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Technical Advisory Committee Minutes October 31, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** A Technical Advisory Committee meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order via Zoom at 9:51 a.m., Monday, October 31, 2022, by Amy Juntunen.

Present: Matt Danzl, Hakanson Anderson, Greenfield, Independence and Medina; Scott Johnson, Medina; Laura Rescorla, Minnetrista; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also Present: Joe Baker, Independence; and Pat Wulff, Medina.

2. The **agenda*** was approved as presented.

3. **WBIF.**

a. **CIP Review.***

1. Vistad determined that **HR 68** needs more work. Due to the flatness of the area, there may be legal liability if easements are not obtained prior to construction. There is a component of groundwater in this area that is difficult to model and prove and increasing the water level in this area may have unforeseen impacts to the nine adjacent properties. Because this project would not result in a large TP reduction, staff recommends not pursuing the project further without additional information. The cost of obtaining easements may make this project infeasible. Hennepin County may be able to get some critical elevations surveyed for accuracy in the future.

2. Stantec recommended more homeowner outreach and buy-in prior to pursuing a Clean Water Fund grant for **HR 65**. There is a shed that may be impacted by increase water retention on the property.

3. **GS 68** (formerly JB Gully Stabilization) is on the CIP in combination with HR 68. It is recommended these projects be split as the gully stabilization is ready to proceed in winter 2022-2023. A wetland delineation would be needed prior to the pond excavation portion of the project. It is unlikely one could be completed prior to winter so that part of the project would need to be removed at this time or the entire project delayed another year.

4. The **Whaletail alum treatment** feasibility study is complete and the project is scheduled for 2023 pending CWF grant award. Vlach submitted a Clean Water Fund Grant application in August 2022. The alum would be applied in 2023 and 2024.

5. At the March TAC meeting Hennepin County asked to **add three projects**: Budd Street Drainage, Grassed Waterway Stabilization (Malecek), and HR 65. Official CIP applications were not received for these projects prior to the departure of Paul Stewart from HCEE. The landowner for the Malacek project did not want a large project, just to mitigate some drainage, so that project is defunct. The Budd St project would be joint with Maple Plain covering a very large subwatershed.

6. Christopher confirmed that 2021 WBIF funding could be used for the **Lake Sarah Sediment Coring** needed to estimate the amount of internal loading. There is still approximately \$68,000 left in

the North Fork Crow WBIF awarded for 2021 that can be used, though the work plan will need to be adjusted. The Lake Sarah TMDL review is on the CIP. The coring may fall under that or be added as a line item during Amendment.

7. TRPD is working on modeling for the **Lake Rebecca channel excavation** project. TRPD will pay for project design but will seek cost-share funding for project construction. This would be a good 2023 winter project and can use WBIF funding. Restoring tile line and adding retention at the Shriner's property would also be a good 2023 project in the same area. The Lake Rebecca SWA is not yet complete. Upstream projects completion is needed prior to consideration of an alum treatment.

8. **WBIF funding for 2021 and 2023** may be used concurrently for the same project as long as the funds aren't spent before the WBIF grant agreement is complete. WBIF does not reimburse for any funds already spent before a work plan/grant is approved.

9. **TMDL Updates** do not qualify for WBIF funds. The agreement between the Commission and TRPD to complete the Lake Sarah TMDL update would be funded solely through Commission CIP or other funds. The estimated \$10,000 increase in cost for contracted modeling work needed will be absorbed between the Commission and TRPD.

4. **BWSR Input.** Christopher noted that BWSR prefers organizations to focus efforts on resources where significant impact can be made, whether to improve quality or to keep a resource from becoming impaired. Internal load projects accomplish a lot of pollutant reduction, but watershed-wide projects should continue to be funded to maintain momentum. BWSR would rather see most WBIF funds for a bi-ennium spent to improve one resource, rather than small projects in a lot of resources which may seem more ineffectual due to smaller impacts. The Spurzem chain could be considered for concurrent alum treatments since each lake affects the following down to Independence. A Lake Independence alum feasibility/treatment would need to be separate.

5. **Other Business.** The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m.

13. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim