

**Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization  
Bayport Public Library  
6:00 pm May 12, 2016**

**Present:** Doug Menikheim, City of Stillwater; Dan Kylo, West Lakeland Township; Nancy Anderson, City of St. Mary's Point; Dan Goldston, City of Bayport; Brian Zeller, City of Lakeland Shores; John Fellegly, Baytown Township; Tom McCarthy, City of Lake St. Croix Beach; Annie Perkins, City of Afton; Administrator Mike Isensee, GreenCorps Member Katherine McLellan

**1. Call to Order – Regular Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Treasurer's Report:**

- a) Report of savings account, assets for May 12, 2016

The treasurer's report was presented. The remaining checking account balance is \$123,073.38. First State Bank CDs are valued at \$32,094.13. The ending balance in the RBC savings account is \$34,655.75. Bills to be approved this month are: \$1,310.83 Emmons and Olivier Resources; \$999.86 Emmons and Olivier Resources; \$454.25 Emmons and Olivier Resources; \$123.90 Kennedy and Graven \$2,277.00 League of Minnesota Cities; \$48.88 Minuteman Press; \$1,900.00 Peterson Company; \$1,600.00 Regents of the U of M; \$9,974.17 Washington Conservation District (water monitoring); \$1,500.00 Washington Conservation District (educator); \$3,798.60 Washington Conservation District (admin- March); \$2,665.00 Washington Conservation District (tech services- March); \$1,560.00 Washington Conservation District (admin- April); \$3,915.00 Washington Conservation District (tech services- April). Bills total to \$32,127.49. Contributions received are: \$780.69 Lakeland Shores; \$20,491.13 Stillwater; \$9,674.35 West Lakeland; \$6,601.99 Lakeland; \$8,048.12 Bayport; \$10,603.74 Oak Park Heights; \$488.32 City of Afton; \$2,591.27 Lake St. Croix Beach; \$5,552.14 Town of Baytown; \$533.27 St. Mary's Point. Contributions total to \$64,365.02.

- b) Approve payment of bills for May 12, 2016

Mr. Fellegly moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills presented. The motion carried.

**3. Public Comment**

Annie Perkins introduced herself as the new representative for Afton to the MSCWMO Board. She grew up in the area and currently works in sustainability at Andersen Windows in Bayport.

**4. Old Business**

- a. Southern MSCWMO Subwatershed Analysis Survey Results

GreenCorps Member Katherine McLellan shared information on the landowner survey that she conducted in the southern area of the MSCWMO. The goal of the survey was to better understand landowners' attitudes towards conservation efforts, so that outreach and education efforts can be tailored to landowners' concerns and interests. The survey targeted the area that drains directly to the St. Croix River in the southern part of the watershed, in conjunction with the subwatershed analysis of the same area. A sample of 500 landowners in this area received the survey, and 134 landowners (26.8%) responded.

Results of the survey indicate that respondents overwhelmingly care about the water quality of the St. Croix River, and the majority of respondents are either somewhat or very concerned about the impact of stormwater on the St. Croix River. Respondents are most likely to interact with the river by living near it, swimming or visiting beaches, biking or walking near it, and boating. When asked about trends in the water quality of St. Croix River, the most popular responses were that the water quality is staying the same or that the respondent didn't know about the water quality trends. The most common barriers to implementing conservation projects were the expense of the projects, lack of access to technical assistance in design and construction, and a lack of information on future costs and maintenance in the projects.

Mr. Zeller expressed his opinion that the results of the survey should be shared with other groups who are working on similar issues in the area, such as the DNR and the SCRA. Administrator Isensee told the group that he and GreenCorps Member McLellan were already planning to share the survey with Stephanie Souter at Washington County. Mr. Fellegly said that the survey should also be shared with the population who was surveyed, and that this would help garner publicity for the MSCWMO. Mr. Zeller followed up on the topic of publicity and about a quarterly update for the MSCWMO. Administrator Isensee said that this update was still in development, and would be implemented by the next board meeting. He explained that a volunteer who is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota would be helping with the quarterly update, as well as creating a database for waste and compost services for each MSCWMO community. Mr. Zeller brought up his desire for a presentation to the Board on phosphorus and its environmental importance in the MSCWMO, and Administrator Isensee noted that information on phosphorus would be presented in the next Board meeting.

#### **b. Building Inspector Building Lot Erosion and Sediment Control Meeting Summary**

Administrator Isensee discussed his meeting with building inspectors, which took place on April 29<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting, Administrator Isensee met with three building inspectors: MnSpec, representing Lakeland and Lakeland Shores; Duane Stenslund, representing St. Mary's Point and West Lakeland Township; and Afton Valley Inspections representing Baytown Township. Administrator Isensee explained that erosion and sediment control is very important because during construction, there can be 10 times as much soil loss as in agricultural settings. Administrator Isensee emphasized that erosion control is a more effective strategy than sediment control, because erosion control prevents soil loss in the first place instead of trying to drop sediment out of suspension once it has already been eroded. Regulations state that soils should be stabilized within 14 days of disturbance (or within 7 days if the site is within 1 mile of the St. Croix River), and that soils should be stabilized by the framing inspection. Enforcement of these

rules is inconsistent, and Administrator Isensee's goal is to make sure that the erosion and sediment control measures in the plans are actually implemented.

Mr. Fellegly expressed concern that contractors aren't focused on erosion and sediment control, and Mr. Zeller said that the goal of this meeting was to change that, since these measures are in code. Ms. Perkins asked which code they are in, and Administrator Isensee said that they are in MIDS and MN state code. Mr. Goldston asked whether there was an equivalent to a SWPPP for smaller residential projects, and Administrator Isensee said that SWPPPs only apply for projects that are over 1 acre, but that there are a series of requirements for smaller projects. Mr. Zeller inquired about the nature of the annual oats that Administrator Isensee had discussed as an erosion control measure. Administrator Isensee assured him that since it is only an annual plant, it would not come back the following year or become invasive. Mr. Zeller suggested that educational efforts with builders during the winter when they are less busy could be helpful, and that framing the issue as a way to improve their job sites might be smart.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. MSCWMO 2015 Audit Results**

Administrator Isensee reported the MSCWMO's 2015 audit had gone smoothly, and that the MSCWMO was found to be in compliance with the provisions for political subdivisions.

Mr. Kylo moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson to approve the audit results. The motion carried.

## **6. Cost Share Program**

### **a. Junker Raingarden Stillwater**

Administrator Isensee presented a cost-share application for a raingarden in the Lake McKusick watershed, on property owned by Ms. Junker. Administrator Isensee explained that the site has a fairly large drainage area for a residential raingarden, and could reduce the annual phosphorus load by 0.2 lbs. The raingarden would be installed by the owner, and the estimate for materials is \$958. Because this site is in a prioritized area, it qualifies for 75% of the costs of the raingarden, not to exceed \$500, under the new grant policies. Mr. Zeller expressed that this amount was more than he expected, and Administrator Isensee emphasized that the raingarden is in a prioritized location and has a good load reduction, and that he is therefore recommending approval of the application.

Mr. Fellegly moved, seconded by Mr. Kylo, to approve the Junker Raingarden cost-share application. The motion carried.

### **b. St. Croix Prep Academy Native Prairie Restoration, Bayport**

Administrator Isensee introduced the cost-share application for the St. Croix Prep Academy Native Prairie Restoration in Bayport. This project entails 6 acres of prairie restoration, which would not directly impact water quality but would provide quality habitat. Parent volunteers are helping to install the project, and have already received funding from Audubon Society and Pheasants Forever, but they still need \$1000.

Mr. Zeller moved, seconded by Mr. Fellegly, to approve the cost-share application for the St. Croix Prep Academy Native Prairie Restoration. The motion carried.

**c. Manley Bioretention Basin, 1770 Riviera, Lake St. Croix Beach:**

Administrator Isensee presented a cost-share application for a bioretention basin at 1770 Riviera in Lake St. Croix Beach. The landowner is proposing to install a raingarden that would capture 2 acres of urban drainage, which is a large amount of drainage for the type of project. Currently, the runoff in this area is discharging to catch basins that go straight to the St. Croix. The total cost estimate for the project is \$6,602, which is lower than would be typical because the landowner is going to do the work himself.

Mr. Fellegly and Mr. Zeller expressed concern over the expense of this project, and the large proportion of the cost-share budget that it would consume. Mr. Zeller asked whether the City of Lake St. Croix Beach would be able to assist with the cost, since the project would take drainage off of the city's streets. Mr. McCarthy said that would not be possible with the City's current budget. Administrator Isensee also pointed out that cities do not typically contribute to projects in this manner because they have already have annual dues to pay to the MSCWMO. Administrator Isensee stated that without technical assistance and the requested \$4,250.00 the project would be installed without the proper methods and would not function correctly. Mr. Zeller said that he would support the project, and that in the future this type of project would benefit from other supporters and other sources of revenue.

Ms. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. Zeller, to approve the cost share application for 75% of the total project costs not to exceed \$4,250.00. The motion carried.

**7. Plan Reviews/Submittals**

**a. 55 Lakeland Shores Road New Garage -Lakeland Shores**

Administrator Isensee reported on a project in Lakeland Shores to add a new garage to an existing property. Administrator Isensee had already transmitted the results of the plan review to the applicants, in which he recommended approval of the project. The infiltration standards were met through a drywell. No motion was required because the results of the review had already been transmitted.

**b. 1067 Quixote Reconstruction and Addition – Lakeland**

Administrator Isensee reported on the plan review for a project in Lakeland involving a reconstruction and addition of an existing home. Because it is greater than 500 square feet, the project triggers a review. A bioretention cell is proposed to meet the storm water requirements. Administrator Isensee recommended approval with the following eight conditions:

1. Raise the lowest floor elevation of structure two feet above the 100-year flood elevation.

2. Identify the location, size and vegetative characterizes of the buffer upslope of Lake St. Croix.
3. Add estimated types and quantities of temporary erosion control, permanent erosion control and sediment control practices.
4. Add required contact information for person responsible for construction site erosion and sediment control.
5. Identify soiling tilling and soil bed preparation prior to installation of final vegetation
6. Identity timing of installation of final stabilization.
7. Add infiltration basin construction standards.
8. Add requires infiltration basin detail and amendments information.

Mr. Zeller brought up a concern with a MNDOT culvert that he believed was near the site in question. Administrator Isensee made a note of the potential culvert.

Mr. Zeller moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the plan with the eight conditions listed above. The motion carried.

#### **c. Bayport New Downtown Parking Lot Review-Bayport**

Administrator Isensee described the proposed Third Street Parking Lot, located at 169 3rd Street in the City of Bayport. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2016 Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Because it is over 6000 square feet, the project requires an erosion and sediment control plan and volume control. The project, as submitted, meets all applicable Performance Standards contained within Section 7.0 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan. The project proposes to construct a bioretention basin behind the parking lot, which would overflow to Perro Creek. Administrator Isensee pointed out that the project would improve water quality because the existing gravel lot runs off to Perro Creek, and he recommended approval of the project.

Mr. Zeller moved, seconded by Mr. Goldston, to approve the plan submittal for the Bayport downtown parking lot. The motion carried.

#### **d. DahlTec Reconstruction- Oak Park Heights**

Administrator Isensee presented the submittal for a proposed Dahl-Tech Inc. Building Expansion, located at 5805 St. Croix Trail N. within the City of Oak Park Heights. The proposed project is over 6000 square feet and therefore triggered the MSCWMO's infiltration requirement. The project as submitted complies will all applicable Policies and Performance Standards contained within Section 7.0 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan. The project creates an infiltration basin behind the building that will take runoff from the parking lot. Administrator Isensee recommended approval of the project.

Mr. Kylo moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the DahlTec Reconstruction plan submittal. The motion carried.

Mr. Zeller noted the large amount of gravel in the area near the DahlTec site and wondered whether it would be helpful to remind the owner of that land—probably either Xcel Energy or Andersen Windows—that the gravel is bad for water quality. Ms. Perkins said that she didn't think that Andersen's property contained large areas of gravel.

**e. Stillwater 2016 Streets Reconstruction- Stillwater**

Administrator Isensee reported that the MSCWMO received submittal items for the City of Stillwater's proposed 2016 Street Improvement Project. The project qualifies for a full review by the MSCWMO. The City is proposing to install a large infiltration basin that would be oversized for the project but would qualify for BSWR grant funding because it lies in a prioritized area. The timeline of the project is to finish the design this year during the street reconstruction, and start on construction of the infiltration basin next year. Administrator Isensee recommended approval of the submittal with the six conditions below:

1. Change the SWPPP to note that the project is within 1 mile of and discharging to Lake St. Croix.
2. Describe dewatering technique to prevent nuisance conditions.
3. Describe pollution prevention management measures
  - a. Storage, handling, and disposal of construction products, materials, and wastes.
  - b. Fueling and maintenance of equipment or vehicles; spill prevention and response.
  - c. Vehicle and equipment washing.
  - d. No engine degreasing allowed on site.
  - e. Containment of Concrete and other washout waste.
  - f. Portable toilets are positioned so that they are secure.
4. Identify the location and types of temporary and permanent erosion control practices.
5. Note minimum required stabilization timeframes:
  - a. Exposed soils have erosion protection/cover initiated immediately and finished or within 7 days.
  - b. Wetted perimeters of ditches stabilized within 200 feet of surface water within 24 hours.
  - c. Pipe outlets have energy dissipation within 24 hours of connecting.
6. Include the tabulated quantities of all erosion prevention and sediment control BMPs.

Administrator Isensee is waiting for final revisions before requesting approval from the Board.

**f. Scallon Parking Pad Reconstruction-Lakeland**

Administrator Isensee informed the Board of an upcoming project at the Scallon property in Lakeland, which involves reconstructing the parking pad by replacing the rotting timbers with stone. This project does not definitively need a review, but Administrator Isensee is proposing to provide technical assistance in order to ensure the project minimizes the risk of bluff erosion. Mr. Zeller encouraged Administrator Isensee to continue providing technical assistance as necessary, because the site that already undergone a lot of work and received a lot funding from the MSCWMO. He expressed that additional technical assistance to make sure that this project is carried out correctly would be wise.

## **8. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Isensee submitted a written report. He updated the Board on the MCC work that will be done on BMPs this summer, specifically on BMP maintenance. He said that there are a few raingardens between 2007 and 2009 that are currently not functional because they are not infiltrating. The only way to fix these projects would be to dig out the bottom, install engineered soils, and install a gate valve and underdrain, all of which would cost about \$5,000.00 for each practice. Administrator Isensee said that because grant money can't be allocated to maintenance of existing raingardens, this will be a future cost to a local unit of government if it is determined they should be fixed instead of removed. Mr. Zeller asked whether these issues were covered in a maintenance agreement. Administrator Isensee said these raingardens were installed prior to homeowner maintenance agreements. Mr. Zeller said that this problem should be solved for the current and future installations of raingardens. Administrator Isensee said that the current maintenance agreements are better able to prevent these problems.

## **9. Adjourn**

Mr. Felleggy moved, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27.