



Minutes of Regular Meeting

Board of Managers

Wednesday June 14, 2017

County Board Room, Carver County Government Center, 7:00 p.m.

Approved July 19, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the County Board Room of the Carver County Government Center, 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, David Raby and Yvonne Shirk. In addition, the following were also present: Marianne Breitbach, Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District, Carrie Jennings, Freshwater Society, Lil Leatham, Dakota County, Charlie Sawdey, Andrew Edgecumbe and Mariya Guzner, Carver County Watershed Management Organization, Lindsey Albright, Dakota SWCD; Della Schall Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, technical Consultant; and Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Administrator Loomis asked to add the following items to the agenda: MAWD Special Meeting at Old Business Item K and Item 6. H. viii - City of Burnsville Cargill/Mosaic levy project.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the agenda of June 14, 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 May 17, 2017 Regular Meeting

B. Approval of Financial Reports

C. Presentation of Invoices for payment

- i. Burns & McDonnell - for March 2017 engineering services
- ii. Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River - for MN River Congress Sponsorship
- iii. Freshwater Society - 4th Installment of Altered Hydrology Project
- iv. Time Saver Off Site Secretarial - for preparation of March meeting minutes
- v. Kaul Design Group - for first payment for Logo refresh
- vi. Scott County SWCD - for first quarter 2017 monitoring services
- vii. Steinkraus Development LLC - for June office rent
- viii. Dakota County SWCD - for 1st quarter monitoring services

- ix. **Naiad Consulting - for March administrative services**
- x. **US Bank Equipment Finance - May 2017 copier lease payment**

~~D. Authorize Chimney Pines Cost Share Grant Agreement~~

Manager Raby removed 4. D. - Chimney Pines Cost Share Agreement for discussion.

Manager Raby noted the misspelling of a name in the minutes of the May meeting.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Authorize Chimney Pines Cost Share Grant Agreement

Manager Raby commented on the cost of labor. He is concerned that the District not pay for volunteer labor. Administrator Loomis explained the guidelines read that 50% of all expenses are paid. Manager Raby said he thought only half of the expense portion was funded.

Administrator Loomis clarified the guidelines say labor cost is included. Manager Raby stated he wants to make sure they are consistent with the guidelines.

It was determined that the grant agreement is not consistent with the guidelines.

President Shirk made a motion to approve the Chimney Pines Cost Share Grant Agreement with a note that next year they reconsider how the grant agreement and the program guidelines are set. Manager Raby added they should survey other watershed districts to see what they are doing. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS

A. MN Greenway - Eagan segment Cultural resource interpretative plan

Administrator Loomis introduced Lil Leatham from Dakota County.

Ms. Leatham said they have been working the past 9 months through a cultural heritage grant with a technical advisory committee. She provided some background about the Greenway. She said the vision is multipurpose.

The trail will run from Lilydale to the city of Burnsville, a 17 mile segment. She explained they are trying to move beyond typical signage and create engaging installations that are iconic and have a play element to them. Ms. Leatham said they are now in the approval process and they hope to have approval by the county board in July.

Ms. Leatham said all segments of the Greenway are partnerships. The trail runs across five municipalities, Fort Snelling State Park and the US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge. They took care to engage the native Dakota Communities. The overall interpretive theme is the land remembers, which is a Dakota idea, that the land holds memories of what has occurred on it. She explained there are 7 sub themes and the Dakota home land is something that is highlighted throughout the corridor.

Ms. Leatham talked about the stories that will be highlighted at each site.

Ms. Leatham said the next step is to wrap up draft plans, get approvals and move to implementing the plan. She said this plan will position projects for legacy grants. They will be looking for partners.

Manager Raby clarified there are 7 nodes and then the trail head.

President Shirk asked about the funding. Ms. Leatham said there is funding for the trail, but not for the interpretive nodes. She said the County is always pursuing funding for the Greenway.

B. Floodplain Lake Coring project

Administrator Loomis said Carrie Jennings, Freshwater Society, will be making the presentation for the project.

Ms. Jennings said she is the Research and Policy Director for Freshwater. She talked about the proposal to document the sedimentation rates in the Minnesota River Valley. She explained how the river has been changing and any way you measure it the flows in the Minnesota have been increasing. She provided some history of the river and how it was formed.

Ms. Jennings showed the major tributaries of the MN River and their gradients, which are fairly steep in their lower reaches. The tributaries naturally erode to match the grade of the river they flow into. This takes hundreds of thousands of years, but when the amount of water these tributaries carry increases, the rate of erosion increases causing more sediment to carry into the MN River.

The MN River is not well suited to move this sediment; so much of the sediment settles in the floodplain. She said a lot of the river miles have experienced significant widening. A lot of these river miles are bluffs, so when the river channel widens you can understand why so much sediment is generated.

Ms. Jennings talked about the changes in the landscape of the Basin, from a landscape filled with wetlands, to one dominated by agricultural drainage systems, which rapidly channel water to creeks and streams. This change has caused bluffs to erode on average six inches a year. 80 acres of surface area per year are washed down the river and this doesn't consider the relief of the bank. Some of those 80 acres ends up as sediment in the flood plain, some ends up further downstream in Lake Pepin. It is this sediment that keeps the Corps of Engineers dredging year after year to maintain the navigation channel.

There have been many studies done in the upland reaches of watershed and Lake Pepin, but very little attention has been paid to how the valley within the LMRWD has been infilling. We would like to investigate if the channel sedimentation rates have changed significantly, both in channel and floodplain sedimentation.

She noted that gauging data indicates that a lot of sediment is lost in the LMRWD. We don't know where it is being stored. This project will provide an assessment of the sediment accumulation in floodplain of the LMRWD and relate the changes in sedimentation rates to the land management and river inputs and to communicate these results to stakeholder and develop strategies to reduce loading.

Ms. Jennings detailed how cores will be collected and evaluated. She said they will choose lakes that are flooded annually and compare the sediment rates to lakes upland outside the influence of the River.

Manager Hartmann asked which lakes they are interested in. Ms. Jennings said she has spoken with staff and thought possibly near Black Dog, because they think it will yield some interesting data. She thought one lake downstream and one upstream. She noted a lot depends on access and property owners.

Manager Raby asked what lakes they would be comparing the cores to. Ms. Jennings responded they would be using Lotus, Mitchell and Round lakes. Manager Raby asked if they should compare to lakes along the river upstream. Ms. Jennings said they are using the lakes mentioned because they have already been studied, they are close enough to have similar

pollens and they are using studies that have already been done to avoid extra costs. Ms. Jennings does not know if there is data from floodplain lakes upstream to compare to.

Ms. Della Young referred to the graphics Ms. Young presented on the flow. She asked if Ms. Jennings would provide the District with the graphics.

President Shirk asked if there was room in the budget for this project. Administrator Loomis said yes, there is room in the budget. She noted this can also be spread across this year and next.

Manager Raby asked what the timeline is. Ms. Jennings said coring would be done this fall or winter and the project would be done within the next year.

President Shirk made a motion to proceed and authorize the floodplain lake coring project as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Jennings invited Managers to come along when the samples are collected. Managers Shirk and Hartmann expressed interest and asked to be notified when samples are collected.

C. Carver County report on 2016 monitoring data

Administrator Loomis introduced Andrew Edgecumbe, Carver County Watershed Management Organization. Mr. Edgecumbe provided some background information. He said they monitor 15 stream chemistry sites - four within the LMRWD. They sample 19 stream e. coli sites - four within the LMRWD. They sample 19 lakes overall, 3 within the LMRWD boundary. They sample April through October.

Mr. Edgecumbe located the sites within the LMRWD on a map. He showed the average total phosphorus concentrations for each stream site. He noted the two of the sites monitored fall within the range for healthy streams. Two sites exceeded the range for healthy streams slightly. He showed 5 year total phosphorus trends for each site and noted there is no trend. He said that showing no trend is good because there has been a lot of development and no trend indicates water quality is being maintained even though development is occurring.

He showed values for inorganic nitrogen concentrations. Three exceeded the range for the eco-region and one site that falls within the range. Two of the sites that exceeded the range slightly are in the East Chaska Creek Watershed. The third site on West Creek showed a greater variation. This site is a more agricultural watershed, which explains the higher values. He showed the trends and noted a declining trend at the two sites on East Creek (which means levels of nitrogen are decreasing) which is good and the other two sites show no trend over the past five years.

Ms. Della Young asked a question about what is meant by "no trend". Mr. Edgecumbe explained that "no trend" means that measurements do not show enough change in the values found to determine whether the parameter measured indicates improving or declining water quality. It is stable.

He then moved on to Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentrations. Average TSS concentrations for East Chaska Creek fall within the acceptable eco-region range. EC1 (East Creek-site#1) and CH1 (West Creek-site #1) slightly exceed the range. He noted that measurements at EC2 (East Creek-site #2) shows a very high TSS average concentration. Ms. Young asked if Mr. Edgecumbe knows why. He explained that they do not know, except that there is an exposed bluff area upstream that may be contributing sediment. Mr. Charlie Sawdey noted that these are average

concentrations. It could have been that there was one event when the creek was sampled that skewed the average

Administrator Loomis asked if there is an explanation as to why EC2 which is upstream from EC1 would have higher concentration. She asked if this site is above the diversion and wondered where the sediment may be collecting. Mr. Sawdey said there is an area above the diversion where the water slows down and that sediment may be accumulating there. Mr. Edgecumbe noted that area was dredged this spring and it has refilled. Mr. Sawdey noted that there is a knick point above EC2 where the water picks up in velocity, which may erode the banks and could also explain the increase sediment.

Mr. Edgecumbe noted that there is no trend observed in the TSS concentrations.

The last parameter discussed is e.coli. Mr. Edgecumbe noted measurements at all sites fall within the eco-region range. Administrator Loomis asked why the streams are all on the 303(d) list if they are within the range for the eco-region. Mr. Sawdey said the sites are above the chronic state standard, even though they are within the range for the eco-region. They are all considered impaired for e.coli.

Mr. Edgecumbe moved on to discuss the lakes monitored. No trend is observed in total phosphorus, water clarity, (30 feet in Courthouse) and transparency. He noted they are all high quality lakes, especially compared to other lakes in the County.

He then asked if the Managers had any questions. Manager Shirk thanked Mr. Edgecumbe.

D. 2017 Cost Share Application - Janezich

Administrator Loomis said she received another cost share application. This application was for three projects on one property. The total for project one was \$5,689, project two was \$3,790 and project three was a rain garden in the back yard with a cost of \$9,476. Administrator Loomis noted that this property is at the top of a bluff and is in the bluff management area. She said the reason for request is for the mitigation of storm water and erosion concerns. The grant request was for \$2,500 for each project.

President Shirk said she would look at it as one project. Manager Hartmann asked if the cost would increase if he spread the work over three years. Manager Raby asked how much was labor and how much would be for materials. Administrator Loomis said she did not have that information broken out. Manager Raby said he would like to see a breakdown with more detail. Administrator Loomis said she will be in touch with the applicant.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. MN River Clean Up Event

Administrator Loomis said she hasn't heard back from Burnsville. She told the Managers that she has looked at three sites in Shakopee. She identified the areas she investigated and the type of work that is needed in each area. She said two of the sites would be good, but that she ruled out one site, because of access issues and the size of the project. It may be a possible project for another year. She will work with Great River Greening to get an estimate of the cost for the projects.

B. Dredge Management

i. Review Process for funding of maintenance of Navigation Channel

No new information to report.

ii. Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management site

Administrator Loomis said she hopes to have a work plan ready for approval in July. She noted the LMRWD would like to have the plan go before the BWSR board at its August 24th meeting.

President Shirk asked about the Corps dredging. Administrator Loomis said plans are to dredge this summer, however it is a question of the water level and if something happens downstream that gets priority over the Minnesota River.

Manager Hartmann asked about the 50,000 cubic yards Rachel Contracting is planning to remove from the site. Administrator Loomis said she will find out where the material goes.

iii. Private Dredge Material Placement

No new information to report

C. Watershed Management Plan

i. Plan update/Major Plan Amendment

Administrator Loomis said this item was discussed at the work session prior to the meeting. Manager Raby asked about changes Managers discussed at the work session. Ms. Young said those changes will be made, but that the critical parts of the plan amendment are the standards and the implementation plan, which were not changing. The Managers need to approve the implementation program and standards and authorize submission of the plan amendment to BWSR.

Manager Raby made a motion to move submittal of the plan with the changes to the Plan Amendment discussed at the work session. The motion was seconded by President Shirk. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Legislative Action

i. 2017 Legislative Session

Administrator Loomis asked if the board would like staff to respond to the letter the LMRWD received from the MPCA. She noted that she and Mr. Harnack do not believe the MPCA and BWSR can accomplish what they have committed to in the timeframe they have developed.

She also noted a letter was in the packet commenting on the Hawk Creek TMDL/WRAPS report, prepared by Mr. Norm Senjem. She noted she would revise the letter. She asked Managers for direction on both the response to the MPCA and the comments to the Hawk Creek Watershed.

Manager Raby said the comment letter seems like a lecture and a little harsh. Manager Hartmann said the content is right but some of the wording should be changed. Manager Raby also noted the comment letter asks for a meeting. President Shirk said they need to go on record with the concerns. Managers agreed a meeting was not necessary.

Manager Raby agreed with President Shirk and directed the comments be revised and sent to the MPCA. Managers discussed wording for the letter to BWSR and the MPCA.

ii. Freshwater Society Altered Hydrology Project

Administrator Loomis informed the Managers that this project is complete and a final report is being prepared. She asked the Managers if they would like to hear about the slope stability project Ms. Jennings is working on. Managers agreed. Ms. Jennings is

working with Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota. She then proceeded to explain the project which will inventory all the steep slopes in Hennepin County and then work to identify slopes statewide. The data will be released through the USGS. She expects an atlas of the slopes in Hennepin County will be complete in a year. The statewide project will take three years.

Ms. Young said some of the cities have asked the District to develop a Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) to justify the changes in the Plan Amendment with respect to steep slopes. She asked Ms. Jennings whether or not this work would be helpful in the development of the SONAR. Ms. Jennings said it would.

E. Website Redesign

Administrator Loomis said she provided the feedback to the web designer. The website is close to being active. She said to let her know about content or any other ideas the board wants on the website. President Shirk commented on an article that Trout Unlimited did about the lost trout streams. She thought it would be good to have this information either on the website or linked to it.

F. Education and Outreach Plan

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

Administrator Loomis said the intern will be at the Hennepin County Fair handing out information. The focus will be on urban, suburban and rural and what can people do to reduce the flow. President Shirk said it would be helpful to have something more urban for the residents.

ii. Citizen Advisory Committee

No change since last update.

G. LMRWD Projects

i. Riley Creek Cooperative Project/Hennepin County Flying Cloud Drive/CSAH 61 reconstruction project

Administrator Loomis said the scope of work was provided in the executive summary.

Administrator Loomis reviewed the deliverables. Manager Raby asked why they would be paying an engineer to observe work contracted by the County. Managers discussed this and all felt more comfortable with changing the terminology to something other than construction observation. Ms. Young said she believes it is just the terminology. Staff responded that change to the language would be requested.

President Shirk made a motion to approve the contract subject to amending the language. The motion was seconded by Manager Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project

Administrator Loomis said she hopes to have outstanding documents in to BWSR by the next meeting.

iii. Analysis of Dakota County Project

Administrator Loomis said staff continues to meet with the DNR. DNR has agreed to provide the District with all the information it has regarding fens. Staff will begin to conduct a gap analysis.

iv. East Chaska Creek/ CSAH 61 & TH 41 Transportation Improvement Project

Administrator Loomis said the District has received the final draft of the preliminary storm water report. Staff will continue to work with the city and county. If comments are provided, Managers will be notified and provided with the comments.

v. Savage Fen Ravine Project

Administrator Loomis said she has not heard from the City of Savage.

H. Project Reviews

i. City of Carver - The Meadows at Spring Creek

No change since last update

ii. City of Eden Prairie - 12300 Riverview Road - Hueler Subdivision

No change since last update

iii. City of Chaska - MMPA (Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) Electric Generation Plant

No change since last update

iv. Hennepin County - Upper Post Fort Snelling/Bloomington Road Project

No change since last update.

v. 2014-03152-RMM - Port Richards

No change since last update.

vi. Xcel Energy Black Dog Plant

Staff has discovered that the pipeline project started and the District was not notified. Administrator Loomis reported that both the DNR and MPCA are overseeing activities related to the project. There have been two incidents where mud was released from the directional boring and the District was not informed. Staff will continue to monitor this project.

vii. City of Shakopee - Eagle Creek Ridge

No change since last update.

viii. City of Burnsville Cargill/Mosaic levy project

Staff was informed Mosaic is planning to construct a warehouse in the floodplain. as part of the project they intend to raise the height of the levy protecting the property and rehabilitate neglected portions of the levy. Staff reviewed the project and needed more information in order to comment. Staff requested the information.

I. Dean Lake - no change since last update

No change since last update. The MPCA has not yet sent confirmation that Dean Lake has been re-classified.

J. MPCA Soil Reference Values

No change since last update.

K. MAWD Special meeting

Administrator Loomis said the District has two votes at the MAWD Special Meeting. The second delegate can assign his/her vote to a proxy. Managers asked if the first delegate can be the proxy. Administrator Loomis did not know and said she would find out. Managers discussed the issues to be decided at the Special Meeting.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator Report:

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS
Wednesday June 14, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

Administrator Loomis had nothing to report

B. President:

President Shirk had nothing to report.

C. Managers:

Manager Hartmann said he will not be at the July meeting

D. Committees - No report

E. Legal Counsel - No report

F. Engineer – No report

8. ADJOURN

President Shirk made a motion to adjourn. Manager Raby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. President Shirk adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Jesse Hartmann, Vice President

Attest:

Linda Loomis, Administrator