

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
October 17, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:02 p.m., Thursday, October 17, 2024, 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; Peter Vickery, Minnetrista; Roz Davis and Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Mark Klein and Scott Beaupre, Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA).

2. AGENDA. Items 4.c. FY2025 projects, 4.d. Lake Sarah CLP Cooperative Agreement, and 5.b. Lake Independence Hydrologic Study Update, were added to the agenda. Motion by Daniels, second by Burak to approve the agenda* as amended. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

a. September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. October Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$9,089.21

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Dance Hall Creek BMP #3 Proposal.* Hakanson Anderson has submitted a proposal to complete a feasibility study, survey, and construction design plans for BMP #3 as identified in the Dance Hall Creek SWA update. The landowner for this project, Jared Stotts, has expressed support for a potential project on this parcel and has the construction equipment to install a project. Hakanson Anderson staff, as well as County staff will work with the landowner to review the site and identify potential projects with minimal impact to current farming practices and future development of the property. The proposal is a not-to-exceed \$65,000 for the feasibility, survey and design work, including a potential wetland delineation. The proposal does not include funding for any easement preparation or acquisition. This work would be funded at least 75% by WBIF funds, whether FY21 NFC funds of \$26,888 which expire 12/31/24 without an extension, or FY23-FY25 WBIF funding. Motion by Burak, second by Vickery to approve the proposal as presented at a cost not-to-exceed \$65,000. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Call for Minor Plan Amendment.* Juntunen presented a need for a Minor Plan Amendment to revise the Commission's CIP adding the Ardmore GS3, Lake Sarah Area BMPs, Lake Rebecca Channel Stabilization, Lake Rebecca Alum Feasibility Study, WRAPS 5-year review and update, and Pioneer Creek SWA projects. In addition the amendment will increase costs for several projects. Commissioners noted that line

items for the Ardmore Stream Stabilization (\$200,000), Dance Hall Creek BMP #2 (\$1,200,000) and Lake Independence Hydrology Study (\$150,000) should be added and the cost for Lake Sarah Area BMPs should be increased to \$260,000. Ongoing opportunity-based projects should be increased to \$50,000. Project years will be adjusted accordingly. Motion by Baker, second by Daniels to call for a public meeting as part of the November meeting to consider a Minor Plan Amendment. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Approve FY25 WBIF Projects.** This is non-competitive grant funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that is available now with submittal of a work plan. This grant will expire on December 31, 2027. The WBIF convene group consisting of one Commissioner, two representatives from member cities, County staff and our BWSR Board Conservationist met three times to review potential projects and create a list for Commission approval. If approved, Guentzel will create and submit a workplan that will release the first 40% of WBIF funding for the biennium. Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMC was allocated just over \$240,000 in FY25 WBIF funding. Proposed projects are broad to allow for opportunistic projects and include: Lake Independence tributary BMPs (\$143,000), Lakeshore workshops and design assistance (\$7,313), Lake Sarah basin BMPs (\$40,000), and Lake Rebecca subwatershed BMPs (\$50,000). Motion by Vickery, second by Daniels to approve the FY25 WBIF project list and funding as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Lake Sarah CLP Cooperative Agreement.** This is the extension of a five-year agreement originally made in 2013-2017 and again 2018-2022 between the Commission and TRPD for the treatment of Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLPW) in Lake Sarah. In 2023 LSIA received enough grant funding to entirely cover the cost of treatment. LSIA did not receive a grant in 2024. Since this agreement had lapsed it was reviewed and updated. Changes to the agreement include the percentage of lakeshore owned by TRPD which calculates their share of cost, wording that this agreement expires December 31, 2029, and updated signers. The rest of the agreement remains the same. Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve the agreement as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

When asked whether TRPD would consider treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Vlach noted that unless EWM became the predominant vegetation and treatment would spur native plant growth, TRPD does not treat EWM because it does not have the high nutrient impact that CLPW has due to its life cycle. LSIA can work directly with TRPD staff to update their Lake Vegetation Management Plan. The Lake Sarah TMDL review will likely not occur until 2026. Sediment cores pulled earlier this year indicate that the original internal loading calculation in the TMDL is not far off, meaning that external pollutant loading must be reduced before an alum treatment is viable for Lake Sarah.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Kingswood Bid Award.* TRPD received two quotes for the construction of the Kingswood project. Sunram was the low bidder at \$155,706 and TRPD has awarded the contract to Sunram. Construction will begin in late October with directional boring beginning in early November.

b. Lake Independence Hydrologic Study Update. Last month the Commission was requested to undertake a study to determine why Lake Sarah is continually above the OHW. Baker has discussed the issue with DNR Area Hydrologist Wes Saunders-Pierce four times since then. The Area Hydrologist will not undertake this study and does not have any comparable studies to review. Baker also discussed the issue

with staff at Stantec and Barr Engineering. The Commission was specifically asked to request a proposal based off a problem statement rather than a scope of work. Juntunen will reach out to Stantec, Barr, WSB and Houston Engineering to request a proposal based on the problem statement. Baker will check with Diane Spector at Stantec to determine if the state grants for climate change/flooding could be used for this type of study.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

Water Appropriation Permits.* Two water appropriation permits were received, one from Kingston's and one from Adelman's in the Bridgevine development to use water from Lake Independence for irrigation. Staff administratively approved the permits.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report. Vistad reviewed the Bridgevine ravine restoration site after the subcontractor completed the revision work required. While the cross vanes are not perfect to plan, they are functional, having provided the elevation changes needed and re-shaping the cross vanes. Staff believes the installed project will now meet expectations for water quality improvement. Future maintenance was not included in the cost-share agreement and would likely need to be funded by a Commission cost-share. Since the ravine is now downstream from a stormwater pond in the development, the peak flow should be greatly diminished as well, which should prevent extreme degradation. Vistad will follow up with BohLand regarding cleaning the sediment basin which received a lot of sediment during development of the property, partially due to the improperly installed cross vanes.

b. HCEE Report.* Hennepin County recently sent a postcard mailing to landowners in the Lake Independence, Spurzem and Ardmore subwatersheds to solicit potential projects resulting in five project leads, mainly lakeshore restoration projects. The County may bring one potential project before the Commission at the November meeting to consider funding.

Davis continues outreach to landowners around the Dance Hall Creek BMPs identified in the SWA. Baker noted that he can help with door knocking in the neighborhood. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the taxpayer address for the parcel owned by a trust. County staff have a scheduled meeting with Jared Stotts next Friday at 10:00 a.m. to discuss BMP #3 on that parcel.

Staff continue to work with the Vinland National Center regarding a ravine restoration. Buffer inspections will begin next week. The culvert repair near the Shriners property is going to bid this week with the intent of completing the work over the winter. Two conservation easements recently closed near Pioneer Creek.

The Lawns 2 Legumes grant is open for applications through November 30.

c. TRPD Report. Vlach tabled at the Gale Woods Farm Fall Fest on October 13 featuring the alum treatment on Whaletail Lake. Sediment samples will be collected from Whaletail in the next few weeks to inform the dosage for the second alum treatment. Whaletail is still meeting state standards since the first alum treatment.

Bids have been solicited for the Lake Rebecca channel excavation and are expected to be received in November. One bid has already been received and is close to the engineering estimate, which is a good sign. A cost estimate for the GS-3 project in the Ardmore channel has been received from the engineer at \$72,500, which is within the CIP application range.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Daniels** reported that construction on County Road 19 is finally finished with the final asphalt lift installed today.

b. **Wulff**. The Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) sent 160 surveys via email to learn about resident interests and concerns regarding the lake. Sixty responses were received with a lot of good feedback with many written comments. LICA used the website Questionpro.com to send the survey.

c. **Baker** noted that LSIA completed an EWM treatment on the west bay of Lake Sarah. The east bay was treated in 2023 resulting in an 80-85% reduction in EWM. Lake residents would like more information on an alum treatment including timing, costs, etc. LSIA will continue to build on informing residents and fundraising to help with the costs for vegetation and alum treatments.

d. **Vickery**. Minnetrista is looking at stormwater pond maintenance. Most ponds in the city are functioning well. There are some ponds that do not have clarity for maintenance responsibility.

e. **Burak**. Maple Plain has two road projects underway and is working on the downtown development plan.

f. **Workcuff** commented that the first lift of asphalt on Greenfield Road will be installed soon with the second lift planned for next year. There will likely be changes to the city councils of most member cities.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for November 21, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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