

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
September 21, 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 6:03 p.m., Thursday, September 21, 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; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Roz Davis, Kris Guentzel and Lily Kingsley, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Stantec; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Burak, second by Workcuff to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. September Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$21,654.35.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. 2023-004: Pioneer Trail Paving Project, Greenfield.* This project will widen and pave approximately 1,600 feet of Pioneer Trail from CSAH 10 south. The project will disturb roughly 1.8 acres of land and create approximately 0.1 acre of new impervious surface. This project was reviewed for Commission rule E, erosion and sediment control. A SWPPP has been provided that meets Commission rules. Staff recommends approval with no conditions. Motion by Workcuff, second by Tschumperlin to approve project 2023-004. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. 2023-005: CenterPoint Energy, Greenfield.* This project will install 4,800 linear feet of gas pipe to a new home and results in temporary impacts. This project meets Commission erosion and sediment control rules. Staff recommends approval. Motion by Workcuff, second by Burak to approve project 2023-005. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Kingswood Letter of Support.* This is a letter of support for the Three Rivers Park District Conservation Partners Legacy grant application for the Kingswood Park erosion project. The letter commits no funds to the project but if the grant is awarded, TRPD may request financial support in the future. The grants will be awarded in December 2023.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. **FY2025 WBIF Grant Information.*** The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission will be awarded \$240,415 in Watershed-Based Implementation Funding in the 2025-2027 biennium. The funds will be available July 1, 2024, and the grant will expire December 31, 2027. Convene meetings will be held in early 2024 with the County, Commission, and up to two member cities to decide which projects to fund with this grant. WBIF grant funding requires a 10% match. Funding requests open July 1, 2024, and must be submitted by April 30, 2025.

b. **Bridgevine/Adelmann Project Overview.*** These projects are both part of the Bridgevine development, a former farm and orchard adjacent to Lake Independence. A deep ravine on the north side of the site contributes TSS and TP directly to Lake Independence. As part of the Bridgevine development project approval in November 2022, the Commission required the developer to include ravine restoration to address the erosion issue and recommended installing targeted cross vanes in the ravine and stepped down grade changes, as well as a settling pool prior to discharge into Lake Independence. The locations of the cross vanes would be based on accessibility and be installed in spring 2023.

The developer submitted a Hennepin County Opportunity Grant application to install seven cross vanes and create the settling basin but was not awarded the grant. The County believes the ravine restoration proposed is above and beyond the requirements of the project approval contingency for restoration of the ravine and the total project would remove 9.77 tons of TSS and 15.6 lbs. of TP per year, although that estimate was based on agricultural, rather than residential land use. The original project would reduce TSS by 1,388 lbs. per year and TP by 1.9 lbs. per year. The developer did not provide costs for only the above-and-beyond portion of the project at this time, only a total project cost. County staff will work with the developer to outlay only the above-and-beyond costs rather than the entire cost for the ravine restoration.

Concurrently, one of the lot purchasers, Adelmann's on lots 9 and 10 also submitted an Opportunity Grant application for shoreline restoration. Estimated soil loss from the lots is 6.75 tons of TSS and 12.42 lbs. of TP per year across the 225 feet of shoreline. This project would include some riprap on the slope as well as approximately 100 feet of buffer vegetation. The cost benefit is \$1,704 per ton of TSS and \$930 per lb. of TP per year. The estimated cost of this project is just over \$115,000. The purchaser of lot 8 is also looking at a potential shoreline restoration project.

There is currently about \$100,000 available in Lake Independence WBIF funding available. County Staff recommend funding the projects after more refined costs are obtained, likely at 10% landowner, 10% county, 25% Commission CIP funds and 55% WBIF. More details and costs will be presented at the October meeting.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. **Engineer's Report.*** Braun Intertec has been contracted to perform the sediment testing at the GS68 pond next week and results should be available in three weeks. Vistad expects the sediment to fall within land application standards. Tony Brough from Hennepin County will perform the wetland

delineation next week. Design work will begin once the delineation is complete. The adjacent landowners will provide an in-kind contribution by performing the tree removal necessary for the project. Vistad will designate trees to be removed as part of the design process.

b. HCEE Report.*

Residents on the south side of Lake Independence have contacted the County for **lakeshore restoration projects** due to wave action and ice ridge issues.

Lily Kingsley was introduced as the County's new Soil and Water Conservation trainee. This is a two-year contract position.

Stantec is creating the scoping document and cost to bring the **Dance Hall Creek project** to 30% design. The design cost will be paid through NFC WBIF funds. The scoping document will be available for consideration at the Commission's October meeting. County staff met with MnDOT regarding Highway 55 and any concerns MnDOT may have with the Dance Hall Creek project. MnDOT indicated that they have no immediate plans for enhancing Highway 55 in the project area. MnDOT is not completely opposed to the project if they can claim the MS4 credits for water quality improvement, which should not be a problem since Greenfield is not an MS4 city. County staff will re-engage with residents once the scoping document is complete and design work moves forward.

The revised **Lake Rebecca Subwatershed Assessment** was received last week. County staff is reviewing the report.

The Pioneer Trail **manure bunker project** approved in 2022 will not move forward because a neighboring farm has agreed to take the manure on a monthly basis.

A survey at the **Vinland National Center** occurred today. This project would install two raingardens to capture runoff from the parking lot, as well as a potential iron-enhanced sand filter at the north end of the lot to the wetland. A ravine on site may be addressed in a second phase of the project. The estimated project cost is \$150,000. This is a non-profit and other grants may also be available.

A postcard to Lake Independence subwatershed residents with over five acres will be sent in early October.

c. TRPD Report. There are just a few more **lake sampling** events, including the mid-October sampling that covers lake turnover. Stream monitoring continues through the first week of November, or when things begin to freeze. Due to lack of rain, there haven't been many opportunities to sample flow, but upcoming rain events should provide some sampling opportunities.

Vegetation surveys have been completed on all lakes within the watershed. A new hybrid of curly leaf pondweed and white stem pondweed was found in the north basin of Whaletail Lake and sent to the DNR.

Shoreline surveys for **zebra mussels** on Lake Independence show that the count has at least doubled since 2022, with too many mussels to count. A shoreline survey will not be conducted again until

the population crashes. Wulff noted that the water clarity was markedly improved in Lake Independence this year as a result of the zebra mussel population.

Education on the alum treatment and sediment cores will be a part of the **Oktoberfest at Gale Woods Farm** event on October 7 and 8.

TRPD applied for a Hennepin County Opportunity Grant for the second half of the Whaletail alum treatment project. It was recommended for funding but not yet awarded. TRPD also submitted a Conservation Partnership Legacy Grant for the Kingswood Park project.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Wulff.** The LICA Oktoberfest party will be held this Saturday at Baker Park. Starry Stonewort has not been found in the lake, though there are some areas with no weeds. Coontail is the most abundant vegetation in the lake. LICA held a trolley tour to take nearly 80 residents to different projects and properties around the lake. The water level of Lake Independence has fallen below the water level gauge height.

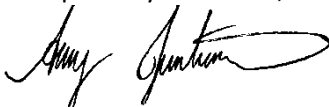
b. **Baker** noted that low water on Lake Sarah has many residents taking boats and lifts out early.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for October 19, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Burak, second by Baker to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator

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