

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Remote Locations: 5312 Fourwinds Way, Fort Pierce, FL 34949 ; 1603 Edgewood Dr,
Altoona, WI 54720 ; 494 4th St S Bayport MN 55003
Thursday, April 13th, 2023
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Mike Runk, Oak Park Heights; John Buelow, West Lakeland Township; Tom McCarthy (remote), Lake St. Croix Beach; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Avis Peters (remote), Baytown; Joe Paiment, Lakeland; Michelle Hanson (remote), Bayport Alternate; Administrator Matt Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Audience: Dawn Bulera

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Administrator Downing requested one addition, "Advanced Street Sweeping Funding" to be presented by Jay Riggs, District Manager of the Washington Conservation District. Manager Collins motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, Manager Runk seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

At this time, Manager Zeller reminded board members that if their communities appoint new board members or alternates, the MSCWMO needs the resolution from their community for the new appointee. Additionally, he reminded board members to let Administrator Downing know if they are able to attend upcoming meetings to ensure there are enough members in attendance for a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the draft March 9th, 2023 board meeting minutes, and Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with Managers Hanson and Buelow abstaining.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Olfelt-Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance on April 13th was \$108,730.39. First Bank CD's were valued at \$38,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from March was \$89,934.43. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for April 13th, 2023. Manager Runk seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

Bills to approve this month are \$3,500.00 Emmons & Olivier, and five bills to the Washington Conservation District totaling \$15,552.73. Manager Zeller motioned to approve payment of bills for April 13th, 2023. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote, Manager Buelow abstained.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Advanced Street Sweeping Funds

Jay Riggs from the WCD presented about funds available through 1W1P for targeted advanced street sweeping to reduce nutrient loading. Several areas in the MSCWMO were found through canopy analysis and other means to be ideal areas for additional street sweeping to reduce impacts on the St. Croix River. Manager Zeller motioned to authorize Administrator Downing to enter the MSCWMO into consideration for the 1W1P funds, Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

St. Croix Workshop on the Water Sponsorship

The Lower St. Croix Partnership, EMWREP and Washington County are planning to sponsor a workshop on the river to provide education and networking to local officials with ties to the river. Administrator Downing is seeking board approval to support this workshop with a contribution of \$500.00. There is no date selected for the event, but it is expected to occur in mid-July.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the \$500.00 contribution. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

St. Croix Regional Trail TAC Support

Administrator Downing has been attending TAC meetings for the proposed St. Croix Regional Trail. The project is now at a point where a final plan is being produced, and Administrator Downing has been asked by the County to provide a letter of support from MSCWMO.

Administrator Downing states that without the actual plan, this would be unusual for the WMO to do, given that any water quality improvement aspects of the project have not been outlined. However, he wanted to bring it to the board and provide some options, including inviting the County to an upcoming board meeting to present on the project, or sending a more general letter stating that the WMO was involved in the planning process.

Manager Zeller suggests a letter stating MSCWMO supports the initiative of the project, but reserves a right to comment on final plans. Other board members agree they are comfortable with that.

Minnesota Watersheds Membership Request

Minnesota Watersheds, formerly the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), reached out to MSCWMO to ask the WMO to consider joining the organization. Administrator Downing states that he does not know the cost of the WMO joining, he has not received a response yet from Minnesota Watersheds. Manager Zeller motioned to table the item. Manager Runk seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Drinkwine Native Planting

Lake St. Croix Beach resident Kathy Drinkwine is applying for the Landscaping for Habitat Grant to establish a 500 square-foot pollinator garden at 1590 Riviera Ave S. This project is further supplemented by the Washington Conservation District's FY22 "Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood" grant in the amount of \$1,000. The total project estimated cost is \$1,250.00. The requested cost share amount is \$250.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$250.00 cost share for the installation of the Drinkwine Pollinator Pocket Planting. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

Chapel Hill Flats—ACTION

An application for project review was received on January 5th, 2023 for the proposed redevelopment of a vacant parcel at 110 Myrtle St E in Stillwater to construct multi-family apartment housing. Resubmittals per the request of the City of Stillwater and MSCWMO staff were received on February 20th, March 10th, and April 4th. The MSCWMO staff recommends conditional approval with two conditions:

1. A stormwater facilities maintenance declaration and easement agreement over the stormwater facilities up to the 100-year flood level is secured.
2. A stormwater pollution prevention plan in compliance with the requirements of the NPDES SCS Construction Stormwater Permit is prepared.

Manager Runk motioned to approve the project with the two conditions. Manager Paiment seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Manager Buelow abstained.

Ashford Residence—INFORM

An application for project review was received on February 7th, 2023 for proposed residential reconstruction and flood proofing at 850 Quixote Ave N in Lakeland. The proposed project creates or fully reconstructs more than 500 sf of impervious surfaces and is within the St. Croix Riverway. Plans and materials received were incomplete and did not demonstrate compliance with MSCWMO performance goals. The application has been withdrawn.

Oak Park Parking Lot—INFORM

An application for project review was received on January 27th, 2023 for proposed parking lot improvements for the Oak Park Building at 6355 Osman Ave N in Stillwater. The proposed project creates approximately 75,000 sf of new/reconstructed impervious surfaces. The proposed project is within a high vulnerability DWSMA and the City of Stillwater has communicated that infiltration is not preferable or appropriate for the site. The applicant proposed the use of a filtration basin to achieve FTOs. The MSCWMO staff recommends that the applicant revise and resubmit to correct the MIDS calculations and address an overestimation of TP removal credit from pretreatment structures.

Stillwater 2023 Streets—INFORM

An application for project review was received on March 8th, 2023 which qualifies for MSCWMO project review since it fully reconstructs more than 6,000 sf of impervious. The applicant was requested to revise and resubmit the project utilizing infiltration (as opposed to a filtration practice) to meet MSCWMO volume control standards if deemed appropriate by soils investigations.

Stillwater Parking Lot and Trails—INFORM

An application for project review was received on March 9th, 2023 which qualifies for MSCWMO project review since it fully reconstructs more than 6,000 sf of impervious. The applicant was requested to revise and resubmit the project to provide rate control and volume control in the same subwatershed as the net new impervious trail surface. Portions of the project that are fully reconstructed and within the Lily Lake subwatershed are eligible to utilize the Lily Lake bioretention basin credits.

Staff Report

Administrative items for the staff report include preparation of April meeting materials, coordination of Grant and Permit Program including project reviews, and participation in Lower St. Croix Partnership meetings. The Lily Lake Basin project is in its final stages, EOR has been instructed to finalize the sign and install it in the spring. The sign was approved last meeting. Tree removal has begun for the bluff toe stabilization project that is part of Phase II of the Lake St. Croix Small Communities Phosphorus Reduction Grant.

Water monitoring activities are continuing as normal, stream equipment is being prepared and lake sampling is set to begin as soon as the weather allows. Erosion control inspections are set to resume as weather warms, a spring reminder has been sent to all projects that were active at the end of 2022. BMP Maintenance field work is set to begin this month.

Manager Zeller asked Administrator Downing about the chargebacks to the communities for project review overages. Administrator Downing states that he believes he has received them all, but will need to double check.

1W1P Updates

None

Other

None

Adjourn

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.