

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
HELD REMOTELY DUE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC
Thursday, September 10th, 2020
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; John Fellegly, Baytown Township; Dan Kylo, West Lakeland Township; Mike Runk, Oak Park Heights; Dawn Bulera, Lake St. Croix Beach; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; John Dahl, Bayport; Annie Perkins, Afton; Cameron Blake, WCD, Administrator Matt Downing; Christopher Smith, public, Charity Grant, Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Brian Zeller at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager Fellegly motioned to approve the agenda and Manager Runk seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Fellegly motioned to approve the August 13th minutes and Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Manager Perkins joined the board meeting at 9:06 PM.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Manager Kylo. The remaining checking account balance on September 10th 2020 for the month of August was \$550,298.71. First State Bank CDs were valued at \$38,549.15. The ending balance in the RBC savings account for July 2020 is \$65,548.32.

Bills to be approved this month are: Washington Conservation District (Administration): \$3,798.00; Washington Conservation District (Technical Services): \$6,041.50; Total: \$9,839.50.

Manager Fellegly asked about the status of Baytown Township's 2nd half community contribution. Administrator Downing explained that he has sent four reminders to Bayport Township's clerk and administrator, the latest one two weeks ago. Manager Fellegly said they had a meeting on Monday and he would bring it up then. The second half community contribution reminders went out to all the communities and five have paid so far.

Manager Kylo assisted Administrator Downing in approving his full access to the MSCWMO bank account, and the saving's transfer to the RBC account which was approved at the January 9th board meeting was completed. Administrator Downing asked for direction on the board on whether to re-invest savings to the CD. Their account manager said they have enough money to do this. The interest rate is currently .01% but they could roll it back into the CD for 2 years at a slightly higher interest rate. The board discussed the variable management fees associated with the RBC and its changes in asset value. Administrator Downing noted that they will be paying management fees either way, and the only difference is they would not have access to the money for two years; with the account being designated for the 2025 Management Plan update. The board asked Administrator Downing to explore other options such as a shorter

time frame CD. Manager Olfelt-Nelson asked why the MSCWMO has an RBC account, noting that it seemed expensive, and wondered if it was worth the cost. Administrator Downing explained that last month the RBC account lost \$136, but it gained \$700 this month. Managers Zeller, Kylo and Fellegly discussed why the MSCWMO opened the RBC account; remembering that it may have had a higher interest rate at the time and there was desire for a separate account. Manager Kylo said he remembered the interest rate being worth the management cost and explained that the downturn of the economy affected the interest rates in such bank accounts. Administrator Downing will get more information from the bank regarding the MSCWMO's options.

Manager Fellegly moved to accept the treasurer's report, Manager Zeller seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor. Manager Kylo motioned to approve payment of the bills, Manager Dahl seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Public Comment

There were two members of the public present, Christopher Smith and Charity Grant, neither of which gave any public comment.

Watershed Based Funding Reallocation

The MSCWMO was allocated \$78,760 from the Clean Water Fund in 2019 for the implementation best management practices as identified in its watershed management plan. The Board had previously authorized that half the funding be applied to the Perro Creek infiltration basins that we completed last year, and half for the construction of 2 infiltration basins around Lily Lake. Only one basin was able to be constructed; at the August 2019 meeting the board authorized the (interim) Administrator to identify a new project. Multiple options for other basins in the Lily Lake sub-watershed were explored and ultimately deemed unfeasible. Administrator Downing inquired with BWSR about the possibility to move the funding to supplement the Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff project. Although this is outside the original workplan area, BWSR has agreed that the situation warrants a change. Administrator Downing is seeking board approval to reallocate \$18,079.25 in WBF dollars from the Lily Lake project to supplement the Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff project. This reallocation will allow for more shoreline to be stabilized and a greater impact on the load reduction to Lake St. Croix. The City of Lake St. Croix Beach would be responsible for providing the required 10% match on this funding.

Manager Fellegly asked if Lily Lake and Perro Creek were still impaired and in need of more projects. Administrator Downing confirmed this and explained that because the money needed to be spent this year, and the amount of money was not enough for a whole new project, it would be best applied to the current project in Lake St. Croix Beach to allow for more work to be done.

Manager Fellegly motioned to approve the reallocation of \$18,079.25 in WBFs from the Lily Lake project to the Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff project. Manager Perkins seconded the motion and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff Stabilization Contract

Manager Runk motioned to approve the Lake. St. Croix Beach Bluff Stabilization Contract between the City of Lake St. Croix Beach and the MSCWMO. Manager Collins seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Manager Olfelt-Nelson asked if the city had a clerk and an administrator and Dawn Bulera confirmed that they had a deputy clerk. Manager McCarthy joined the call at 6:25 PM.

Nelson Cost Share Request

Brad Nelson is requesting a MSCWMO Water Quality grant to install up to 400 square feet of native plantings to augment his existing front yard prairie installation and reduce runoff from his roof and driveway. The site is located at 428 Greeley Ave N in Stillwater. The site was previously considered a great retrofit location based on the Lake St Croix Direct – North SWA due to its direct drainage to the Mulberry Ravine and the St Croix River. A cost estimate was not prepared by the landowner, but WCD staff sees an installation cost range of \$300-\$600, depending on plant choices and final area of installation.

Manager Olfelt-Nelson motioned to approve a cost share award not to exceed \$500.00 for the Nelson Native Plantings. Manager Kylo seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor

Fix Cost Share Request

Grace Fix is requesting a MSCWMO Water Quality grant to install a 2,200 square foot native planting on the east side of her property (1975 Quant Avenue in West Lakeland Township). This project will restore bluff slopes that were recently cleared of buckthorn and which drain directly to the St Croix River.

Manager Fellegly motioned to approve a cost share award not to exceed \$500.00 for the Fix Bluff Planting. Manager Dahl seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Plan Reviews and Submittals: Central Automotive

The applicant is continuing to adjust their stormwater treatment BMP design based on their location outside the DWSMA in order to meet the condition for the permit. Staff recommends approval for the project as they completed their condition. No action needed.

Stillwater Riverbank Stabilization

The City of Stillwater proposes to stabilize a section of riverbank and construct a new trail for public recreation along the St. Croix River from south of Dock Café and north of Shoddy Mills. Staff recommends approval with four remaining items including hydrologic model revisions to demonstrate rate control standards are satisfied. Manager Fellegly moved to approve the project, Manager Zeller seconded this, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Locke Residence

A proposed single-family residential project is proposed at 1868 Redwing Ave in Lake St. Croix Beach. Staff recommends project approval with four conditions. Manager Fellegly moved to approve the project, Manager Runk seconded this, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

The final round of inspections will occur in late September/early October. Based on board feedback, Aaron DeRusha (WCD) is creating informational post cards with general erosion and sediment control information as well as fall vs. spring tips. He is also helping active projects to be prepared for winter.

Staff Report

Administrator Downing updated the board on administrative activities. The Lily Lake project is moving along and he is working with people he knows from the MPCA and consulting world on the plan for the alum treatment portion of the project. The Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff Stabilization project will be started after nesting bluff restrictions are over; likely by the next board meeting. There is no update on PFAS work by the state. The second E. Coli sample from Perro Creek was taken yesterday. Water monitoring work is wrapping up for the field season. Administrator Downing assisted in spreading nitro radish seed to address soil compaction in the Stillwater Country Club project the board toured last fall.

Manager Zeller asked if there were any funding sources the MSCWMO could apply for to address challenges this year related to COVID-19 such as technology costs. Administrator Downing explained that the WCD has qualified for certain expenditures as they provide the equipment and staffing. He asked if the local communities need any help identifying those types of expenses.

1W1P Updates

Manager Fellegly said the 1W1P is still under review by BWSR but that he should know more by the next board meeting.

Other

Manager Downing extended an offer to managers to meet with him and discuss any questions about individual communities permitting process, as there has been a lot of discussion about this topic at the board meetings. Manager Dahl asked if there could be a webinar created for this. Administrator Downing said there could be but he thinks there would be more value in a one on one meeting; although there are shared rules with the MSCWMO, the communities can have different standards and processes. Manager Olfelt-Nelson said her community had interest in this with the mayor having questions about different parts of the process.

Manager Zeller recalled a new DNR hydrologist for the area who they had not yet had a chance to invite to a meeting. Administrator Downing explained this new hydrologist is on leave until the end of the year, and he has not heard from the interim hydrologist in the meantime.

Adjourn

Manager Runk motioned to adjourn and Manger Fellegly seconded that motion. Manager Dahl asked if there would be an October board meeting as he may be unavailable. Administrator Downing said it was too early to tell. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.