

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**July 20, 2023**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:03 p.m., Thursday, July 20, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Andrew Burak, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; Roz Davis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Burak, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. **June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.\***

b. **July Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims \*** totaling \$8,149.92.

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

**5. ACTION ITEMS.**

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

**7. NEW BUSINESS.**

**BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant.\*** Diane Spector, Stantec, is writing a Clean Water Fund grant for the **Dance Hall Creek Analysis** project. It was too late to submit a Hennepin County Opportunity Grant application, as those were due today. Staff signed the agreement for grant writing at a cost of \$3,082, per Commission direction at the June meeting. An update and draft grant application will be included in the August meeting packet.

**8. EDUCATION.**

**9. STAFF REPORTS.**

a. **Engineer's Report.\*** Engineering Staff are working on the GS68 stabilization and pond excavation. Quotes have not yet been received for the sediment testing of the pond to determine how to dispose of dredged material. A topographic survey of the gully is scheduled for next week. The permitting process has not yet begun. The project is anticipated to be completed over this coming winter season.

b. **HCEE Report.\***

Kris Guentzel has been working with the **South Fork Crow 1W1P** review panel and is

expecting a draft plan in late summer/early fall.

Staff have submitted comments on the **Lake Rebecca Subwatershed Assessment** and expect this to be finalized this fall.

The **Shriners project** has begun with fencing installation. The waterers will be installed in 2024.

The **Vinland National Center** just north of Camp Iduhapi on Lake Independence is considering installing raingardens in and around the parking lot to control stormwater as phase one. Phase two would include addressing ravine erosion near the back lot which drains the most stormwater from the property directly to a wetland adjacent to Lake Independence. Phase two would involve a County Opportunity grant and cost-share funding from the Commission.

HCEE launched an E-newsletter, **Conservation Connection**, earlier this month. Staff will share with Commissioners to subscribe.

County Staff performed a **windshield livestock survey** last week to update the Lake Independence TMDL.

All landowners in the **Dance Hall Creek Analysis** area have been contacted and expressed interest in the project except one who has not returned calls or emails. Vistad will send additional contact information for the owners to Davis for additional follow up.

Bohland Development may apply for a county grant and potentially Commission cost-share for above-and-beyond stormwater features at the **Bridgevine development**. This would include a settling pond at the bottom of the gully area that they agreed to restore with hard armoring. This is an area that directly impacts Lake Independence water quality. The developer changed the drainage patterns to this gully to reduce the volume of runoff going through the gully.

c. **TRPD Report.** Vlach showed photos of the first round of the **Whaletail alum treatment** completed in May. A second treatment will take place in spring 2024. Alum was applied over 100 acres at a depth of 9 feet or greater. Life expectancy of an alum treatment is about 20 years. A total of 77,490 gallons of alum was applied. After treatment, Gale Woods staff commented on the improved water clarity.

Vlach provided a **draft Opportunity grant application** for review. This grant requests \$25,000 to supplement the Clean Water Fund grant for the second application to occur in 2024. Because the project is under budget since it did not require a pH buffer treatment, staff may consider a higher dosage for the second treatment. However, too much alum does not benefit the lake because, in the absence of phosphorus, the alum will bind with itself. Ideally, alum treatments would be done with lower doses over a longer period than just two years. However, the biennial grant cycle doesn't necessarily allow for this type of treatment.

## 10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

**Baker** reported that the Lake Sarah Improvement Association meeting was held earlier this month.

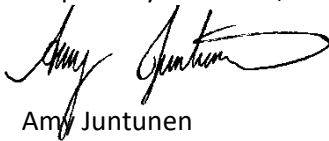
Water levels on Lake Sarah remain low due to the drought. However, the lake level is still higher than in 2022 at this time.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS.**

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for August 17, 2023 at Maple Plain City Hall.

**12. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Vickery to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen  
Administrator  
AAJ:tim

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