



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

August 19, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order via Zoom at 6:04 p.m., Thursday, August 19, 2021, by Chair Joe Baker.

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

Also Present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- a. **June Regular Meeting Minutes.***
- b. **July Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$1,710.09.
- c. **August Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$9,993.44.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

Wulff mentioned that a Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) member had joined the Adopt-A-Drain program and noticed a lot of erosion coming to the drain. This led to an agreement between the townhome association, LICA and the city to cost share installation of a curb to limit erosion going to the drain at the curve on Lakeshore Avenue.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. **2021-003 CSAH 50 Culvert Replacement and Slope Stabilization, Greenfield/Independence.** Hennepin County is replacing culverts on County Road 50 adjacent to the Lake Rebecca Park Reserve and the Crow River. Erosion is occurring on the riverbank and slope failures are a concern for roadway and vehicle safety. Hennepin County's proposed project will install green infrastructure on the slopes rather than all riprap. There are two sites for stabilization and seven culvert linings. There is some fill within the floodplain, but hydraulic models show that it will not increase or affect the 100-year flood stage. TRPD also worked with the County on this project. The project will likely be constructed in 2022. The culvert lining will result in slightly higher volume in culverts one and two, but it will only impact the county ROW. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies. Motion by Cahill, second by Wulff to approve project 2021-003. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2021-004 Schefers Hills, Independence.* This is a very small development reviewed for erosion and sediment control, and buffers. Staff recommends approval contingent on the plans being updated to create 50 ft. buffer monumentation. Motion by Workcuff, second by Cahill to approve project 2021-004 with one contingency. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Water Appropriation Permit Request.* A request for a water appropriation permit renewal was received from resident Michael Murphy in Greenfield. The Commission has the authority to issue and/or deny water appropriation permits for non-essential uses for users under 10,000 gallons per day. Appropriations over 10,000 gallons per day require a DNR permit. Water appropriation permit language was included in the Commission's rules in the past but was removed at some point.

Staff questioned whether water appropriation for non-essential use should be approved during times of drought. The Commission decided to use the DNR major watershed rules stating that when the Rockford gauge on Crow River is below 42 cfs for five consecutive days water appropriation permits would be suspended.

Motion by Workcuff, second by Wulff to approve the Murphy permit renewal for two years through December 31, 2022, with communication that the permit is suspended due to drought conditions at this time and any time the DNR issues drought guidance for other water appropriation permits. The TAC is also directed to create new defined rules and an application form for water appropriation permits. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. In-Person vs. Online Meetings.* Motion by Baker, second by Wulff to continue meeting online for the foreseeable future. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. Comments on 2022 Budget.* Two cities responded that they had no comments.

b. Clean Up the Crow.* The Middle Fork Crow Watershed, which is adjacent to the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed, has held this event in the fall for several years. The County has helped in the past, but does not have the staff to assist in coordination this year. The Watershed is seeking input and coordination assistance. Please reach out to the coordinator in the document if you are able to help.

12. REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.*

b. HCEE Report.* The *Watershed Services Agreement* has been fully executed.

The County is updating their *Natural Resources Strategic Plan* and seeking feedback via an online survey to determine where time/money should be focused. The Plan will be completed in mid to late 2022.

The **Lake Rebecca Subwatershed Assessment** has not gone out for RFP yet. It should go out within the next two weeks.

The **Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment** is underway. Stantec has completed the fieldwork and will host a technical committee and landowner comment group. The final draft will be completed in October 2022. Landowners are excited about opportunities to work with the Commission as a result of this assessment.

TRPD may take the lead on excavating sedimentation from the creek bed from the **Shriners property** to the park trail. Channel elevations need to be restored as they are obstructing flow. The Shriners are also moving forward on the NRCS process for grading management and correcting/improving drainage plans that have been failing on the property. They will also be reseeding pastures and improving the front paddock.

Landowners were contacted in July by the County to participate in an upcoming **ag preservation focus group** for both operating and non-operating ag land. Response has been good so far.

Random buffer inspections will start this month. Letters were sent to landowners in July.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Baker.** Lake levels are low on Lakes Independence and Sarah due to the drought conditions. LSIA members are interested in having a meeting with the DNR regarding AIS, as the DNR has tapered support for the follow-up treatments for Eurasian Water Milfoil. LSIA received two grants in 2021 for just under \$10,000 to help with treatments. LSIA is also interested in pursuing an alum treatment and possibly a TMDL refresh to better determine in-lake vs. external loading.

b. **Wulff.** LICA had nine volunteers perform an aquatic plant survey with Carolyn Dindorf, Fortin Consulting, that identified heavy growth of yellow iris along the Lindgren Lane channel. An interesting sample of milfoil was sent to the U of M, possibly a new hybrid. LICA is interested in comparing their current survey results to TRPD survey results in the past to see how the growth of CLPW has changed. Lake Independence has not yet developed an aquatic vegetation management plan. LICA is also interested in an alum treatment for Lake Independence.

c. **Workcuff** noted that fiber optic cable is being installed as roads are rebuilt in Greenfield. Baker asked to follow up with Workcuff regarding a septic mound system installed on North Shore Drive very close to Lake Sarah.

d. **Tschumperlin.** The drought has required a complete watering ban in the city that began at the end of June. An attempt was made to enforce odd/even days and even a hybrid where it was 2 days odd/2 days even/3 days no watering. However, neither option worked so a full watering ban was reinstated in mid-July. The city has hired an engineering firm to complete a water study to determine a logical place to drill a new city well and whether the current treatment plant can be expanded to handle more or if another plant should be constructed. Another water tower is going up just west of St. Bonifacius at the end of October, although that will be untreated right now.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for September 16, 2021 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

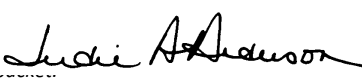
15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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*Included in meeting minutes 

oretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista