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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 21, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 21, 2017, by Vice Chair John Fay at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mike Hoekstra, Greenfield; Brad Spencer, Independence; John Fay, Maple Plain; Mike McLaughlin, Medina; Shannon Bruce, Minnetrista; James Kujawa and Kirsten Barta, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina, and Paula Kalinsky, EOR, and Scott Hines, Windsong Farm, for Project 2017-04.

2. **AGENDA.** Motion by Bruce, second by McLaughlin to approve the agenda, moving item 4.c. to the top of section 4. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Bruce, second by McLaughlin to approve the consent agenda as revised. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. **July 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes.***

b. **Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.*** Monthly claims totaling \$2,200.48.

4. **ACTION ITEMS.**

a. **Project Review 2017-04 Windsong Farm Golf Club Practice Facility, Independence.*** This site is north of CR6 and the entrance to the current Windsong Golf Course. The total area owned by Windsong Farm Golf Club north of CR6 is 126 acres. This project will impact the three easterly parcels (36 acres) of their property. The applicant proposes to construct a new practice facility on a portion of these three parcels. Actual grading/disturbance will be 13.4 acres. New impervious areas will be 0.7 acres. The east shore of Fox Lake (DNR 925W) is the west border of the parcels being impacted. The Commission Rules that apply to this work will include Rule D stormwater management, Rule E erosion and sediment control, Rule F floodplain, and Rule I buffer strips. There will be no grading in floodplain areas. Wetland buffers will be required. The land use is changing from Ag to grass, reducing TSS and phosphorus. Post-development volume will also be reduced as little of the developed area will be impervious.

Motion by McLaughlin, second by Spencer to approve project 2017-04 contingent upon: 1) Receipt of the total fees due PSCWMC for the review (see findings item #2); 2) Specific turf establishment timing requirements are outlined in the SWPPP or on the Site Plan; 3) Floodplain and Wetland/buffer easements are established over said features on the three parcels on which this project is located; and 4) The locations and signage standards for the wetland buffer monumentation is provided to the Commission for review and approval. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Project Review 2003-020 Greenworks, Greenfield.*** This wetland bank project began in 2003. The initial 15% deposit (0.72 acres) was granted in 2006. An outlet control structure failed in 2011. A restoration was ordered and the work was completed by the landowner. In January 2016, an additional deposit of 3.0064 acres was granted by the Commission. The final deposit of 1.002 acres will complete the area eligible for this program. The site has been problematic in developing native vegetation due to landowner inaction. Over the past three years, the landowner has re-committed to achieving the original goals of the wetland banking plan and on August 21, 2017, a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) determined that the native buffer and wetland vegetation have been restored per current wetland banking standards. The TEP recommends certification of the remaining 1.002 acres of wetland bank credits.

Motion by Hoekstra, second by McLaughlin to certify the remaining 1.002 acres of wetland bank credits on this project. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Project Review 2017-03 Bel Farms Equestrian Facility, Maple Plain.*** This is a 16.5-acre rural residential parcel located approximately 500 feet north of the intersection of CR6 and Nelson Road. The owner is proposing to construct a new garage/apartment, horse stall barn, indoor arena, outdoor arena, and six grass and four sand paddocks for horses. Because this project disturbs greater than 1.0 acres and creates 3.1 acres of additional impervious area, this triggers the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission review for Rule D, stormwater management and Rule E, grading and erosion control. Most of the impervious area will be on the west side of the property, which will have a diversion berm installed to direct stormwater to a settlement/filtration basin. A nutrient management plan for the site was prepared and reviewed by Barta. Staff recommends approval with one contingency, a long-term operations and maintenance agreement for the basin with the City of Independence be recorded on the title.

Motion by McLaughlin, second by Spencer to approve project 2017-03 with the contingency noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **OPEN FORUM.**

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

a. **Liability insurance – follow-up.*** Per Commission request at a previous meeting Staff contacted the Commission Attorney to clearly define the need for liability insurance. No action necessary.

b. **Updated CIP.** Commissioners are reminded to keep abreast of potential CIPs within their cities and encourage cities to submit CIPs to the Commission.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **Medina Local Plan.*** The plan meets the Commission's surface water management plan and conforms with the Third Generation Plan standards. Staff provided informational comments to the City. **Met Council comments*** on the plan were also included in the meeting packet. Motion by McLaughlin, second by Bruce to approve the Medina Local Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **Minnehaha Creek Watershed District 10-Year Plan.*** Plans from adjacent watersheds are submitted for review and comment. No action necessary.

8. **STAFF REPORT.***

a. **Kujawa.** Hennepin County just opened the **Good Steward Grant** for small BMPs (\$5,000-\$10,000) installed by landowners and LGUs. The grant is open from now through April 3. There is \$60,000 in grant funds available for this period. This could be a good grant for lakeshore restoration projects.

Fay inquired why the Proto Labs project from 2016 continues to be listed in the staff report. An operations and maintenance agreement for the pond has not been recorded. Kujawa will follow up with the City Administrator.

b. **Barta** has been busy working with landowners to establish the required **buffers** prior to November 1. There are a few landowners that are resisting compliance. The state will provide enforcement as necessary.

Barta is also working with the County Transportation Dept. installing temperature sensors in roads to **manage salt use**, with a goal of reducing use by two percent over the 2017-2018 season. Salt use in Hennepin County has been reduced by 60% over the past five years.

A new **pilot erosion control mechanism** called Flexamat was installed on the ditch of County Road 83. This control slows water and sediment, and plants can grow through the material. Two more pilots will be installed. If the new mechanism works well, it will be incorporated on steep slopes in future projects.

c. **Vlach.** About 260 carp for a total of 3,035 lbs have been removed from **Lake Ardmore**. Water clarity has improved noticeably with the best Secchi depth readings Ardmore has ever had, but monitors are unsure if this may be a coincidence.

A **zebra mussel survey** was performed on Lake Independence last Friday. In past years, mussels have only been found near the boat launch. This year the population was larger near the boat launch and several other areas were also identified with higher populations. Luckily the mussels don't seem to be spreading very quickly, possibly because the lake is mainly blue-green algae and mussels prefer to eat green algae. Four treatments to control zebra mussels were applied on Lake Independence when the species was first discovered in the lake. The U of M will perform genetic testing on harvested mussels to learn what lakes and/or regions they may have come from. Zebra mussel populations have recently crashed in Wayzata and Grays Bays on Lake Minnetonka, likely from running out of food as the populations consume the available algae. Zooplankton, the food for most juvenile fish, also feed on plankton. This is how zebra mussels can impact the fish populations in lakes.

[Bruce departed 7:00 p.m.]

The MPCA recently commented that they did not have enough time to review the monitoring data to **de-list Lake Rebecca** from their Impaired Waters list in 2018, despite the fact that the data was provided in December of 2016. Lake Rebecca has been meeting state standards for nutrients since 2009. TRPD will be sending in a request to reconsider de-listing Lake Rebecca during the open comment period anticipated to be in December 2017-January 2018. Vlach also requested the Commission to consider writing a letter of support for de-listing Lake Rebecca. Rachel Olmanson, MPCA, suggested that these comments may get the data reviewed and the lake de-listed.

Motion by Spencer, second by McLaughlin directing Staff to write a letter of support for the de-listing of Lake Rebecca. *Motion carried unanimously.*

9. WATERSHED-WIDE TMDL. The TMDL is currently under review by the EPA and is expected to be approved with no major changes. Member cities use the TMDL information when crafting their comprehensive plans.

10. EDUCATION. Karl Hakanson from Hennepin County/U of M Extension hosted a **Field Day** on August 5, 2017 at Joanie Stene's Foxwood Farm in Dayton. A field day was hosted in 2016 detailing the proposed installation of BMPs on the property to highlight issues and how the BMPs would help the poorly-drained property. The 2017 field day demonstrated the active BMPs after installation. The field day was open to horse owners across the region, including in Pioneer-Sarah Creek. Bruce attended the event which discussed horse operations, how proximity and practices can impact water quality, pasture management and manure management. The landowner is really happy with the installation. The site is a demonstration site for other horse owners who would like to see BMPs in action.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

12. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **McLaughlin.** The Association attempted to clean out the channel on September 9. There were many volunteers, a few boats, and a backhoe available, but the channel was too shallow to boat and the clean-out was not a success. The drone flyover found two small clogs, though the volunteers say the cattail bogs must be moving because the clog appeared much larger. McLaughlin and Vlach will work together and possibly look at using the backhoe to clean the channel over the winter.

b. **Fay** noted Maple Plain is currently working on its 10-year comprehensive plan. One bid was received for the 2017 street and stormwater improvement project at twice the estimated cost. The city will look at adding the project to the CIP for 2018.

c. **Hoekstra** updated the Commission on the Central Park project progress. The pond is currently being dug and plantings are delayed until spring. The project has drainage benefits and will reduce phosphorus export by six pounds per year. The County is providing funding for native/pollinator plantings and interpretive signage for education.

d. **Spencer** did not have a report.

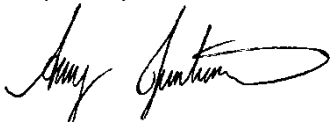
13. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. TRPD just completed the **Fish Lake alum treatment** in the Elm Creek Watershed. The treatment took four days and used 95,000 gallons of alum at a cost of about \$176,000 to treat 51% of the lake. A second treatment will occur in 2019. Bruce attended a boat tour and had a good discussion about the possibility of an alum treatment for Whaletail Lake.

b. The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for October 19, 2017.

14. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Hoekstra, second by McLaughlin to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen, Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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