

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
September 15, 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, September 15, 2022, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

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

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

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

a. August Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. September Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$9,192.17.

OPEN FORUM.

4. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2022-013 Promise Hill Residence, Independence.* This is a single-home re-development. An existing large home on the property will be demolished and a new home built. This project will disturb over 1.5 acres and is being reviewed for erosion and sediment control only. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies.

Motion by Workcuff, second by Daniels to approve project 2022-13 as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2022-14 Hidden Lake Channel Excavation, Independence.* This is a privately-funded project to excavate channels permitted by DNR on the west side of Lake Independence 50-60 years ago to allow landowners lake access. This project is to remove roughly 1.5 ft of sediment over 1,100 feet of channel. The DNR area hydrologist designated where the spoils can be placed outside the floodplain. Silt curtain will be used in the water during excavation and silt fence will be installed around the spoils deposit. This project is not expected to have an impact on nutrients within the lake, even though sediment is being removed due to the fact that buried is sediment becoming exposed. Staff recommends approval of this project with no contingencies. The applicant and City are responsible for securing WCA and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permitting.

Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve project 2022-14 as presented. *Motion*

carried unanimously.

c. 2022-15 Schaffer Residence, Greenfield.* This is a single-family home on Hafften Lake in Greenfield. The resident would like to flatten a portion of the lot resulting in over one acre of disturbance. Silt fence will be provided downstream from all grading activities. Staff recommends approval with no contingencies.

Motion by Workcuff, second by Cahill to approve project 2022-15 as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. 2022-16 West Lindgren Channel Excavation, Independence.* This project is just to the south of the channel excavation previously approved as project 2022-14 and is similar, though the spoils location has not yet been designated. The same contractor is performing both channel excavations. Staff recommends approval contingent on sediment location review and approval by the DNR area hydrologist.

Motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to approve project 2022-16 with one contingency as noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

5. OLD BUSINESS.

6. NEW BUSINESS.

7. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

8. EDUCATION.

9. GRANT UPDATES.

a. Whaletail South Alum Treatment CWF Grant.* Included in the meeting packet is the grant application and supporting documentation submitted by Vlach on behalf of the Commission on August 19. The grant request totals \$405,000 with a Commission match of \$101,250. Grants are generally awarded in December or January and will be executed in April 2023 if awarded. Prior to any application, TRPD will test to determine if sodium aluminate is required. A Cooperative Agreement between the funding partners will be created for this project if the grant is awarded.

10. COMMUNICATIONS.

11. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* A project review was received for the Bridgevine development in Independence a few weeks ago. The site includes a gully on site identified in the Lake Independence SWA. The developer is not planning on any improvements to the gully and is routing stormwater from the site to the onsite gully as well as the Baker Park Ravine gully. Vistad expressed concern that the proposed development is directing stormwater toward the onsite gully which would result in additional erosion and nutrient loading to Lake Independence. The preference is for the developer to fix or alleviate the current erosion problem, not contribute to it. Part of this development will also flow to the recently restored Baker Park ravine. Vlach noted that the Baker Park ravine could likely handle the additional volume without issue. The soils in the area are not conducive to infiltration. Commissioner Wulff noted that the

onsite gully is between the lakeshore and proposed homes. Homeowners using ATVs or other ways to get across the ravine could also cause damage/erosion leading to higher nutrient load to Lake Independence. Any modifications to the gully would need to be permitted by the ACOE. The developer for this project is pushing hard to get the project approved ASAP and already has construction equipment on site. Staff will continue to review changes and expects to bring this project review before the Commission at the October meeting. Any increase in nutrient export from the site is a violation of Commission rules and will not be recommended for approval. Staff will work with the developer.

Three other project reviews are currently outstanding and should be on the October agenda as well.

b. HCEE Report.* HCEE has posted the position vacated by Paul Stewart today and hopes to fill the position prior to year-end. Operations and Maintenance agreements are being finalized for the McCombs and White projects.

The County is opening Natural Resources Grants this fall. These grants were not available last year. The application period will be open from the end of September through Thanksgiving. The County will host a few workshops to answer questions about this program. These are 75% grants with 25% match of cash or in-kind for water quality or habitat restoration. The grants are available up to \$25,000 for farm, shoreline, raingarden, or wetland projects. Buckthorn removal can be included as part of this type of grant but cannot be the entire project.

c. TRPD Report. Water quality monitoring season is wrapping up. There will be two more lake sampling weeks. Stormwater sampling will continue until the freeze. The drought has resulted in a smaller than usual number of samples for the year.

Vegetation surveys have been completed on all lakes in the area and a complete zebra mussel survey was completed on the Lake Independence shoreline showing mussels growing on plants and affecting plant growth. Based on the data, it appears Lake Independence will not meet water quality standards for 2022, though it did meet standards for the past three years. Low water levels aren't helping the water quality.

Sediment cores will be taken on Lake Sarah this winter from both the east and west basins at a cost of \$12,000. TRPD will likely analyze the cores in-house. Turion samples will be taken this fall as well.

Water quality in Lake Ardmore is also lower than recent years. Carp populations will be evaluated. Vegetation growth was not as good in 2022.

12. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker will attend the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) meeting next Monday to work with new LSIA board members and provide education. There is a nice follow-up piece re the crappie kill on www.lakesarah.com. It appears that a combination of conditions like low oxygen, warm temperatures, bacteria present and weaker/younger fish were responsible for the crappie kill.

Paul Stewart surveyed the Lake Sarah weir before leaving his position, but the survey was

very inconsistent with past information. A second survey will be done. The DNR area hydrologist provided information to Baker on potential flexible structure options. Many owners are removing their watercraft from the lake early due to fear of low water making removal impossible later.

b. Wulff. Lake Independence is also experiencing low water levels. A vegetation survey was performed by Carolyn Dindorf. The spiny water flea survey was not performed. Medina Celebration is this Saturday, September 17 at the Hamel Park. The Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA) picnic will be held at the Baker Park pavilion on September 24. Wulff will be staffing a table for LICA and the Commission at the picnic. Wulff will open her home to hosting an open house for Cahill tomorrow evening.

c. Cahill noted that Highway 12 is at least partially reopened and construction in Maple Plain should be completed soon. Tomorrow is Movie in the Park at Veterans Memorial Park at 7:30 p.m.

d. Tschumperlin reported that Minnetrista will be bonding \$8 million for road construction and may be restructuring its assessment policy. Currently curb and gutter are not assessed, only the actual road.

e. Workcuff. Greenfield is in the budget process and considering a fairly large increase due to fuel, supply chain and transportation cost increases. Councilman Michael Erickson passed away unexpectedly on September 3. There are four candidates for two Council seats in Greenfield this November.

13. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for October 19, 2022 at Maple Plain City Hall.

14. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Wulff to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
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