

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
October 19, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Mark Workcuff at 6:03 p.m., Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; 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); Diane Spector, Stantec; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

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

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

a. September 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. October Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$5,268.29.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Dance Hall Creek Design Scope.* The BMP analysis performed as part of the recent Dance Hall Creek Subwatershed Assessment update identified several potential BMPs in this area, some that would be retrofits and some to be included as part of new development as land use changes. This scope focuses on BMPs #1 and #2 in the subwatershed assessment. BMP #1 is the enhancement of a wetland just north of Highway 55 and involves potentially altering the outlet of a MnDNR public wetland basin.

BMP #2 is restoration of a stormwater pond/wetland adjacent to Dance Hall Creek and includes three options to investigate to determine the best potential option. Those options are: restoring the wetland to a deep marsh system, creating an off-line treatment system along with wetland enhancement, or creating an in-line pond within Dance Hall Creek. This scope covers management, site investigation and survey, followed by modeling to determine the impacts to downstream flow and water quality. Analysis of data, permitting requirements and water quality benefits will determine which option is best and 30% design plans will be developed. The scope includes meetings with MnDNR, Hennepin County and the TAC, as well as a final report and final 30% design drawings after any modifications resulting from meeting feedback. The total cost of the scope as proposed is \$55,833. This scope includes up to three iterations of design plans after feedback and permitting discussions.

The Commission has approximately \$26,000 remaining in North Fork Crow WBIF funding that is set to expire on December 31, 2023 and can be used for this project. The remaining funds needed

could be funded through reserved CIP funds (current balance \$165,127) or unreserved/unrestricted Commission funds (current balance \$332,880). Another option would be to split the scope into two phases and fund the second phase in July 2024 when the new 2025 WBIF allocation becomes available.

Motion by Burak, second by Vickery to approve the scope as presented, to be funded in two phases with \$30,000 to be funded currently from 2021 WBIF grant funds and unreserved funds and the second phase to be funded by 2025 WBIF grant funds. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Burak, second by Workcuff to grant staff administrative authority to discuss potential reallocation of 2021 South Fork Crow WBIF grant funding to this project with BWSR. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. GS68 Design, Independence.** Staff is requesting Commission approval to solicit bids from contractors to implement this project in late fall/early winter 2023-24 while there is minimal flow in the channel. This project will install three cross vanes to re-center flow and prevent bank undercutting, armor the toe of the gully, and stabilize the gully to prevent future erosion. Motion by Burak, second by Vickery to approve staff solicitation of construction bids for the gully stabilization project. *Motion carried unanimously.*

This project also includes scraping sediment from the pond to which this gully flows and has a significant sediment delta. This project will likely be completed by a separate contractor and has a separate funding source. Motion by Vickery, second by Burak to approve staff solicitation of bids for the sediment removal project. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Bridgevine Ravine Stabilization.* The Bridgevine development, a former farm and orchard adjacent to Lake Independence, was approved by the Commission in November 2022. 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, 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. These recommendations are above and beyond the ravine stabilization requirements. BohLand proposes to install seven cross vanes and create the settling basin while completing the basic ravine stabilization project. 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. BohLand is requesting a total of \$30,225 to construct the cross vanes and settling pond. Staff proposes to fund this with \$22,669 in 2021 SFC WBIF grant funds and a Commission match of \$7,556. The total ravine stabilization project cost is approximately \$129,000.

Motion by Vickery, second by Burak to approve funding the Bridgevine ravine stabilization improvements as noted above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Adelman/Kingston Project Updates.* Adelman is purchasing lakeshore lots 9 and 10 in the Bridgevine development and Kingston is purchasing lakeshore lot 4. Both lots have some lakeshore erosion and are sparsely vegetated. Both property owners are looking to complete shoreline restoration projects to prevent future erosion. The Kingston project cost estimate is \$68,070 and Adelman's is \$115,000. More finalized plans are necessary to complete cost benefit and removal estimates. There is

approximately \$113,000 in remaining 2021 Lake Independence and Spurzem BMP WBIF funding available. Contracts would be required to ensure private owners maintain and keep the native plantings for a period of 10 years. The TAC will discuss further and have more information about these two projects at the November meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

Kingswood Conservation Partnership Legacy Grant application.* A copy of the application is included in the meeting packet. Vlach will bring a funding request to the Commission if the grant is awarded. Additional funding for the project would be provided by Hennepin County (\$50,000), TRPD (\$22,000), City of Minnetrista (\$15,000), and the Commission request would be for \$20,000. If the grant is awarded the next steps include finalizing design, construction cost estimate and permitting costs. Funding requests would be made after those items are determined.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

Grant Tracker.* A new spreadsheet tracking current grants, with income, expenditures, and grant match funding was included in the meeting packet for review.

8. EDUCATION.

Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program Workshops.* Most programming for these projects is habitat-based, rather than water quality. There are two upcoming workshops that discuss conservation easements, habitat improvement projects eligible for grant funding, and biological monitoring. The workshops are in-person at Ridgedale Library on November 6 at 10:30 a.m. and virtual on November 14 at 8:30 a.m. Register to attend at <https://forms.office.com/g/G2MuCupY38> or contact Matt Stasica at matt.stasica@hennepin.us.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. **Engineer's Report.*** The sediment analysis for GS68 resulted in "unrestricted for land application." This result means that the spoils will not need to be treated as hazardous waste, which would have increased the cost of the project significantly.

b. **HCEE Report.***

County staff have been working with the **Bridgevine development** and lot purchasers on potential projects described in items 5.c. and 5.d.

Fencing installation is underway at the **Shriner Horsemen** property. The next steps for this project will be undertaken in 2024. They also gave permission to pull sediment cores from the wetland on the property to analyze for a sediment scrape, possibly to be done yet this fall.

Vlach received tentative approval to use the Horsemen property to access the **Lake Rebecca Channel Restoration** area. The Horsemen are concerned that trees on TRPD land may fall on their fencing, so TRPD may remove those trees at the same time as the channel restoration project.

The wetland delineation at the **Vinland National Center** was completed. The County has hired EOR to complete the project design work.

The **Conservation Connection** newsletter went out October 10. A subwatershed postcard mailing to Lake Independence area owners with 5+ acres of land has been sent to solicit cost-share or water quality opportunities.

Good Steward grants are open until November 14 and another round of Lawns to Legumes funding is open with up to \$400 per applicant.

c. **TRPD Report.** Over 5,000 visitors came to the **Gale Woods Farm Octoberfest** event. TRPD staff manned a water quality booth and showed sediment cores taken from Whaletail Lake, along with discussing the alum treatment and providing general water quality information.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

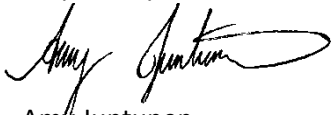
Wulff. The stream between Lakes Ardmore and Independence is running bank-full after being dry all summer.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Burak to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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