



**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management Commission**

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REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

December 17, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m., Thursday, December 17, 2020, by Chair Joe Baker via online Zoom.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; John Fay, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; John Tschumperlin, Minnetrista; Kaci Fisher, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also Present: Scott Johnson, Medina; Kris Guentzel and Paul Stewart, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates.

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

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

- a. **October Regular Meeting Minutes.***
- b. **November Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.***
- c. **December Monthly Claims/Treasurer's Report.***

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

Resolution 2020-01 Adopting the Fourth Generation Plan.* The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) committee was very complimentary and recommended approval by the BWSR board with no conditions. One comment made was to encourage the involvement of youth in watershed education. The BWSR board approved the Plan earlier today. Motion by Tschumperlin, second by Wulff to approve Resolution 2020-01, adopting the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. The **biennial solicitation of interest** was published December 14, 2020 in the *State Register*. Responses will be reviewed at the January meeting.

b. **2020 Work Plan in Review.*** Included in the meeting packet is a draft of the activities undertaken by the Commission in 2020 in response to the work plan approved at its March 19, 2020 meeting. Staff requested the Commissioners to review and comment by January 15, 2021.

c. **2021 Work Plan.** The 2021 work plan will be sent to Commissioners for review prior to the January meeting. The 2021 work plan and 2020 work plan in review must be approved by the March meeting for inclusion in the 2020 Annual Activity Report.

8. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

9. EDUCATION. Juntunen will provide the link to the **Watershed PREP video**, a classroom lesson for fourth grade students, to all Commissioners and staff. This video is available on the West Metro Water Alliance website and can be shared by anyone. This lesson meets state standards for science curriculum in the fourth grade, where

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*Included in meeting packet.

students are typically introduced to the water cycle. The lesson educates students about watersheds, stormwater runoff, and water quality.

10. GRANT UPDATES.

a. Ardmore Carp Barrier.* The carp barrier installation was completed on November 30, 2020. This project started through a carp biomass/population assessment in 2017 which estimated the carp biomass in Lake Ardmore at 205kg/ha after the removal of 3,000 lbs. of carp. The estimated biomass in Lake Independence was 114 kg/ha. This was followed by a carp movement study in 2018-2020 which determined that Ardmore is the primary nursery area and resulted in the recommendation to install a carp barrier to restrict movement between Lake Independence and Lake Ardmore within the Ardmore channel.

TRPD will continue pit-tag monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the barrier in 2021 and complete another biomass assessment after the recent fish kill. A removal may be completed to achieve a 100 kg/ha biomass. A fish assessment will determine if the bluegill population can then control the carp population. A vegetation assessment will also be completed. Generally, TP improvement after carp removal is most noticeable in shallow lakes

The overall project cost was \$58,092.08. The Lake Independence shoreline stabilization project was completed earlier in 2020 at a cost of \$35,312.52 as part of a combined project to use the Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) from BWSR at a total combined cost of \$93,404.60. These projects were funded through: WBIF-\$45,478.52; Hennepin County Opportunity Grant-\$20,000, TRPD-\$18,926.08, and PSCWMO and Medina-\$4,500 each.

b. Shriners Drainage Scope of Work.* As this project progresses, a need for an RFP to study the 700 acre subwatershed was identified in order to address concerns of drainage on all neighboring properties when flow is restored, and how restoration may impact nutrient flow into Lake Rebecca. The current drainage is clogged. The SWA will identify nutrient loading hotspots and identify BMPs to prevent excess nutrients and sediments from reaching Lake Rebecca. Hennepin County will publish the RFP. A JPA may be proposed for PSCWMO to partner with Hennepin County on this project. Commissioners were asked to comment on the scope of work and ensure the PSCWMO is a willing partner for this SWA. The project on the Shriners property will be separate from the SWA. Staff will bring cost estimates to the January meeting. At this point, the Commission has not committed to any financial support.

[Fay departed 7:00 p.m.]

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

12. STAFF REPORT.* (See Engineer's Report)

a. Project Review 2020-006, Gaalswyck Acres, Greenfield.* Revised plans were received December 9 but not reviewed yet.

b. The JB gully stabilization project was reviewed by Staff. This is a 400 linear foot project. The cost for stabilization is approximately \$100 per linear foot.

b. HCEE Report.* Kirsten Barta is no longer employed by Hennepin County. Due to a hiring freeze, the position will not be filled for a few months.

HCEE Staff are updating the **Dancehall Creek SWA** to new land use as the area is developed.

HCEE Staff have begun the **Spurzem Creek SWA**. The project presents some unique challenges with the Loretto WWTP and a large landfill. The final report is due December 31, 2021. There is potential for in-lake and wetland work to be completed as part of the SWA and HCEE may request financial assistance for that work, which will need to be contracted.

State cost-share funds were used to install a rock chute last week at Fox Creek Estates to fix an eroding gully in Greenfield and to fix an eroding channel at 4635 Lake Sarah Drive in Independence. The Fox Creek

Estates project is complete and the Lake Sarah Drive project is scheduled.

Staff is completing a scope of work for repairs of drain tile blockages at the **Shriners property**.

A grassed waterway was installed last year at the **Windsong Golf Club**. The project passed the one-year inspection. Staff are working with Wright County SWCD on a gully stabilization project on the property.

Landowners at **1215 Copeland Rd** reached out with concerns regarding heavy sedimentation and watercourse shifting in Pioneer Creek. Staff are working with Wright County SWCD engineers and will involve an NRCS technician to complete a property analysis for potential BMPs. Projects may leverage federal EQUIP funds.

13. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. **Workcuff** noted that a public hearing was held regarding the Ag Preserve zoning change. The City's motivation is to allow development. The Ag Preserve requires land to remain undeveloped for a minimum of 8 years. This change would allow some owners to end that requirement sooner, if they chose to do so, but does not require all land to come out of Ag Preserve. There are currently about 700 acres in Greenfield classified as Ag Preserve.

b. **Tschumperlin** stated that there are two new Councilmembers in Minnetrista. The Mayor was re-elected. Tschumperlin anticipates remaining on the Commission but there will be a new Alternate.

c. **Wulff** anticipates remaining on the Commission as the Medina representative. She may request to move to the Commissioner appointment with McLaughlin as Alternate. Wulff requested the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board disclosure form.

d. **Baker** noted that Lake Sarah is pursuing a Hennepin County Grant for AIS prevention. LSIA received this grant last year and used the funds to complete a lake-wide survey of residents and an assessment of users at the landing to raise awareness of AIS. That project is due for completion by January 31, 2021. LICA also considered applying for the AIS grant to hire a consultant to complete a CLPW survey. Vlach noted that TRPD monitors CLPW in Lake Independence and will share their data.

14. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for January 21, 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 Tschumperlin to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen, Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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