

Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Bayport Public Library
Minutes, April 12, 2018

Present: Doug Menikheim, City of Stillwater; Mike Runk, City of Oak Park Heights; Tom McCarthy, City of Lake St. Croix Beach; Brian Zeller, City of Lakeland Shores; John Fellegly, Baytown Township; Annie Perkins, Afton; Patrick McGann, Bayport; Mike Isensee; MSCWMO Administrator; Cameron Blake, WCD BMP Maintenance Technician

Call to Order – Regular Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Mr. Zeller.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the January 11th, 2018 minutes was made by Mr. Runk, Seconded by Mr. Menikheim. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented. Mr. Zeller inquired about receivables from communities discussed in January. Administrator Isensee reported he had notified communities and received about half of them.

Financial Report

The remaining checking account balance is \$212,037.13. First Bank CDs are values at \$32,094.13. The ending balance in the RBC savings account is \$48,694.48.

Mr. McCarthy motioned to approve the budget update. Mr. Runk seconded. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills for March 8, 2018

Carmen Simonet Design \$1,360.00, Carmen Simonet Design \$276.25, Emmons and Oliver Resources \$704.47, Emmons and Oliver Resources \$4,989.29, League of MN Cities \$2,285.00, Minutemen Press \$336.26, Washington Conservation District (Administration) \$4,189.40, Washington Conservation District (Tech Services) \$4,269.25, Washington Conservation District (Water Monitoring) \$4,514.78, Washington Conservation District (EMWREP) \$1,500.00, Washington Conservation District (Administration) \$4,471.25, Washington Conservation District (Tech Services) \$8,006.50, Wenck Associates \$3,965.20.

Mr. Runk motioned to approve payment of the bills. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion Carried.

Public Comments

None Submitted.

Mr. Zeller discussed being approached by a research assistant from Mark Lambert, a developer of Summit Management, who inquired about the MSCWMO's regulatory format. Mr. Zeller explained

the MSCWMO's role is advisory for its member community's regulatory program. Administrator Isensee suspects this inquiry is related to the proposed House File 3805 and Senate File 3379 at the state legislature. Administrator Isensee reported that the MN Association of Watershed Directors are aware of the bills and working with stakeholders at the state capitol.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Watershed-Based Funding Update

Administrator Isensee explained that BWSR sent the notification in February that Washington County received \$787,600 through the Watershed Based Funding Program for local projects to improve water quality. The funding needs to be allocated to projects and work agreements completed by June. All Washington County communities were notified and a public meeting was held to identify the types of projects eligible for funding and how to split the funding amongst Washington County local government entities. The decision was made to split the funding evenly between Washington County, Washington Conservation District and the six Watershed Management Organizations for this one time distribution. Based on the agreed funding formula, the MSCWMO will receive \$78,760 for the watershed based funding for project implementation. The funding requires a minimum of 10% match and must be directed to projects and activities to address water quality issues within the watershed. Similar to Clean Water Fund Grants, staff will be working with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to develop an approvable work plan. Staff recommends applying the funding to "shovel ready projects". Two such project areas currently exist: Lily Lake stormwater best management practices and Perro Creek stormwater best management practices.

Administrator Isensee provided the following strategy for applying for grants in 2018: Watershed Based Funding \$58,700 to Lily Lake Raingardens, Watershed Based Funding \$20,000 to Perro Creek Raingardens, St. Croix River Association \$40,000 grant application for projects identified in the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis, Competitive Clean Water Fund \$100,000 grant for projects identified in the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis, Competitive Clean Water Fund \$900,000 grant to Lily Lake Final 45 Implementation Projects, MPCA Watershed Monitoring Grant to monitor Perro Creek bacteria and Mulberry Ravine outfall.

Mr. Zeller asked about other 2018 projects. Administrator Isensee confirmed that smaller voluntary landowner projects will be funded through the BMP program. Mr. Zeller and Administrator Isensee discussed the grant received from the St. Croix River Association who lobbies legislature for money and then redistributes in an effective partnership so far with the MSCWMO.

Motion by Mr. Zeller, second by Mr. Menikheim to approve the allocation of watershed based funding between the Lily Lake stormwater quality retrofits and the Perro Creek stormwater quality retrofits. The motion carried.

One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee Appointment

One Watershed One Plan is an approach adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resource as at result from policy work conducted by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) during a multi-year Local Government Water Roundtable. The Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan boundary includes 5 Counties, 5 Soil and

Water Conservation Districts, 5 Watershed Districts and two Joint Powers WMOs. The 17 local entities will work to coordinate their local plans. The resulting plan will not require local entities to implement or participate in activities that are not in their local plan.

The development of this plan is important because the Board of Water and Soil Resources plans to decrease annual grants and distribute Clean Water Funds to One Water One Plans throughout Minnesota. The plan development process is anticipated to run from April 2018 to July 2019. During this timeframe 14 steering committee and 13 policy committee meetings are anticipated. Administrator Isensee will serve. The board is requested to designate a Policy Committee Member and Alternate.

Mr. Menikheim spoke to Administrator Isensee to better understand the process and volunteers to be the primary policy member for the MSCWMO. The board discussed having Administrator Isensee serve as the alternate. Administrator Isensee communicated that he believe it was okay to be the alternate voting member, but was not certain. He could clarify this at the first policy meeting.

Mr. Zeller nominated Mr. Menikheim as the One Watershed One Plan Steering Committee Policy Member and Administrator Isensee as the alternate. Mr. Fellegly Seconded. Motion carried.

MSCWMO 2017 Year End Report

Administrator Isensee will send the executive summary for the board to present to their communities. Administrator Isensee is requesting approval to submit to BWSR.

Mr. Runk moved to approve the MSCWMO 2017 Year End Report, second by Mr. McCarthy. The motion carried.

MSCWMO Biennial Review

Revisions to State Statute 8410 require watersheds at a minimum of every two years, conduct an evaluation of progress on goals and the implementation actions. The following document is the first evaluation of progress since the adoption of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan on October 2015.

The Biennial Review finds the MSCWMO is fully implementing all but one of the actions identified in the 10 year management plan. Administrator Isensee will work with communities to identify flood issues. The WMO can work on finding funding to help cities update their models with the ultimate goal of making sure if flooding events were to happen that emergency routes will be acceptable. Administrator Isensee reported that the other components of the watershed plan are either on track or ahead.

Mr. Zeller had a question about flooding issues. Historically surface water discharge has been focused on flooding and now infiltration is being focused on. He wondered if infiltration would help with flooding issues. Administrator Isensee explained that the retrofit infiltration projects are intended to address the first inch of runoff and due to the increase in size and duration of storm events they will likely not be able to address the projected increase from 5.9 to 7.8 inches of 100 year 24 hour large storm events. Susceptibility to flooding issues of the member communities was discussed. Administrator Isensee discussed the 2014 new development standards do a better job of

managing larger storm events identified in Atlas 14. Ms. Perkins asked about incentives for new developments to lessen the load on infrastructure. Administrator Isensee or Mr. Zeller explained that development is currently designed to meet minimum standards and that it's hard to do more due to the financial pressures of land development. Volume control measurements are already part of these minimum requirements.

Mr. Fellegly moved to approve the MSCWMO 2015-2017 Biennial Evaluation.. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried.

Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis Final Report

In 2016 the MSCWMO approved the funding to complete the first analysis of the southern portions of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization. The draft final report summarizes pollutant loads and identifies potential water quality improvement project for areas south of Bayport to St. Mary's Point that directly drain to Lake St. Croix. The final report identifies 10 catchments areas and 19 projects that would reduce phosphorous loading to Lake St. Croix by 110.4 lbs. per year. Most importantly, the report establishes a cost/benefit that will be used to rank and prioritize future water quality improvement projects for grant funding. The full draft report and a summary of projects has been provided to each of the communities within the Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge Area.

Mr. Fellegly moved to approve the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis Report. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Biennial Budget Request

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) solicits information regarding local government planned activities and associated budgets for the FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget Request (BBR). A primary purpose of the BBR is to generate information in a common format necessary to support the State-Local partnership by ensuring that local water management implementation priorities are used in the development of the State budget. By demonstrating that the MSCWMO and our member communities are prepared and capable of implementing prioritized, targeted and measurable water quality projects, State decision-makers have increased confidence that State funds appropriated for water management projects and activities will achieve their purpose to protect and improve Minnesota's waters.

The MSCWMO BBR includes all projects identified in the 2015 MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan. Administrator Isensee reported the MSCWMO is anticipating \$1.3 million with \$346,000 in leveraged funds. This funding projection is based on the MSCWMO 10 Year Watershed Management Plan.

Mr. Runk moved to approve the MSCWMO 2020-2021 Biennial Budget Request. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried.

2017 MSCWMO Water Monitoring Summary

Administrator Isensee reported the water monitoring study, identifying Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, and Perro Creek as the waters of interest in MSCWMO. Currently Brown's Creek Watershed District monitors the outflow of the diversion to McKusick. Lily Lake is continuing the long-term statistical improving trend for TP with Secchi and Chl-a neither getting better or worse. Mr. Fellego had a question about the E coli issue in Perro Creek possibly related to dog poop. Administrator Isensee reported that 3 items are being acted on in reference to Perro Creek. 1- articles about pet waste and leaf litter are being published in the City newsletter. 2- Administrator Isensee is contacting homeowners on the creek about voluntary projects to infiltrate more stormwater. 3- He is applying for funding for the PCA to investigate the origin of the E coli bacteria which can cost in excess of \$10,000. There are two locations where wastewater treatment pipes intersect the creek and so this could be an INI issue. Mr. McGann discussed asking Bayport's public works to look at replacement of old sewer lines. Administrator Isensee said he was talking to Matt, the public work's director on testing for INI and working with the PCA to identify the source of E coli prior to implanting projects on the waste water system. Mr. Zeller asked about using dye tabs to find leaks. Mr. Runk asked about televising the sewer pipes. Administrator Isensee explained that Bayport's stormsewer and sanitary were recently entered into GIS which is a great step. Action was needed to approve the report. Mr. McCarthy moved to approve the report. Ms. Perkins seconded. Motion carried.

St. Croix River Association Grant Application- LSCD South Subwatershed

The St. Croix River Association is now accepting applications for funding through its Lake St. Croix Watershed Improvement program on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed. Grants awards up to \$40,000 will support phosphorus reduction activities and monitoring projects. Applications are due May 15th, 2018. The grant funds are available for two years, and grantees must provide at least 25% of the total project cost. Match may be a combination of cash and in-kind from non-state sources.

Mr. Zeller moved to approve submitting an application for up to \$40,000 for the St. Croix River Association Lake St. Croix Watershed Improvement Grant. Mr. Fellego Seconded. Motion carried.

2018 Conservation Corps of Minnesota Clean Water Fund Work Orders

The MSCWMO was awarded 14 Minnesota Conservation Crew days to assist communities with the installation of water quality BMPs. Staff request to sign and execute the grant agreements. Administrator Isensee discussed the work orders which would include planting on the Stillwater Jr. High and Greeley Gully Basin projects. Mr. Zeller asked about the Greeley Gully basin which was supposed to be completed last year and Administrator Isensee said they are 70% done and should be complete this year. Action was needed to sign the work orders.

Mr. Zeller moved to approve signature and execution of the Clean Water Fund Minnesota Conservation Corps 2018 Grant Agreements. Mr. Fellego seconded. Motion carried.

North Hill Community Garden Native Plant Grant Application

The North Hill Community Garden is applying for cost share funding not to exceed \$250 for a 910 square foot native garden installation on their property at 1004 Martha Street N. in Stillwater. Technical staff have reviewed the project and recommend approval.

Mr. Fellegy moved to approve a native plant grant not to exceed \$250 for the North Hill Community Garden Native Garden. Mr. McGann seconded. Motion carried.

MPCA Monitoring Grant

Administrator Isensee added a motion to apply for the PCA 10 year monitoring grant for Perro Creek and the McKusick outfall. As part of the 10 year state wide monitoring program, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking requests for monitoring as part of their 2019-2020 monitoring effort in the Lower St. Croix Watershed. Staff recommend proposing the MPCA monitor Perro Creek for bacteria and monitor the outfall of Mulberry ravine in Stillwater that is the ultimate outfall of Lily Lake, Long Lake, Lake McKusick, and direct urban runoff from Stillwater into the St. Croix.

Mr. Fellegy moved to approve an application to the MPCA to monitor Perro Creek and the Mulberry Ravine. Mr. McGann seconded. Motion passed.

TH 36 Landscaping Installation, Oak Park Heights

Administrator Isensee discussed the tree and shrub planting plan. Mr. Zeller asked who was paying for this. It is part of the bridge project and is paid for.

Mr. Fellegy moved to accept this review. Mr. McGann seconded. Motion carried.

35 Lakeland Shores Road Shoreline Stabilization, Lakeland Shores

Administrator Isensee discussed the effort to use soil filled rip rap for the stabilization project. This could become a conservation cost share project if the logistics of installing the soil filled riprap can be worked out. If the project becomes a conservation cost share project, Administrator Isensee recommends to waive the \$350 review fee for this landowner due to the merit of the project and the efforts of the landowner so far. Action needed to review the installation of rip rap.

Mr. Zeller moved to approve the 25 Lakeland Shores Road Shoreline Stabilization Project. Mr. Fellegy seconded. Motion carried.

CSAH 24, Stillwater

Administrator Isensee requests to approve the underground treatment proposal with 9 significant conditions with the understanding to work out the technical conditions with them. Mr. Zeller inquired why the county decided on an underground project rather than a surface project.

Mr. Menikheim moved to approve the CSAH 24 Project with 9 conditions. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried.

Palmer Station, Oak Park Heights

Administrator Isensee reported there were many issues with the proposal and the review could not be completed.

Andersen Windows Redevelopment, Bayport

The project has shifted from voluntary to regulatory with the infiltration basin being used for the new pavement plans. Soil tests came back from the site finding the soil to be sandy, well-draining, and not contaminated. Mr. Zeller commended Andersen Window for their commitment to working in partnership with the WMO to improve water quality.

Mr. Zeller moved to approve the Andersen Windows Redevelopment Project. Mr. Felleggy seconded. Motion carried.

Crosby Hotel, Stillwater

The Crosby Hotel was resubmitted for review due to plumbing code issues with the underground filtration basin being located inside the parking ramp. The review application was received and the review of revisions is almost complete. Action is needed.

Mr. Zeller moved to approve the revised stormwater management plans with one condition. This. Mr. Felleggy seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Felleggy questioned about the status of the Cahanes Farms Project. Administrator Isensee confirmed there were a few preliminary meetings to review partial plans with watershed staff and the township engineer. No formal plans have been submitted at this time.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Isensee submitted and reviewed the Administrators Report. One piece of notable information was there will be a county commissioner meeting in May with participation from WMO's, WD's, and SWCD's. There will be opportunity for one-on-one time with the commissioners to demonstrate that the watersheds are achieving their goals. Mr. Zeller discussed the Lily Lake Open House and the public input. There was discussion about the Lily Lake Association and the Lake McKusick association.

Adjourn

Mr. Zeller motioned to adjourn. Mr. McCarthy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45