

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
November 21, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:02 p.m., Thursday, November 21, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; 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) and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Mark Klein and Scott Beaupre, Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA).

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

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

a. October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.*

b. November Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims * totaling \$53,836.81.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Minor Plan Amendment.* This Minor Plan Amendment adds nine new projects, increases the cost of two projects, and removes two projects. After the Plan Amendment is approved, staff will move completed projects to a new section on the CIP list. Motion by Vickery, second by Burak to approve Resolution 2024-01 Adopting a Minor Plan Amendment. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. FY25 WBIF Fiscal Agent Discussion. County staff raised the question whether the County should act as fiscal agent for FY25 WBIF funds since the County will be lead on all but one project. This would put the onus of all grant reporting on the County instead of Commission staff. However, the Commission would not receive interest income from grant funds received and held until project completion which, in the current environment, could be a few thousand dollars. The Commission will remain the fiscal agent. Juntunen will ensure Davis has access to all Commission grants through eLink. No action taken.

c. Lake Independence Hydrologic Study Proposals.* Proposals to complete the hydrologic study were received from Stantec and WSB with costs ranging from \$25,000-\$44,800 with a proposed phase 1 to study hydraulics and conveyance of the outlet. If this phase doesn't explain the persistently high water, additional work could be done to complete a hydrologic study and create a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the lake to assess the overall system. Costs for this work have not been estimated.

Baker has been in regular communication with Wes Saunders-Pierce, the DNR Area Hydrologist, who has verbally indicated that the DNR intends to complete an OHWL review if the cities of Median and Independence will support the review process. The documentation for the outlet weir elevation may show that the outlet weir is higher than it should be. Another DNR department will be completing a flow analysis on the outlet culverts. Staff and Commissioners are in agreement that action on this study should be paused until DNR study results are made available to determine whether further study is warranted. Juntunen will respond to Stantec and WSB.

Vlach noted that TRPD has indicated that it would not be interested in cost-sharing in the hydrologic study until channel maintenance has occurred to determine if the high water level is caused by blockages in the channel. The Lake Independence Citizens Association received an estimate of \$13,000 to remove vegetation from the channel if sidecasting the vegetation is approved. If the vegetation needs to be removed, the cost would be \$40,000. Channel maintenance is required due to invasive cattail growth impeding water flow. Vlach asked Baker to ask the DNR Hydrologist if dredging the channel should be considered now. No action taken.

d. GS-68 Pond Scrape Quotes.* Vistad requested bids from several contractors to complete this project. Two contractors, Vada Contracting and Sunram, responded. Sunram provided the lowest bid, contingent on not hauling spoils, and both were significantly lower than the engineer's estimate. A local landowner has volunteered to take the spoils. Motion by Burak, second by Workcuff to approve Sunram as the contractor for the project contingent on not hauling spoils. *Motion carried unanimously.*

e. 2024-09 Rock Lakeshore, Independence.** This is a lakeshore landscaping project on lot 8 of the Bridgevine development on Lake Independence reviewed for erosion and sediment control. This project is not expected to impact water quality. Vistad encouraged the landowner to keep a more naturalized shoreline. Staff recommends approval. Motion by Daniels, second by Workcuff to approve project 2024-09. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Bridgevine Cost Share.* A check for the full cost-share amount of \$30,225 was included in the November claims. Vistad has been unable to connect with Steve Bohl regarding cleanout of the sedimentation basin that was impacted by the faulty installation of the ravine stabilization practices. The basin was not cleaned out when the installation was redone.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report. The Adelman landscaping at the Bridgevine development failed in October due to heavy rains. The sedimentation basin and French drains could not handle the stormwater volume of the two-inch rainfall. Much of the sand beach was washed into the lake. The landowner is treating it as a warranty claim and the landscaping is being repaired. The new crossvanes at the Bridgevine ravine are functioning properly. The rainfall event did not cause significant erosion in the ravine.

b. HCEE Report.* Stantec completed survey work last week for the Dance Hall Creek BMP. Design work will be done over the winter. Landowner approval is still needed from one resident. Guentzel has submitted a workplan amendment for the FY21 North Fork Crow WBIF grant adding Dance Hall Creek BMPs 1 and 3 and extending the expiration date to December 31, 2025.

County staff met with Stotts to discuss options for BMPs on his property. Three concepts were proposed, but only two would be installed, option A and B or option A and C. Option A collects more flow from tile lines and underground flow instead of surface flow. Option A is a sand filter/biofiltration basin that will impact about two acres, though the choice of BMP will impact overall size and will be determined in the design phase. County staff will also help site a stormwater pond for when the parcel is developed, though that installation would not be covered by grant or cost-share funds.

Davis met with EOR at the Vinland site today to look at the ravine and potential BMP opportunities. The ravine is the priority due to erosion from a culvert which is actively eroding the top end of the ravine. Ravine stabilization is estimated to reduce 9.5 lbs./year of TP and is expected to be cost-effective. Survey work will be completed in December with design work occurring over the winter.

Buffer law monitoring is complete with only a few non-compliant properties, but staff are not expecting any issues with bringing those sites into compliance.

Staff are working with the Flakne property to review a hybrid bioengineering and lakeshore restoration opportunity. The owner does not want to lose any trees on the property. Survey work will be completed in early December with design work occurring over the winter.

Hennepin County Good Steward (up to \$25,000), and AIS (\$5,000-\$25,000) grants are open now. DNR has similar AIS grants aimed at control of EWM, CLPW, and starry stonewort. Lake Associations are encouraged to apply for these grants.

c. TRPD Report. The Kingswood Park channel stabilization project was completed last Friday. The installation cost was \$155,706 funded by contributions from the County (\$100,000, City (\$25,000), Commission (\$20,000) and TRPD performing the design work (\$58,000) and being responsible for the remainder of the installation costs.

The Ardmore GS-3 gully stabilization project, to be constructed concurrent with TRPD trail realignment, is moving along with design at 90%. The stabilization is about 450 linear feet with riprap, hard armoring and a series of check dams. Engineering cost estimate is \$72,440. Permitting is scheduled for December with bids advertised in January and bid award in February. Tree removal and construction will occur in spring. This project requires an ACOE permit and a Commission project review. The trail will reopen in fall 2025.

The estimated installation cost for the Lake Rebecca channel stabilization project was \$85,910. Bids have been received ranging from \$40,000-\$89,800. TRPD is confident the low bidder can do the job well. The main differences were lower mobilization and excavation/hauling costs. One change order is expected that will likely increase that cost, but not substantially. This project is scheduled over the winter since a hard freeze is necessary to limit damage to the Shriner's property which will be used for access. Restoration of the access route is included in the bid. Pre-construction meeting is expected for the end of

November/early December. Construction will occur in several small segments throughout a 1,100 linear foot section of the channel. Vistad requested plans for the project for review.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Workcuff noted that there were four new Council members in Greenfield and this will likely be his last meeting. The Greenfield Road project has been completed.

b. Burak. Maple Plain has one new Council member and expects to remain on the Commission for 2025.

c. Vickery. Minnetrista will have a tree lighting ceremony on December 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

d. Baker attended a habitat conservation easement workshop hosted by Hennepin County earlier this week. It may be a good approach to secure landowner commitment for projects. Brad Spencer is the newly elected Mayor and one vacant council seat will be filled by appointment due to the retirement of Marv Johnson.

e. Wulff. Medina's Mayor also retired and there is one new Councilmember. The city is still looking to hire a City Manager. All items should currently be directed to Dusty Finke. The Lake Independence Citizens Association (LICA) applied for an AIS grant for vegetation management and will work with TRPD to develop a lake management plan.

f. Daniels reported Loretto has one new council member. The holiday train will come through Loretto on December 14 with the event beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the train arriving around 4:00 p.m.

11. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall. Assuming no urgent business requires a meeting, motion by Daniels, second by Workcuff to cancel the December meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Daniels, second by Burak to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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