

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
HELD REMOTELY DUE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC

Thursday, March 11th, 2021

6:00PM

Present: Joe Paiement, City of Lakeland; John Fellego, Baytown Township; Mike Runk, Oak Park Heights; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Dan Kylo, West Lakeland Township; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; John Dahl, Bayport; Administrator Matt Downing; Cameron Blake, WCD; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Angie Hong, WCD; Dawn Bulera, Lake St. Croix Beach alt.

Call to Order

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager Fellego requested to add an item to the agenda under "Other" titled "Baytown Township request for assistance" and motioned to approve the agenda with this addition. Manager McCarthy seconded this and the motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Fellego motioned to approve the draft February 11th, 2021 board meeting minutes and Manager McCarthy seconded this motion.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Manager Kylo. The remaining checking account balance on March 11th for the month of February 2021 was \$352,447.03. First State Bank CDs were valued at \$38,549.15. The ending balance in the RBC savings account for January 2021 was \$76,857.10.

Bills to be approved this month are: Emmons & Oliver: \$692.75.75; Emmons & Oliver \$2,601.18; Washington Conservation District (Administration): \$4,290.90; Washington Conservation District (Technical Services): \$5,203.00; Total: \$12,787.83.

Manager Fellego asked Administrator Downing if he had sent out community contribution notices to the Baytown clerk and treasurer and this was confirmed with Manager Fellego cc'd sometime after the January MSCWMO Board meeting.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the March 2021 Treasurer's Report and Manager Runk seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. Manager Zeller motioned to pay the March 11th bills and Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded this motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

EMWREP Annual Report

Angie Hong presented the East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP) 2020 Annual report. This organization provides water resources education to 25 local units of government in Washington County, including Watershed Management Organizations and cities and townships. The MSCWMO was one of the founding partners when this program was started in 2006.

Despite the unusual and difficult circumstances in 2020, EMWREP had a very successful year by adapting the planned education and outreach programs into online formats. In fact, increased participation was noted for these online workshops. Angie updated the group on the 2020 activities in the areas of: Adopt-a-Drain, Adopt-a-Raingarden, MN Water Stewards, the NEMO St. Croix Series for local community leaders, the MS4 Toolkit, and volunteer recruitment and support (especially with Sustainable Stillwater MN). There were some real world events that occurred before the shutdowns, and lots of virtual education and videos. More exciting news for the EMWREP program is its planned expansion this year with a new staff member with the ability to provide education to Chisago and Anoka Counties as part of work through the Lower St. Croix Watershed District's One Watershed One Plan.

Manager Fellegly thanked Angie for all her work.

2020 Annual Watershed Report

Administrator Downing presented the MSCWMO 2020 Annual Report. The education and outreach section reflected the different approaches used in 2020 to continue to engage the public. Manager Olfelt-Nelson informed Administrator Downing that her phone number listed in the report is incorrect. Manager Fellegly informed him that his address was listed incorrectly as well. Administrator Downing will finalize and submit the report upon board approval. Manager Zeller thanked Administrator Downing for his good work.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the 2020 Annual report for submittal after its finalized and Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded this motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Adopt a Drain Membership Request

Administrator Downing requested a motion from the board to approve the \$500 membership fee for the Adopt-a-Drain program. Manager McCarthy made this motion and Manager Collins seconded it. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Administrator Downing updated the board that the workplan for the most recent LSC grant MSCWMO was awarded had been approved.

1175 Quinlan Ave

There is no action needed. Administrator Downing has not heard back from the applicant. Manager Zeller asked Manager Paiement to help follow up with this applicant. Manager Paiement agreed and said there was a meeting next week and this should be addressed then.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

There are no reports to share but due to the recent rain events the inspection season will be starting sooner than expected. Manager Zeller asked if the frost was gone yet, noting the heavy rain events in areas up to .5”-.75” of rain. Administrator Downing said there was still frost in most areas.

Staff Report

Manager Dahl arrived by this point in the meeting. Administrator Downing presented the staff report. The Lily Lake project is still in a state of change but he hopes to see final plans from the consultant this spring. He is engaging with City of Stillwater staff as well as staff from the apartment complex to hopefully develop a partnership with a formal agreement next month. To meet match requirements from the state he is hoping to enter a cost-share agreement with the apartment complex as this project will also help them resolve issues on their property. There was a PFAS meeting and Administrator Downing will forward the information to the board.

Administrator Downing also updated the board that Perro Creek has now been listed for TSS impairment as well as the existing E. Coli impairment.

1W1P Updates

The next Policy Committee meeting is coming up on March 29th. The group is working on getting the workplan finalized by BWSR.

Other

Manager Fellegy wished to discuss the Baytown Assistance Request. There was discussion at the last board meeting of the cross-boundary drainage issue involving the City of Oak Park Heights and a Baytown Township resident. Baytown Township is getting involved now as it affects more than one resident. Manager Fellegy explained that the city had compared aerial photographs from 1999, 2003, and 2011 of the properties in questions. They noticed a large holding pond that has since disappeared from the OPH property and are wondering if there is any documented agreement between OPH and Baytown Township regarding the stormwater management in this area. Manager Fellegy explained that Baytown Township would like assistance in identifying any of this any information that may exist.

Administrator Downing said that if Baytown Township can submit a formal request or memo that the MSCWMO managers can review, the managers could then have the ability to agree for the MSCWMO to assist as a third-party reviewer. Manager Felley said the intention was not to cause any problems with OPH, just looking for information such as the existence of a stormwater agreement between the communities. Administrator Downing said these types of agreements do exist, for example there will be one between the MSCWMO and Stillwater as the MSCWMO will be using the Lily Lake project to store stormwater on Stillwater property. Manager Zeller asked Administrator Downing if the MSCWMO has any kind of file on these properties in which the information could be provided to the communities. Administrator Downing reiterated that he doesn't think the MSCWMO should get in the middle of this issue. Administrator Downing said he could look but he doesn't think the MSCWMO existed at the time of this property issue. Manager Runk concurred that this issue pre-dates the MSCWMO.

Administrator Downing said the MSCWMO could still look and get involved in an advisory capacity. Manager Zeller reiterated that he would like to see a formal request in writing. Manager Fellegly explained that he thought that was sent prior to the meeting. Administrator Downing said he could put this on next month's agenda. Manager Zeller reiterated that he sees the MSCWMO role in this as an advisory committee, not an organization to lead the charge but that we will help where we can help.

Adjourn

Manager Olfelt-Nelson asked Administrator Downing if John Perodi from SHE had gotten ahold of him regarding the street improvement projects upcoming in St. Mary's Point. He confirmed this and updated the board on the plans which involve the LSC beach front area with paths and areas for buffers and infiltration. These plans and sketches will go out to the three affected councils.

Manager Zeller asked the board if anyone had noticed the Pioneer Press article on February 23rd regarding a potential new designation for the St. Croix River region as a National Heritage Area. It would be an act of congress and involved the NPS, SCRA, and grant money. Manager Zeller said adding this new layer of designation was said to increase tourism. The group agreed that they wanted to know more about this and Administrator Downing will look into it.

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting and Manager Perkins seconded this. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.