

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, June 12th, 2025
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Rachel Dana, West Lakeland; Avis Peters, Baytown; Dave Millard, Lakeland; Carly Johnson, Oak Park Heights; John Dahl, Bayport; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand
Audience: Dawn Bulera, Michael Koch, Cindie Reiter

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the agenda. Manager Millard seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the draft May 8th, 2025 board meeting minutes, Manager Millard seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance at the end of April was \$99,498.92 and at the end of May was \$95,381.56. First Bank CD's were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from April was \$98,346.20 and the ending value from May was \$98,975.45. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for June 12th, 2025. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bills to approve for June are three bills to the Washington Conservation District for admin, watershed plan, and technical services totaling \$15,731.75. The treasurer's report also shows a bill for \$500.00 to Bird City Gardens, Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states this should not be included and is not included in the total of \$15,731.75. Manager Zeller motioned to approve payment of bills for \$15,731.75 to the Washington Conservation District for June 12, 2025. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment

None

Watershed Management Plan Update

See staff report

Old Business

None

New Business

2024 Watershed Partners Annual Report

Included in the board packet is the 2024 Watershed Partners Annual Report. The report is from the Metro Watershed Partners, which is a coalition of more than seventy public, private and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities metro area. Through collaborative education and outreach, the Metro Watershed Partners promote a public understanding that inspires people to act to protect water in their watershed. Since 1996, partners have cooperated through educational projects, networking, and resource sharing. MSCWMO partners with this coalition primarily through the adopt-a-drain program. This is an informational item.

2025 Children's Water Fest Sponsorship

The Metro Children's Water Festival is seeking sponsors for the 2025 Children's Water Festival.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00. Manager Dahl seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Bird City Gardens Stewardship Grant Reimbursement

On February 13th, 2025 the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$500 for the installation of a 5,000 square-foot native demonstration garden at the Mulberry Ravine Bird Station owned and operated by the 501c3 nonprofit "Bird City Gardens" (419 Greeley St N, Stillwater, MN 55082). The landowner completed the project in June of 2025 with assistance from contractor and volunteer labor with a total cost of \$7,050.05 (\$3,830.05 in materials). Over 1,000 native perennials, trees, and shrubs were installed as a part of this project with additional cost-share assistance from the Washington Conservation District via the BWSR Pollinator Pathways program in the amount of \$5,000.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve reimbursement of \$500.00 cost share for the installation of the Gorski/Bird City Gardens Demonstration Garden at the Mulberry Ravine Bird Station, 419 Greeley St N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

16855 21st St S.

Submittal items were received on March 19th, 2025 for the residential reconstruction at 16855 21st St S located within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Lake St. Croix Beach. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves reconstruction of more than 500 square feet of impervious surface in the St. Croix Riverway and impacts within the bluffline setback. The applicant revised and resubmitted plans on May 19th to meet bluffline setbacks to the maximum extent practicable. MSCWMO staff recommends approval with one condition:

1. Impervious coverage threshold for St. Croix Riverway zoning is exceeded therefore permanent easements are recommended over stormwater management practices.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the project with the one condition, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

836 Minnesota Street

Submittal items were received on May 14th, 2025 for a parking lot expansion that was completed without a MSCWMO review or City of Bayport permit. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves more than 500 square feet of impervious surface in the St. Croix Riverway. MSCWMO staff are awaiting a complete submittal with rate control addressed.

Raymie Johnson Estates

Submittal items were received on May 22nd, 2025 for parking lot expansion and improvements at 14830 58th St N within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Oak Park Heights. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves reconstruction of more than 6000 square feet of impervious surface. MSCWMO staff recommends the applicant revise and resubmit to address the shortfall in required volume control and rate control at all discharge points.

Manager Johnson states that due to recent updates to the City parking ordinance, the applicant may need a conditional use permit.

Due to the project timeline, Administrator Oldenburg-Downing is requesting authorization from the board to administratively approve the project if the applicant resubmits a revised plan that meets the WMO's standards. Manager Johnson requested to be included in the approval process as well.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve authorizing Administrator Oldenburg-Downing and Manager Johnson to administratively approve the project upon resubmittal, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

There are five erosion and sediment control inspection reports included in the board packet. All inspections are of the 880 Quixote bluff violation. The first inspection dated May 14 shows a grade of a C, indicating that the site was not in compliance and required supplemental erosion and/or sediment control practices. The two inspections following are dated May 19 and May 21 and show a grade of B, meaning some normal maintenance activities were required, and the following inspection from June 2 shows a grade of A and features photos showing that erosion control blanket had been installed on site. The final inspection is from June 6 and indicates the blanketed slope was still in good condition after approximately 1 inch of rain.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated there is another violation occurring on Quixote Ave and will follow up with City Staff.

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated that the comment period for the 10-year management plan update has closed and staff are working on addressing the 164 comments that were received from State and local agencies. He stated that the next steps for the plan should take place in August.

Water monitoring, BMP Maintenance, and Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections continue as normal. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing also informs the board that he's been working with Baytown staff to address some drainage issues at the Hills of Spring Creek development.

Manager Zeller asked Administrator Oldenburg-Downing if MSCWMO will be able to bill the communities for the additional time spent on projects, particularly regarding following up with violations. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated he believes they will be able to do so and will follow up with City staff.

1W1P Updates

None

Other

None

Adjourn

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:29.