



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
October 21, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order via Zoom at 6:01 p.m., Thursday, October 21, 2021, by Chair Joe Baker.

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

Absent: Loretto

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina.

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

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

a. September Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. October Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$2,179.84.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Lake Rebecca Subwatershed Assessment.* This subwatershed assessment will provide information on the major flow pathways and identify areas where practices on the landscape can reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Lake Rebecca. This study will help the Commission and partners to prioritize conservation practices for implementation.

After reviewing proposals received, the subcommittee recommends engaging EOR at a cost of \$68,595 to complete the SWA. Hennepin County will fund \$33,595 of this project with \$30,000 funded by the Commission through previously approved WBIF grant funds. Hennepin County is requesting that the Commission also participate with \$5,000 in CIP funding. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve the select of EOR to perform the SWA and \$5,000 in CIP funding for the Lake Rebecca SWA. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. McCombs Stabilization Project.* County staff have been working with the landowner at this property for over a year to address a highly eroded channel on the property. This eroded channel results in additional sediment loading to Lake Independence. A stilling basin leading to a pipe/grassed waterway to

Greenfield • Independence • Loretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista

*Included in meeting packet.

divert water away from the channel is proposed. Channel stabilization is not a viable option in this area. The County has designed the project at a cost of \$6,977.78 and the total installation cost is \$30,177.33. The County proposes funding the installation with 10% of the cost paid by the landowner and matched by the County at \$3,017.73 each, Commission funding with Baker Park Ravine grant funding 55% of the project at \$16,597.53, and the remaining 25% of the project to be funded by Commission CIP funds at \$7,544.34.

This will be the first improvement project funded by the Commission on private land.

Motion by Wulff, second by Baker to approve funding the McCombs stabilization project as proposed. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

Lake Rebecca Channel Excavation Project.* TRPD received a proposal from Stantec to restore the hydraulic capacity to the unnamed Lake Rebecca tributary stream on the east side of the park abutting the Shriners property. The upper segment of the stream has been accumulating sediment in the channel and an upstream culvert is plugged. The culvert will be inspected to determine if can be cleared or must be replaced. The project will improve the overall conveyance of water downstream to Lake Rebecca. TRPD completed the wetland delineation this week and the engineer will survey the channel and current elevations to determine the amount of sediment to be removed. The cost of the project design, permitting and construction oversight is estimated at \$28,600 and will be wholly funded by TRPD. TRPD may submit a funding request to the Commission after construction cost estimates are received.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

WBIF – South Fork Crow One Watershed One Plan. The intent of the One Watershed One Plan effort is to create a watershed-wide plan for outstate Minnesota watersheds, similar to the Commission’s 10-year Watershed Management Plan. The area draining to the South Fork of the Crow is Carver County, with whom we share the metro WBIF funding. Guentzel will participate at a staff level on a quarterly basis in their planning process to gauge if their Plan is similar to the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Fourth Generation Plan.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. Draft Metro WBIF Policy.* Proposed changes to the policy include whether projects on an SWCD annual work plan are eligible for WBIF funding. Other changes are mainly wordsmithing with a few additions to projects that are ineligible for funding.

b. Draft Metro WBIF comments from Metro SWCDs.* Comments from metro SWCDs regarding changes to the policy were included in the meeting packet as an informational item.

12. REPORTS.

a. Engineer’s Report.* It was noted that, while there have been fewer project reviews than

expected, Hakanson-Anderson has been cost-effective. Guentzel noted that the County has experienced a great working relationship with Andrew Vistad and Matt Danzl at Hakanson-Anderson on projects in the watershed.

b. HCEE Report.* The County did make visits to Lake Independence lakeshore owners at the end of this summer and may have projects to bring forward. One property on the west side of the lake has erosion issues. Another property on the east side would require geotechnical work and might qualify for a Clean Water Fund grant, but the property owner is not 100% committed as they may want to develop the property.

The feasibility plan update is at the final draft stage for the Dance Hall Creek SWA. County staff will meet next week to review the draft and will then share the findings with landowners. The final report is expected to be included in the November Commission meeting packet. Baker requested an invitation to the draft review meeting.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker. The City of Independence has been trying to schedule a meeting with the DNR re vegetation management but has been having issues with logistics as DNR was unable to send a representative for a face-to-face meeting. We're also waiting for the final fall surveys on Lake Sarah to be completed. TRPD is still sampling and compiling data due to the lack of rain earlier in the year.

b. Tschumperlin reported that Minnetrista has confirmed their preliminary budget with a 3.2% increase to the general fund, which matches a 3.5% growth in the city. The budget for road maintenance was increased by \$150,000. Minnetrista also commissioned a groundwater study in September 2021. A special Council meeting will be held to choose a contractor to complete a test well. The city's newest water treatment plan is only operating at 75% due to filter issues. The Minnetrista City Administrator is retiring on December 17. The city may go through most of January before a new Administrator can be hired. Three search companies were interviewed this week to help fill the position.

c. Workcuff. Greenfield will survey the Dance Hall Creek culvert elevations while the water levels are low to ensure they are set properly. The culvert replaced on Town Hall Rd filled in after replacement.

d. Cahill. Maple Plain is focused on completing road work prior to winter.

e. Wulff noted that when she removed her pontoon from Lake Independence, it was coated with zebra mussels. Reports from around the lake show a moderate infestation. Two LICA members attended the MN AIS conference online and will be working to educate other LICA members on managing shoreline resources. Vlach noted that zebra mussel populations increased on many lakes this year, although there have not been any additional starry stonewort infestations. Zebra mussels seem to have a cycle where the population gets very high, becomes unsustainable, and crashes every few years. More analysis is needed.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for November 18, 2021 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Workcuff, second by Cahill to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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