

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
November 18, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021, by Vice Chair Caitlin Cahill.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; 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); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Absent: Independence.

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

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

a. **October Regular Meeting Minutes.***

b. **November Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$3,164.37.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. **2021-009 White Wetland Restoration, Independence.*** This project is a wetland restoration just west of Lake Independence. Drain tile will be broken and an earthen embankment constructed to impound water and slow drainage. This project will result in improved water quality for the drainage area to Lake Independence and staff recommends approval contingent on 1) updating the stormwater model to include surface water area, and 2) receipt of permit fee. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Daniels to approve project 2021-009 with the contingencies noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **CIP Application for White Wetland Restoration.*** The engineer's estimated cost of the wetland restoration is \$17,614. Hennepin County has been working with the landowner on this project and proposes a cost share with the County and Commission. The proposed cost share includes using the remaining \$4,774.26 in Baker Park grant funds which must be spent before the grant expiration, Commission CIP dollars at 25% or \$4,403.50, County match of 20% at \$3,522.80 and the remaining to come from WBIF funding at \$4,913.44. The County is requesting CIP funding at 25% because this project is cost effective and directly improves water quality to Lake Independence as it reduces sediment loading by 12.6 tons per year and phosphorus loading by 13.1 lbs. per year.

Motion by Cahill, second by Tschumperlin to approve funding the White wetland project as proposed with Baker Park Ravine grant funds, WBIF funds, and CIP funds as noted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. **Accepting Credit Card Payments through JASS.** The Commission's administrator, JASS, has the ability to process credit cards. Some applicants have requested to pay project review fees via credit card. JASS can accept those fees on behalf of the Commission, but will charge applicants an additional fee to cover the cost of the credit card processing, typically no more than 5% of the charge.

Motion by Cahill, second by Tschumperlin to approve JASS to collect project review fees by credit card and reimburse the Commission as requested by applicants. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

8. **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

9. **EDUCATION.**

10. **GRANT UPDATES.**

a. **Baker Park Ravine CWF Grant Amendment.*** This is a grant amendment to extend the expiration date from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Staff was granted authority to sign and submit on behalf of the Commission.

b. **2022 WBIF Awards.*** For the coming year, the group of participants in each watershed allocation area will be called a partnership, e.g., the Pioneer-Sarah Creek partnership, and meetings will be referred to as convene meetings. Staff are in contact with BWSR staff to learn more about the convene process. It appears project requirements include a minimum 10% match, that they must be load reduction practices, and that they can be structural or non-structural. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO has been awarded \$159,223.

It was recommended that the TAC be given the task of developing the process for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek partnership.

11. **COMMUNICATIONS.**

a. **Conservation Corps.*** Following passage of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment the Minnesota Legislature directed BWSR to appropriate \$500,000 of the Clean Water Fund to be contracted for services with the Conservation Corps on an annual basis. BWSR contracts with the Corps to provide funded labor to cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, watershed districts, and joint powers organizations to undertake projects consistent with the Corps' mission, BWSR grant policies and CWF goals. Funds are available for Corps crew labor on projects with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and/or protecting groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation. There are no minimum match requirements, but applicants must itemize local financial contributions. Application deadline is December 15, 2021. <https://conservationcorps.org/partner/clean-water-funding/>

b. MPCA Planning Grants.* The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has \$870,000 available for **planning grants for stormwater, wastewater, and community resilience**. This is a new MPCA grant program in 2021 providing financial assistance to undertake planning for increased resilience to the impacts of Minnesota's changing climate (warmer and wetter with more damaging rains and cold weather warming, and more extreme heat and drought in the future) within any of the following three focus areas: stormwater, wastewater, community resilience. Some of the stormwater planning activities that can be funded through this grant include:

1. Vulnerability assessment using hydrologic/hydraulic modeling to identify areas (e.g., stream corridors, bridges, intersections, etc.) that are at increased risk for flooding, including assessing potential scenarios of short- and long-term changes to precipitation.

2. Inventory of infrastructure issues to identify critical impacts (e.g., number of structures flooded, frequency of flooding, social vulnerability, local environmental impacts, etc.), resulting in a prioritized list of critical areas needing infrastructure improvements to increase resilience.

Deadline to apply is December 21, 2021.

[Wulff arrived 6:42 p.m.]

12. REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* More calls have been coming in regarding **stormwater ponds** due to an article in the news regarding grants for ponds.

A **wetland violation** was reported off County Rd 11 in Independence. A permit will be issued by the City for work that was completed there.

b. HCEE Report.* The **Lake Rebecca SWA** contract has been finalized. The project kickoff meeting is scheduled for November 30.

Initial staking has occurred on the **McCombs project**. It is hoped that construction will begin in 2021.

The **Shrine horsemen** project is moving forward with pasture management. Seeding and pasture management will occur in spring 2022.

The County has finalized their **soil health program** and will include a flyer in the January meeting packet. This is a cost-share program to encourage producers to plant cover crops and make tillage changes.

The County received a **Metro Conservation District grant** which allowed the purchase of a triple survey unit, so County staff can perform field surveying.

c. TRPD Report. The delineation has been completed for the **Lake Rebecca creek excavation project**. The channel survey should be completed next Monday.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Tschumperlin noted that the Minnetrista City Administrator is retiring on December 17. The city has hired Baker Tilly to search for a new Administrator with a goal of hiring in February 2022. The city

department heads will handle day-to-day items.

A firm has been hired to drill test well no. 8 off County Rd 110 west. If the results are good, a ninth test well will be drilled and a treatment plant will be built in that area. The city experienced population growth of 3.5% in 2021. The City is also instituting education on water conservation and treatment through mailings, public meetings, and ordinance review.

b. Wulff stated that former Alternate Commissioner Mike McLaughlin has moved to California. Joel Settles will be the new Alternate for Medina as of January 1, 2022.

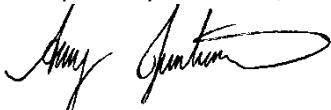
c. Cahill. The Maple Plain road work is complete for the year. McGarry's has opened "The Market" in the old schoolhouse. The Market has basic groceries and some of the restaurant dishes available for purchase.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for December 16, 2021 and will be held online again via Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/845974640>.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Wulff, second by Daniels to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
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