

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2016
Corrected**

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2016, by Chair Mike DeLuca at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Tom Cook, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Cari Girk, Loretto; Mike DeLuca, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; James Kujawa and Kirsten Barta, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Scott Johnson, Medina; and Dominic Broda, Maple Plain.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Cook, second by Girk to approve the consent agenda. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. October 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes.* Approved with the following corrections: Change text item 11.c. ...~~just above Ardmore. ...in Independence.~~ And item 11.e. ...~~unintentional errors.~~ ...unintended consequences.

b. Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.* Monthly claims total \$17,286.13.

c. Commission Rules Revisions – final.*

4. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Approve 2017 Cooperative Agreement with HCEE.* The agreement language has not changed from the previous year and the agreement amount is in-line with the 2017 budget. Motion by Cook, second by Baker to approve the 2017 Cooperative Agreement with HCEE. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. Cancel December 15, 2016 Commission meeting. There is no urgent business expected in December requiring Commissioner attention. Motion by Cook, second by Baker to cancel the December regular Commission meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

5. OPEN FORUM.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

Third Community Conversation Recap.* Only positive feedback was received from the participants other than one expression of wasteful spending regarding the pie and coffee, an expense paid by MPCA. The presentations were very well received. This completes the community conversation obligations required by the WRAPS agreement with MPCA.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. STAFF REPORT.*

a. Staff will send links to upcoming grants to city administrators.

b. WaterShed Partners has initiated a **social media campaign** and is providing articles, photos, and other social media content to partners. These links are tailored to track click-throughs from each partner post.

c. The **WRAPS draft report** has been submitted to MPCA for informal review and comments have been received. Both the TMDL and WRAPS reports will be ready for informal review by the TAC and Commissions in December. These will be posted to the website, allowing six weeks for review due to the holidays.

d. The **initial buffer assessment** has been completed via aerial photos. Some landowners require a site visit to ensure compliance and some landowners are currently non-compliant with the new buffer laws. HCEE will mail letters to these landowners in early December and is hoping to complete some fieldwork before any major snows. Permission from the landowner is required for site visits. An initial deadline of mid-January has been set to complete the initial review and provide results to BWSR. There are 22 non-compliant properties and 35 properties where compliance is questionable from the photos. Summary data of the assessment will be provided in the next Staff Report. Properties that remain non-compliant after November 1, 2017 will be investigated by BWSR and monetary penalties may be assessed to those properties. The Commission is not responsible for enforcement of the buffer laws.

9. EDUCATION.

Commissioners requested staff to create a short document detailing the pros and cons of maintaining a **Commission Facebook page**, including costs and links to other watershed Facebook pages.

10. COMMUNICATIONS.

Applications are available for the **USDA Conservation Stewardship Program**.* This program is for working farms to receive financial incentives for implementing conservation strategies.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Cook** reported that the new concrete pillars at the Lake Sarah public landing were installed at high water and are now above the lake's surface. Greenfield will contact the DNR to correct the issue and to advocate for re-installation of the old planks at deeper levels to prevent washout from power loading. Two council members and the Mayor ran unopposed so there were no changes to the Greenfield council after the election. The City continues to investigate other options for watershed management.

b. **DeLuca** noted that there are two new council members on the Maple Plain city council. Broda, council member-elect is in attendance. Julie Maas-Kusske was elected Mayor which will leave a vacancy on the Council when she takes office.

c. **Baker** attended the recent Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) meeting. The association has a new president. Other topics included improvements to the landing. A variance will be needed to re-install the old planks. LSIA members were pleased with improvements to water clarity and volunteers were named to monitor for invasive species, including invasive vegetation. The ownership of the property west of the Selstad property is still being investigated. Independence had no elections in 2016.

d. **Wulff** reported no change in the Medina city council. The city completed fall street sweeping and runs a leaf and brush mulching operation, for which citizens are thankful. The Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA) is focusing on educating members on the effects of leaf and lawn waste on the lake and efforts to keep that yard waste out of the lake. The lake is still above the slow/no wake level, though the outlet at Pagenkopf is flowing well.

e. **Girk** recapped the Loretto election results. Melissa Markham and Brian Sevigny replaced Cari Girk and Henry Pepin on the council.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. **2017 Commissioner Appointments.** Commission rules state that officers must be elected at the February meeting and take office March 1. Cities must make Commission appointments in January to meet this schedule. All Commissioners are requested to be in attendance at the January and February meetings.

b. Commissioners are requested to remind their city councils to **review CIP projects** and submit applications for new projects and revisions to costs and/or timelines of listed projects for 2017/2018.

c. The **next meeting** is scheduled for January 19, 2017.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, motion by Girk, second by Cook to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary
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