



Minutes of Regular Meeting

Board of Managers

Wednesday March 15, 2017

Council Chambers, Chaska City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Approved April 26, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 7:10 PM in the Council Chambers of the Chaska City Hall, Chaska, Minnesota, President Shirk called to order the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) and asked for roll call to be taken. The following Managers were present: Managers Jesse Hartmann, and Yvonne Shirk. In addition, the following were also present: Lindsey Albright, Dakota SWCD; Della Young, Young Environmental; LLC Taylor Luke, LS Marine; Greg Oberle, CHS; Tim Koch, Riverland Ag; Jonathan Hess, Scott SWCD; and Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator.

Administrator Loomis administered the oath of office to Manager Hartmann, upon his reappointment as the Manager representing Scott County, Minnesota.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Administrator Loomis added Item 5. A. - Presentation of 2016 Scott County Monitoring Data to the agenda.

President Shirk made a motion to approve the agenda of March 15, 2017, as amended. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZEN FORUM

There were no citizens who wished to address the board.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

A. Approval of Minutes for February 15, 2017 Regular Meeting

B. Approval of Financial Reports

C. Approval of Payment of Invoices

- i. **Braun Intertech - monitoring of Inclinometers**
- ii. **Freshwater Society - payment of 2nd & 3rd Installment of Altered Hydrology project**
- iii. **Star Tribune - publication of 2017 Budget Hearing notice**
- iv. **Burns & McDonnell - for December engineering services**
- v. **Metro Sales - payment on copier service agreement**
- vi. **Greg Zeck - for December & October webmaster services**
- vii. **Rinke Noonan - for December Legal related to the Plan Amendment**

- viii. **HDR - for website redesign services**
 - ix. **MN Dept. of Health - permits for monitoring wells**
 - x. **Scott County SWCD - 4th quarter 2016 fees for monitoring services**
 - xi. **Steinkraus Development LLC - January & February 2017 office rent**
 - xii. **Dakota County SWCD - 4th quarter 2016 fees for monitoring services**
 - xiii. **Time Savers Off Site Secretarial Service - for preparation of January meeting minutes**
 - xiv. **US Bank Equipment Finance - March 2017 copier lease payment**
- D. Metro Children's Water Festival**

President Shirk made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of 2016 Scott County Monitoring Data

Mr. Hess, Scott County SWCD, was present to inform the Board of the results of 2016 monitoring of LMRWD resources within Scott County. His presentation addressed three main areas of monitoring: thermal monitoring of Eagle Creek, water quality monitoring and well monitoring. He addressed thermal monitoring of Eagle Creek first. Mr. Hess identified the sampling locations; above and below Highway 101. One of the locations is the Eagle Creek Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) station. He showed a picture of the station. In addition to the WOMP station, they take grab sample frequently throughout the season.

Mr. Hess said he walked the stream and took temperatures and grab samples after rain events. He noted the temperature increases significantly between the upper sample location and the downstream location, especially after rain events. He said this indicates that storm water runoff from paved surfaces and the storm water pond is affecting the temperature of the creek - rain events are impacting the temperature in the creek.

Mr. Hess went on to present the water quality data collected at the WOMP station, which has an automated sampler which collects composite samples during rain events and then monthly grab samples are taken during base flow. He showed the hydrograph of the samples with 12 base flow grab samples (one a month) and then an additional 7 samples collected during rain events. Nitrates levels are at or below the eco-region mean. He noted the phosphorus levels were below standard. TSS exhibited a couple high samples during storm events when higher TSS would be expected, but on average levels are good. Temperature, dissolved oxygen and ph are all within normal range.

One e. coli sample per month was collected in addition to one each time a grab sample was taken. On average e.coli was within acceptable range. A few of the individual samples exceeded the allowable range; however the overall average was below the limit.

TSS composite samples were higher during and after storm events, as would be expected. One grab sample in August exceeded the limit. Manager Hartmann asked if we know why that was. Mr. Hess said he did not; it is possible that a storm event occurred prior to the date on which the sample was taken, which could impact the sample.

Administrator Loomis asked Mr. Hess where the grab samples are taken. She asked because she has been told by the DNR that there is an area of active erosion on the creek. She wondered if the erosion could be contributing to the higher TSS level. Mr. Hess said it could be possible, but he could not definitely attribute higher TSS to that.

Mr. Hess showed a summary of the Eagle Creek TSS levels compared to samples from other WOMP stations on Minnesota River tributaries. Eagle Creek has the lowest concentration of TSS among all these tributaries, primarily due to the relatively small watershed of Eagle Creek.

Mr. Hess then presented the water quality data for Dean Lake. He showed the hydrograph for the Dean Lake inlet and discussed how the Prior Lake outlet channel impacts Dean Lake when it is opened. Fewer parameters are tested in Dean Lake inlet than at Eagle Creek and there is not an automated sampler. All parameters are below eco-region means. TSS was below standard. Total Phosphorus was below standards and has been below standard for each of the past three sampling seasons. This may be because of rainfall. He noted that TSS was high in the Dean Lake samples at the same time the Eagle Creek had high TSS.

Mr. Hess went on the talk about well monitoring and showed the well locations on a map. He presented monthly measurements of the water levels in the wells. All wells seem to respond to increased rainfall. The trend is showing increasing water levels. He reported on the historic levels back to 1994. All the wells demonstrated the same seasonal pattern showing declines early in the season and rebounding later in the season with rainfall.

He explained the plans for monitoring in 2017; locations and parameters. He then asked if Managers had any questions.

President Shirk asked if data collected and entered into the State's system would be addressed with the project the District is working on with the DNR. Ms. Della Young replied that it is.

Manager Hartmann referred to the temperature at Eagle Creek and asked if the January temperatures are normal. Mr. Hess said yes. Manager Hartmann clarified that 19.55 degrees is accurate and wondered why that is higher. Mr. Hess explained there is a storm water pond that directs storm water to the creek at that location. Manager Hartmann asked if there is any concern with the increase in temperature. Mr. Hess said that is a good question and they aren't sure how many fish are downstream. Administrator Loomis said she would check with the DNR, as they have been conducting monitoring of the trout streams.

President Shirk asked what the solution would be if it is determined the storm water pond is impacting the temperature of the Creek. Administrator Loomis explained there may be a few options, but the most easily attainable answer would be to create shade to keep the water from heating up in the sun. Staff will keep an eye on this and discuss with the DNR.

Managers thanked Mr. Hess for his presentation.

B. Freshwater Society Ice Out/Loon In

Administrator Loomis said the watershed district has participated in this event the past few years and asked the board if they would like to participate again. President Shirk recommended getting a table again. Manager Hartmann asked who staffs the table. Administrator Loomis said the board is invited to attend. President Shirk asked about other attendees.

Manager Hartmann made a motion to purchase a table for eight. The motion was seconded by President Shirk. The motion carried unanimously

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. MAWD Call for Special Meeting L

Administrator Loomis said this topic was tabled at the February meeting. Managers wanted more information before calling for a special meeting of the MAWD Membership. Ms. Loomis said there is not much more information that was available at the February meeting, however she has been involved in some of the discussion regarding the proposed changes to determine

the dues. President Shirk asked if they would have that out before the meeting. Ms. Loomis summarized what has been discussed, but said that no definite proposal have been distributed. She recommended that Managers try to attend the special meeting to make sure the MAWD Board considered the District's concerns regarding any changes, especially with respect to dues. She said discussions so far would calculate the dues the same as it is currently done, except that the cap would be raised to \$10,000.

President Shirk made a motion to call for a special meeting with MAWD. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Minnesota River Clean Up Event

Administrator Loomis provided an update and said there is no action necessary.

C. Dredge Management

i. Review Process for funding of maintenance of Navigation Channel

Administrator Loomis stated they are working on the determination of benefits and she is working with Clay Dodd to complete this project.

ii. Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management site

Administrator Loomis said the report was regarding the future operations and management of the Vernon Avenue Dredge site letter was sent out to the Managers, city of Savage and others. A meeting with Savage is set for Monday, March 27th. President Shirk questioned what help can be asked for.

Administrator Loomis said she has met with the government relations specialist from CHS they support the position that the state participates with the cost of managing dredge material.

Mr. Taylor Luke stated that there is concern with the cost of managing the dredge material and that industry is concerned about being asked to fund additional expenses. He questioned some of the expenses identified in the report.

President Shirk asked about the trash. Administrator Loomis said she will work with LS Marine to clean up the trash that has been dumped. She noted it is private property and should be able to be posted.

Manager Hartmann asked about the erosion. Administrator Loomis said the river bank is what is eroding and it is not the berm or any of the material that is stored on the site. She said they could solve the problem by possibly putting in some log rolls. Mr. Luke said they have tried several practices to protect the bank from erosion, however whenever the river comes up it pulls the bank down, washes away the protection and continues to erode. Staff will continue to look for solutions. Manager Hartmann asked about erosion of the material placed on the site. Administrator Loomis said that erosion can be seen on the dredge material, but the material is contained on the site and is not washing back into the river.

iii. Private Dredge Material Placement

Administrator Loomis said material placed last year will be moved out next week.

D. Watershed Management Plan

i. Plan update/Major Plan Amendment

Administrator Loomis said there was a work session prior to the meeting regarding the watershed management plan and no action is necessary.

E. Legislative Action

i. 2017 Legislative Session

Administrator Loomis said both bills have been introduced and reported on the current status and expected outcome of each bill. She said that legislators have asked the District what level of funding would be acceptable to the District. Ms. Young noted that the costs identified in the future operation and management report represents the worst case scenario. She said it would have been helpful to have had Mr. Luke and the others stay for this discussion to help focus in on what the actual cost will be to operate and manage the dredge material.

ii. Freshwater Society Altered Hydrology Project

Administrator Loomis reported that the Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction held a meeting in Mankato that presented its final report. She will touch base with Freshwater to see what is next.

F. Website Redesign

Administrator Loomis showed some pictures of the new design and said she is looking for feedback. President Shirk and Manager Hartmann said they like the website. The board talked about the logo looking dated. Administrator Loomis said she put calls in for what a refresh of a logo would cost but she hasn't heard back yet. Managers thought pursuing a refresh of the logo is a good idea. She said the watershed plan would be under the popular links. Administrator Loomis suggested having a photo contest for pictures for the website.

G. Education and Outreach Plan

i. Friends of the MN River Valley/LMRWD cooperative project

Administrator Loomis said there is a proposal attached to develop an exhibit that would travel around and educate on the importance of managing water flow. She noted the costs are conservative. An intern would be hired to do the project. Administrator Loomis noted it is about \$13,000 total.

President Shirk made a motion to approve the Friends of the MN River Valley/LMRWD cooperative project. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Citizen Advisory Committee

No change since last update.

H. LMRWD Projects

i. Riley Creek Cooperative Project

Administrator Loomis said according to Jeff Weiss, Barr Engineering, the velocity the of water flowing down Riley Creek, as it crosses Flying Cloud Drive, will actually increase. Mr. Weiss and the County Engineers are working together to determine whether or not the velocity is going to increase. If so, Hennepin County will need to address that. She noted the county also has easements from the private property owner to reconstruct Flying Cloud Drive and it would be a benefit to the District if it is able to work with the County. Construction has been pushed out until August.

ii. Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project

Administrator Loomis said the District was able to get the financial information related to the costs of the project from the City of Chaska, because of the District's 2016 financial audit. The City has sent a letter requesting the payment of the 1st half of the grant and the District's portion of the cost overruns, which amounted to about \$37,000. She has

contacted the District's Board Conservationist at BWSR to see what more information the District needs to submit in order to close out the grant.

iii. Analysis of Dakota County Project

Administrator Loomis said they continue to have conversations with the DNR.

iv. East Chaska Creek

Administrator Loomis said staff has met with Carver County and its consulting Engineer to discuss plans for CSAH 61, which will be rehabilitated from TH 101 to the City of Carver. The plan will be working on this section of roadway to take out some of the curves to improve safety. President Shirk asked about the grant request. Administrator Loomis said they have not heard back but will continue to follow up.

v. Savage Fen Ravine Project

Administrator Loomis had nothing to report.

I. Project Reviews

i. Boy Scouts of America

Administrator Loomis said she was contacted by the engineers for the project and the District should expect to see plans soon for the expansion that is planned, which is to add on to the building and to extend the parking lot.

ii. City of Carver Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Administrator Loomis said the update was provided in the executive summary.

iii. 12300 Riverview Road - Eden Prairie - Hueler Subdivision

Administrator Loomis had nothing more to report.

iv. MMPA (Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) Electric Generation Plant EAW

No change since last update

v. Fort Snelling Upper Post/Hennepin County Road Project

No change since last update.

vi. Hennepin County Flying Cloud Drive/CSAH 61 reconstruction project

No change since last update.

vii. 2014-03152-RMM - Port Richards

No change since last update.

viii. CSAH 61 & TH 41 Transportation Improvement Project

This update was discussed under the East Chaska Creek project.

ix. TH 169/41/78/14 Intersection Improvements

No change since last update.

x. Xcel Energy Black Dog Plant

No change since last update.

xi. Eagle Creek Ridge - Shakopee

No change since last update.

I. Dean Lake - no change since last update

No change since last update.

J. MPCA Soil Reference Values

No change since last update.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator Report - Administrator Loomis said there was a legislature update from MAWD that was provided to the managers with a list of all the legislation that MAWD is following. She told the Managers that the City of Burnsville notified the District that a grand opening for the trail along River near Black Dog will be held June 3, 2017 and that the Managers are invited. The City also said there will be space for the District on the informational kiosk next to the trail. Managers said it would be great to have the new logo on the exhibit and that a QR code should be included.

Administrator Loomis noted the audit is complete.

B. President - No report

C. Managers - No report

D. Committees - No report

E. Legal Counsel - No report

F. Engineer – No report

8. ADJOURN

President Shirk made a motion to adjourn. Manager Hartmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. President Shirk adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm.

Jesse Hartmann, Vice President

Attest:

Linda Loomis, Administrator