

**MINUTES  
August 20, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2015, by Treasurer Tom Cook at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Pat Wulff, Medina; Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; James Kujawa, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Maple Plain.

Also present: Cari Girk, Loretto; Scott Johnson and Lorie Cousineau, Medina; Mike and Marcia Kreklow for Project 2014-08; and Rachel Olmanson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

**2. AGENDA.\*** Brasch requested time during the open forum to provide an update on the Lake Rebecca project. Motion by Whalen, second by Wulff to approve the agenda with the addition of that update as item 4.b. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**3. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- a. **July 16, 2015 meeting minutes.**
- b. **Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.\***

Motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to approve the consent agenda. *Motion carried, Whalen abstaining from approving the minutes.*

**4. OPEN FORUM.**

**a. Carp Assessment Project.** TRPD is conducting this project on Ardmore Lake and Spurzem Creek, which encompasses the chain of lakes of Halfmoon, Spurzem, Thomas, Winterhalter, and Peter Lakes. Those lakes, except Thomas and Winterhalter, are also included in the WRAPP. European research shows rough fish biomasses can have a significant adverse impact on water quality and in establishing rooted aquatic vegetation. In early June, adult carp were captured and implanted with transmitters to track their movements throughout the year for reproduction and congregation. Smaller carp had fins clipped to help determine the population. The fish were netted and, in addition to carp, other fish netted included bigmouth buffalo, sunfish, bluegills, crappie, northern pike, walleye, bullheads and painted and snapping turtles.

TRPD is monitoring the fish movement once per month. Over the summer, most tagged carp have stayed in Lake Ardmore. Tracking movement will allow determination of where the carp spawn in spring and where they tend to congregate, which will make catching and removing them easier, if necessary.

[Baker arrived 6:14 p.m.]

**1) Dick Osgood article.\*** Brasch commented regarding the article, pointing out areas where he both agreed and disagreed with Osgood, particularly regarding watershed management as both internal and external loading are drivers of water quality.

**2) From Runoff to Ruin, Star Tribune.\*** Brasch also commented on this article regarding the hopelessness of improving water quality in lakes in the south and mid-Minnesota areas, stating that lake water quality can be restored in those areas, though it's easier in deep lakes than in shallow lakes. The major point in this article was about concern for land use and building without care for the landscape. Good BMPs need to be

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implemented to keep lakes from degrading when areas are developed.

**b. Lake Rebecca project update.** This is a good test case for lake rehabilitation. TRPD completed the last significant project in 2011 with the second alum treatment which resulted in remarkable water quality. Lake Rebecca has met water quality standards every year since then. In 2014 the lake came close to 40 ppb TP as a seasonal average; however, there was nearly three times the amount of runoff as usual due to heavy rains. The average TP in 2015 is 27 ppb and internal loading/deep water phosphorus concentrations went from 130 µg/L to 60 µg/L. There are still issues with a recent resurgence in curlyleaf pondweed in the lake as the native plants are not recolonizing the system. Eurasian watermilfoil is also still prevalent. This could also be a good discussion topic for the Community Conversation. Brasch requested time on the November or December agenda to give a short PowerPoint presentation on the project.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS.

**a. 2014-08 Pioneer Golf Course, Independence.\*** Pioneer Creek Golf Course is proposing to regrade the westerly portion of Fairway #1 to provide for better drainage and to fill areas that have subsided since the original construction was done in 1999. The area of grading will amount to approximately 2.5 acres. The vicinity of the grading encroaches into the Pioneer Creek floodplain. Some fringe floodplain will be impacted and mitigated on site. A complete plan was received June 16, 2015. Staff visited the site twice to establish the limits of the floodway and floodplain elevations through the proposed grading area. Staff recommends approval contingent upon: 1) The floodplain mitigation figures must be provided for review and meet the Commission's standard of no-net increase in floodplain fill.; 2) The City of Independence must provide grading plan approval; 3) An as-built survey of floodplain earthwork with cut and fill balance calculations provided to the Commission.

Motion by Cook, second by Daniels authorizing Kujawa to administratively approve the project when contingencies have been met. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**b. Consider WRAPP second Community Conversation.** The second Community Conversation that would have been funded as part of Phase 1 of the WRAPP was cancelled due to timing and participation issues. The second phase of the WRAPP includes only the third and final Community Conversation. The first Community Conversation was an introduction and provided basic information for citizens on the watershed and current water quality. The second Community Conversation should occur with the first group of citizens and will provide more information on causes of water quality issues, discover the level of willingness for citizen participation, and identify some specific projects or education that citizens agree with. The third Conversation will occur in spring/summer 2016 and discuss actual implementation of projects/programs designed to improve water quality.

The estimated cost to host a second Community Conversation is \$4,654 which would be covered by the Commission's \$6,000 education budget.

Motion by Whalen, second by Daniels to host a second Community Conversation in October or November 2015. *Motion carried unanimously.* Staff will schedule a meeting between Commissioners and the project team (Brasch, Olmanson, Diane Spector, Anderson and Juntunen).

## 6. NEW BUSINESS.

## 7. STAFF REPORT.\*

**a. 2013-02 Lake Independence Outlet Channel, Independence.\*** A permit was granted by the DNR to install a wood weir when the channel cleanout occurred. High water has not allowed for the weir to be repaired but the City of Independence is working on a plan to complete the repair even with the high water level. They may look to extend the October 3 deadline on the permit.

**b. 2015-06 Windsong Farms Bunker Renovation, Independence.** Windsong Farm Golf Club is proposing to grade and renovate portions of their fairways, bunkers, roughs, tees and sand traps on various holes throughout the golf course. Approximately 75 separate areas totaling 14 acres of land will be graded during construction. The vast majority of the sites will disturb less than 7,500 sq. ft. The largest contiguous area to be disturbed is approximately two acres. No new wetlands or floodplains are proposed to be disturbed or new

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impervious areas added in this project. Staff administratively approved this project for grading and erosion control. The applicant will keep a 50-100 ft grass buffer around any areas to filter any sediment in runoff.

c. **2015-09 CenterPoint Gas Pipe Line Extension, Greenfield.\*** CenterPoint Energy is proposing a natural gas pipeline project providing connections to residences along Greenfield Road. 7,278 feet of 2- and 4-inch plastic pipelines will be trenched, plowed, or directionally bored. No new impervious areas will be created. 1.3 acres of ground disturbance will occur during the project. The Commission rules require review and approval of grading and erosion control site plans with over 1.0 acres of disturbance. Staff administratively approved this project for grading and erosion control.

d. **Zavitz Property, Independence.\*** The homeowner had been in contact with Becky Wozney and contacted Staff directly. The property is just west of the Selstad property on a direct route to Lake Independence. There is a potential for wetland restoration or flood storage; however, due to the existing ditch on the property it is likely that any work would also affect upstream land owners.

8. **WATERSHED-WIDE TMDL.** Part of the contract agreement is the **Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)\*** which has been executed. Phase 1 of the project included the same QAPP, which is technical guidance for the quality aspects of monitoring, modeling, field, and lab work to promote consistency with scientific practice so findings are credible. No action is required by the Commission.

#### 9. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS.**

a. **Cook** reported that DNR donated the cement blocks to install the new launch to prevent washout due to power loading, but will not provide labor. Greenfield is looking for a grant or other ways to get the cement installed. The Minnesota Conservation Corps was suggested. Cook met with the Leuers who stated they are not interested in participating in any projects identified in the Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment on their property; however, other property owners seem receptive and have met with Karl Hakanson, U of M Extension. Greenfield may focus on adopting a manure ordinance, modeled from Medina's ordinance, prior to contacting other property owners along Dance Hall Creek. It would be nice to invite those property owners to the next Community Conversation. Greenfield is meeting with TRPD regarding the Lake Sarah outlet on September 9 or 10. The public meeting on the stormwater district will be held on September 1. The proposed stormwater district budget includes funding for projects identified in the Dance Hall Creek subwatershed assessment, ditch cleaning, pond dredging, the city's contribution to PSCWMC, and \$1,000 for administration for a total of \$107,000.

b. **Wulff** noted that the excavation for the Ardmore projects is nearly complete and new drains/curbing are being installed prior to paving the street. Cement structures for new stormwater ponds are in place. Anderson requested photos of the project.

c. **Baker** reported on attendance at the NEMO workshop on the water. The workshop is designed mainly for public officials who are new to water quality issues. Pioneer-Sarah Creek member cities were well-represented at the workshop. The workshop was different and improved over the prior year's workshop. Potential projects such as the Ed Egan property were found to not have the benefit first believed. As the property is developed, the opportunity to install BMPs will be more cost-effective. After review of the Selstad property it was discovered that there is only one opportunity for improvement instead of several. The City will continue to work with the land owner to ensure the project will be effective prior to moving forward.

#### 10. **COMMUNICATIONS.**

a. **NRCS.\*** A news release regarding Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assistance for farms, ranches, and forests was provided at the meeting.

b. **CWP Grants.\*** The grants have been suspended for 2017-2018.

11. **OLD BUSINESS.** The numbers submitted to the Commission for the **Ardmore Retrofit Project\*** at the August meeting were incorrectly stated. The Commission's cost-share will be \$3,470.

#### 12. **OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. The **CIP list** attached to the agenda will be updated to include completed projects and actual costs.

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\*Included in meeting packet.

b. The **next meeting** is September 17 in Maple Plain.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Cook, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Junturien  
Recording Secretary  
AAJ:tim

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