

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
August 17, 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 6:06 p.m., Thursday, August 17, 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; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; Roz Davis and Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Stantec; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

2. AGENDA. Motion by Daniels, second Burak 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. **July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.***

b. **August Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$6,808.11.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. **2023-003: Athmann Site Plan, Independence.*** This is an application to build living quarters, a barn and an arena on a 35-acre site. This project will create approximately 1.4 acres of new impervious surface. Horses will be fenced out of wetland buffers and wetland areas on site. Two stormwater basins will treat runoff from the site. The applicant meets Commission requirements. Staff recommends approval contingent upon recording of an O&M agreement with the city for stormwater facilities and approval of a buffer establishment plan. Motion by Vickery, second by Daniels to approve project 2023-003 with the two contingencies noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **GS68 Sediment Testing Bid.*** This is a bid to test the sediment to be removed as part of the GS68 pond scraping project to determine if the spoils will require hazardous disposal. The bid includes extracting sediment cores and testing of the sediment at a cost of \$4,138. Erosion from the GS68 gully has impacted this basin, which started as a natural water feature but has been impacted by landowner changes. The pond is directly adjacent to Lake Sarah and the sediment removal will have a direct impact on the water quality in Lake Sarah. A wetland delineation has not yet occurred for this basin. Motion by Burak, second by Daniels to approve sediment testing at a cost of \$4,138. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. **Dance Hall Creek Analysis Grant Application.*** This project incorporates two hydrologic restorations of wetlands, as well as channel restoration and a wetland restoration as a planned use

conversion from agricultural to large lot residential. The project addresses water quality issues downstream to Lake Sarah and protects/enhances natural resources in the area. The project is currently in the high-level conceptual design stage. The project was identified in the Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment. In 2022 it was determined that the project was not ready for application for a Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant. Since that time, Hennepin County has performed outreach and found most landowners are amenable to the project moving forward.

Spector noted that it is an expensive project, with a request for over 10% of the \$8.5 million pool of funds for the CWF grant in 2023. Spector recommended pursuing other sources of funding and moving the project to 30% design to further define the costs, benefits, and easement/access requirements of the project prior to submitting a CWF grant application. If multiple sources of funding are identified it would make the project more likely to be awarded a grant.

Guentzel recommended using remaining North Fork Crow WBIF funds to move the project to 30% design. MnDOT will need to be involved regarding holding any water back adjacent to Highway 55. The City of Greenfield is amenable to raising the elevation of Greenfield Road when that project occurs, which would be necessary for the wetland bounce project.

Since the land has changed from agricultural to large lot residential, the amount of phosphorus export has decreased, which has caused the cost per pound of phosphorus removal to increase, making the project less feasible. Landowner concerns include losing considerable land to water storage or having a large bounce when the water level changes by a few feet with each event.

Staff will work with Stantec to bring forward a scoping plan with costs to bring this project to 30% design for discussion at a future Commission meeting. The Commissioners decided not to submit a CWF grant for this project at this time.

b. Dance Hall Creek Analysis Letters of Support.* The County has received letters of support for the project from two landowners. These will be important for future grant applications.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* Engineering Staff are working on the GS68 stabilization and pond excavation. The topographic survey has been completed but the wetland delineation and design work are not yet done. Vistad will get quotes for the wetland delineation since Hakanson-Anderson no longer has a certified delineator on staff. Guentzel will check with the County delineator regarding availability. There is room in the budget for hiring a consultant if necessary.

b. HCEE Report.*

Davis is in the process of completing buffer inspections for the county. Only one parcel in the watershed will be inspected in 2023. All other parcels are within the Elm Creek watershed.

**Included in meeting packet.*

The **Shriners project** has begun installing fencing. The rest of the project is awaiting an amended plan from NRCS.

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. Staff should have more information to present in September or October.

Bohland Development submitted two applications for Opportunity grants for above-and-beyond stormwater features at the **Bridgevine development**. One landowner in the development has also submitted a grant application for lakeshore restoration. The TAC will meet to review the project and make a recommendation for potential cost share funding by the Commission.

The County will send another **post card mailing** to the Lake Independence subwatershed residents in mid-September/early October to generate project leads in that area.

The **Lawns to Legumes** grant was opened for the state. Application deadline is September 30. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has opened a **soil health grant** for purchasing or retrofitting soil health equipment. The deadline to apply is September 15.

c. **TRPD Report.** Vlach provided a copy of the **Opportunity grant application** he submitted on behalf of the Commission for review. This grant requests \$25,000 to supplement the Clean Water Fund grant for the second application to occur in 2024.

With recent rains, TRPD has been able to collect storm event sampling for monitoring. Lake sampling is ongoing. A windshield animal headcount was completed by Davis and TRPD staff and provided to Stantec for incorporation into the Lake Independence watershed model. Modeling information should be available for review at the September meeting.

10. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

The Loretto Fun Fest will be held on September 9, 2023.

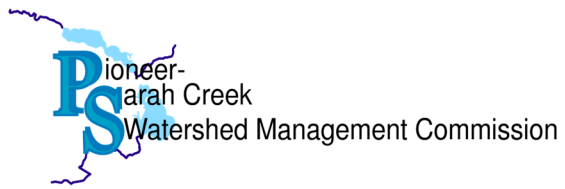
11. **OTHER BUSINESS.**

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for September 21, 2023 at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Daniels to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Amy Juntunen



Administrator
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