the good news that more native vegetation is growing. The cost share application for this year is expected to be around the \$8,000 limit.

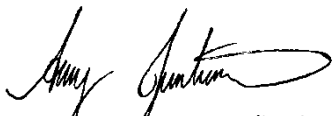
b. Wulff noted that the lakeshore restoration at Lakeshore Park is almost complete and looks beautiful although the plantings won't be completed for a few weeks.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for July 16, 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 Wulff, second by Fay to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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