

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

July 21, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:01 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Caitlin Cahill, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Kristin Maurer, Hennepin County Easement Program; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

2. AGENDA. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Workcuff to approve the agenda* with the addition of item 9.a. Easement Presentation, and moving Item 3. Consent Agenda, to follow the presentation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion carried unanimously.

3. OPEN FORUM.

4. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2022-005 Koch Farm Sanctuary, Independence.* This project was reviewed and approved with contingencies at the May 2022 meeting. Since then, the City has required a creek crossing at the end of the cul-de-sac for a bike/pedestrian path. The updated application includes the creek crossing using a 60" culvert and impacts both upstream and downstream. There are no impacts upstream and a slight decrease in flow downstream of the crossing culvert. Staff recommends approval of the project contingent on receipt of a recorded O&M declaration.

Motion by Wulff, second by Cahill to approve project 2022-005 with the contingency listed. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2022-006 Creekside Meadows, Greenfield.* This project is a 79.15-acre residential development with 15 single-family home lots. The existing site is predominantly row crops with wetlands. The site is adjacent to and drains to Sarah Creek. The development is proposing to treat stormwater via filtration basins and wet sedimentation basins to capture runoff from new impervious surface. This project was reviewed for Commission rule D, E, and I. The land use change and biofiltration basins will reduce TSS and TP by 48.0% and 40.7%, respectively. Staff recommends approval contingent on receipt of a recorded O&M declaration. The buffer maintenance plan has been received.

Motion by Wulff, second by Workcuff to approve project 2022-006 with one contingency. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. 2022-009 Gale Woods Boat Launch ADA Improvements, Minnetrista.* TRPD is proposing

ADA improvements to the Gale Woods Farm boat launch including replacing a portion of existing gravel with concrete. This project will result in a small net increase in impervious surface. The work will occur within the 100-year flood plain and result in slight reduction in fill volume. This project was reviewed for compliance with Commission rules E and F. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies.

Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve project 2022-009. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. 2022-010 Pioneer Highlands, Medina.** This project was not ready for Commission review at the time of the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Bank Signatory Change.* New signer forms were provided and signed at the meeting for current Commissioners and adding Juntunen as Deputy Treasurer.

b. 2022 Camp Agreement.* CAMP monitoring was approved earlier in the year and is included in the budget. The formal agreement was signed by Chair Baker.

6. NEW BUSINESS.

7. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

8. EDUCATION. Maurer reviewed the County's role in conservation easements. Easements are binding agreements between a landowner and the County where the landowner retains ownership of land but conveys rights of access or restrictions of use of the land to the County (or other agency). Conservation easements can be either long-term or perpetual. Public access to the land is not required for most easements. Easements are an effective tool for targeting the protection of natural spaces for habitat and wildlife. Easements can improve access to technical and financial support for the restoration and enhancement of natural areas. Many easements allow the landowner to continue to hunt, fish or recreate on the property. Financial incentives for landowners to consider easements include one-time payments, annual payment/rents, and state and federal tax incentives. Incentives can vary greatly depending on the land preserved and quality of current conditions. Hennepin County currently holds 60 conservation easements managed and monitored by the County with most being perpetual easements. Of the total easements, 46 are located within the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed.

The easement process is lengthy with the most prepared taking about eight months and others taking as long as three years to make it through the 16-step process. Other types of easements are available through other agencies.

9. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Cahill to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

a. June Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. July Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$5,967.64.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

12. STAFF REPORTS.

a. **Engineer's Report.*** An overview of items is provided in the report. Vistad noted that three to four more development project reviews are expected in the coming months.

b. **HCEE Report.*** The **Lake Rebecca SWA** is underway with Hydrologic and Hydraulic modeling nearly completed. The draft is scheduled to be completed in early September.

Staff have made landowner visits with the results of the **Dance Hall Creek SWA**. Several projects are promising. County Staff are requesting Commission funding to contract with Diane Spector at Stantec to write a Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant for two projects in the Dance Hall Creek SWA. Applications are due August 22. WBIF funding can be used as a match for CWF grants.

Motion by Wulff, second by Workcuff to approve funding not-to-exceed \$5,000 and authorizing staff to complete documentation necessary to contract with Stantec to write a grant for the project found in HR Table 12, for ponds one and two.

The **McCombs project** at 2772 Becker Road started on Monday to stabilize a 250 ft reach of gully on the property that exports a large sediment load to nearby wetlands.

Staff are still working with the **Shrine Horsemen** to add two manure bunkers and review other potential BMPs on the property.

c. **TRPD Report.** Vlach is working on the **Whaletail Lake Alum Feasibility Study**. The study is required to be completed prior to application for a CWF grant for the project. BWSR staff said they would review the feasibility study as soon as it was ready. The grant application and feasibility study will be available at the Commission's August meeting.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Wulff.** The Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA) will complete a Starry Stonewort survey tomorrow with Carolyn Dindorf of Bolton & Menk. A survey for spiny water fleas is scheduled for August with the U of M.

b. **Baker.** The Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) annual meeting was held last Monday. A main concern for residents is the current low water levels which make it impossible for people to get their boat off a lift or docks deep enough to tie up boats. After meeting with a DNR hydrologist, it was concluded that the weir may have settled up to two inches. The hydrologist was very cautious about changing the weir further to hold more water back. The weir restoration will be done as soon as possible.

c. **Tschumperlin.** Minnetrista approved a final plat of three residential lots for Swan Lake Estates with wetlands on all three lots. The City requested three RFPs for a five-year master engineering plan for building a treatment plant and ponding. A new grocery store will open just north of Highway 7 east of St. Bonifacius and a new apartment complex will also be built in the area.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for August 18, 2022 at Maple Plain City Hall.

15. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
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