



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek  
Watershed Management Commission**

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2019**

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, June 20, 2019, by Secretary Brenda Daniels at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mike Hoekstra, Greenfield; Brad Spencer, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Julie Maas-Kusske, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; James Kujawa and Karen Galles, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Hoekstra, second by Tschumperlin to approve the Consent Agenda:

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

b. **June Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.\*** Claims total \$1623.15.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

4. **OPEN FORUM.**

5. **ACTION ITEMS.**

a. **2018 Financial Audit.\*** Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Spencer to approve the 2018 audit as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Liability Insurance Waiver.** Motion by Spencer, second by Maas-Kusske to not waive monetary limits on municipal tort liability. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

**Project Review 2019-01 Ox Yoke Circle, Minnetrista.\*** This project was administratively approved by Staff.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **Project Review 2019-02W Horton Exemption, Greenfield.\*** This project involved damaged drain tile. An exemption was issued and noticed per WCA rules. Staff also provided general guidelines for pond excavation to the land owner. No action necessary.

b. **Project Review 2019-03 John Sega Horse Facility, Independence.\*** This project is the expansion of an existing facility. Staff is waiting for a complete application to begin review.

c. **Project Review 2019-04W Whisper Creek Trail Wetland, Greenfield.\*** Staff received a complaint of wetland fill along Whisper Creek. A Cease and Desist order has been issued by MnDNR. Staff is working with the property owner on the restoration and will issue a final restoration order per WCA rules when completed.

d. **Project Review 2019-05 Green Acres East, Greenfield.\*** A complete plan for this 36-acre property was received last week. Staff will review and bring before the Commission at the July meeting.

e. **Ardmore Carp Barrier Feasibility Study.\*** TRPD has been working with the Commission and the City of Medina to complete a carp study. It's been determined that the carp population and biomass is at a level to

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

\*Included in meeting packet.

create water quality impacts in Lake Ardmore and is borderline to create impacts in Lake Independence. One step is to install a carp barrier in the channel between Ardmore and Independence to keep carp from migrating between the two lakes. One proposed barrier is an open rock riffle that will allow water to flow at a higher velocity and lower depth to make it harder for fish to move upstream. A second option is a grate installed in a culvert that would allow game fish movement, but keep the large, mature carp from moving through the system. This barrier could also be open most of the year, but closed during carp migration and spawning times. Additional options include a permanent structure or electric fish barrier. City staff is interested in the first two options but concerned that debris could impact water flow quickly. The rock riffle is likely to require the least maintenance and not be blocked by debris. Staff will continue to work with the city to incorporate the barrier into the Ardmore CIP project.

**f. 2019 Hennepin County Cooperative Agreement.\*** This agreement covers the same services as in past years and is in the amount of \$42,488.80 for technical services and \$750 for education and monitoring. Beginning in 2020, the County will no longer provide the technical services for project reviews and WCA administration due to Kujawa's impending retirement. The County will move into more of an SWCD role with the Commission and has hired a new Rural Conservationist to assist with outreach and project implementation within the watershed.. An outside consultant will be hired to complete the plan review services and the member cities will be responsible for acting as the WCA LGU as of January 1, 2020. Motion by Spencer, second by Wulff to approve the 2019 Cooperative Agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**9. EDUCATION.**

**10. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.**

**a. Ardmore Project Funding Update.\*** The original work plan included three projects. After completion of the feasibility study, it was determined that the pond cleanout/expansion would not have much impact on water quality. The work plan will be adjusted to replace the pond project with installation of a fish barrier to keep the costs approximately equal, with the project cost decreasing from \$74,000 to \$70,000. The grant contribution remains the same at \$58,317 with Medina and the Commission splitting the difference.

**b. Baker Park Ravine Project.** The bid package is being assembled with the goal of advertising for bids in July and awarding a contract at the August meeting. Construction will begin about October 20, once the campground is closed for the season. Wenck will be involved in the bid review process to ensure bidders meet project specifications.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**12. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

**a. Tchumperlin** informed the Commission that Minnetrista has increased its pavement specifications from 3.5" to 4.5" for all new roadway pavement to save money on maintenance and extend the life of the pavement. The City will also be using a new membrane product that seals the asphalt to the concrete gutters to reduce erosion and damage at those areas.

**b. Hoekstra** commented that Greenfield has a lot of swampy area, so mill and overlay has a top lifespan of 15 years.

**c. Spencer** commented that they are re-spraying the eastern bay of Lake Independence for curly-leaf pond weed after receiving some abnormal sampling results. TRPD noted issues with other treatments, possibly due to late season snowfall causing a second germination.

An old drain tile system at the corner of County Roads 90 and 11 has been compromised so the County has been getting a lot of questions re standing water in that area. Neither the City nor County have any records re drain tile in this area. The standing water has impeded the completion of a WCA enforcement action on a County Road 11 property.

d. **Wulf** noted the Ardmore Capital Improvement project will now focus on shoreline restoration/erosion control and the channel riffle to limit carp movement. Two adult zebra mussels were found last night on plants harvested by two rakes running on Lake Independence. Invasive yellow irises and some hybrid milfoil were also identified. The last survey found more coontail than curlyleaf pondweed. The lake level was at 0.41" above the no wake limit this morning. The lake level is decreasing at an average of 0.02" per day and the bog does not seem to be impeding the drainage flow.

Due to the high water levels some of the logs anchored to the shoreline for the large TRPD project have pulled free. The shoreline will be reassessed once water levels drop and may need more armoring as this 10-year flooding event has caused considerable damage.

e. **Daniels.** Met Council has approved the sewer line to Loretto.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. Galles noted that the County recently **mailed postcards to landowners** to inquire about conservation needs or interests. There have been 15-20 responses received to date.

b. The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for July 18, 2019.

**14. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Daniels, second by Hoekstra to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:04. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen, Recording Secretary  
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