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MINUTES
December 13, 2007

I. A meeting of the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Tina Carstens on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 1:44 p.m., at Lancer at Edinburgh, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present were: Kathleen Carmody, Brooklyn Center; Tina Carstens, Brooklyn Park; Mark Gustafson, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Charlie LeFevere, Kennedy & Graven; Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Barbara Peichel, MPCA.

Not represented: Osseo.

II. Motion by Carmody, second by Jaeger to **approve the revised agenda**. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Motion by Carmody, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting** with the following correction:

I: Not represented: Osseo.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Motion by Jaeger, second by Carmody to approve the **Treasurer's Report**. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Motion by Jaeger, second by Gustafson to approve the **December claims**. Claims totaling \$12,363.65 were approved by roll call vote: ayes – Carmody, Carstens, Gustafson, and Jaeger; nays - none; absent - Osseo.

VI. Open Forum. No one wished to speak.

VII. Communications. The Commissioners received copies of the following:

A. November Communications Log. No action required.

B. Announcement that presentations from the **Minnesota Water Resources Conference** are available online at <http://wrc.umn.edu.waterconf/> until January 11, 2008.

VIII. Water Quality.

IX. Project Reviews. There were no projects.

X. Second Generation Plan.

A. MN Rules Sec. 8410.0060 requires watershed management plans to include an **inventory of the functional values of the wetlands** in the watershed. The Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Commissions' Second Generation Plan requires member cities to prepare those assessments according to a plan and schedule to be set forth in the Water Quality Plan (WQP). The WQP, which was adopted May 10, 2007, established a two-phase strategy for completing the assessments. The most critical wetlands are to be evaluated in the short term, with the other wetlands evaluated as opportunities arise.

The WQP identified approximately 30 Priority Wetlands and directed that cities complete these assessments within two years following adoption of the WQP. In 2009 the data will be compiled into a watershed-wide Wetland Management Plan that evaluates the conditions of wetlands in the watersheds and establishes more detailed policies for their protection and restoration. Cities that have already evaluated their Priority Wetlands are not required to reevaluate as long as the data that was collected provides the information required by the Commission. Cities can perform the assessments themselves if they have the expertise; contract the assessments with a consultant of their choosing; or contract with the Commissions' engineer to obtain the assessments or technical assistance.

To guide cities in accomplishing this task, Staff proposes that the Commissions undertake Phase I of the Wetland Management Plan in 2008:



1. Develop guidelines for cities that specify the data that needs to be collected, the allowable standardized assessment tools, and the methods to be used.
2. Complete five to eight MnRAM evaluations on different wetlands throughout the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi watersheds to serve as reference or “example” evaluations. These will serve as benchmarks and references for cities to use as a comparison to their own evaluations.
3. Prepare a detailed outline of the Wetland Management Plan to be sure the data collected by the cities provides the necessary information for the development of that Plan.

The estimated cost of completing the first phase of the Wetland Management Plan is \$14,500. Since much of the effort will be in West Mississippi, Staff recommends the Commissions consider a cost split of \$10,000 in West Mississippi and \$4,500 in Shingle Creek. The 2007 and 2008 West Mississippi budgets both included \$5,000 for the Wetland Management Plan. Staff recommends the \$4,500 Shingle Creek share be funded from the \$15,000 budgeted for Management Plans. (The balance of that budget funds the completion of lake management plans.)

Motion by Jaeger, second by Carmody to authorize the work to begin in January 2008, funded \$10,000 from West Mississippi and \$4,500 from Shingle Creek. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jaeger, second by Gustafson to direct the TAC to meet at 8:30 a.m. on January 23, 2008, at Crystal City Hall to review and provide input to tasks 1 and 3 above and to review and recommend revisions as needed to the Commission’s Rules and Standards regarding pollutant load reduction requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Except for those with land in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District or the Mississippi WMO, all the cities in Shingle Creek/West Mississippi should have completed a **local water management plan** update by the end of 2006. Currently, Brooklyn Center has a completed and approved plan; Brooklyn Park anticipates completing their plan by the end of 2007; and Maple Grove will complete their LWP in tandem with the completion of their Comprehensive Plan. The status of the Champlin and Osseo plans is unknown.

XI. Education and Public Outreach Program.

A. Water Quality Education Grants. One grant application is still pending, awaiting follow-up from Champlin Park High School.

B. Collaborative Activities.

1. **Public Opinion Survey.** Decision Resources is completing the field work. Results should be available by the end of the year.

2. **Rain Garden workshops.** The workshops are being scheduled for this spring. When the schedule has been established this information will be provided to each of the member cities for their use in newsletters, web postings, etc.

3. **Blue Thumb,** an educational program of the Rice Creek Watershed District, has a nice website <http://www.bluthumb.org/> that includes useful information on rain gardens, native plants, and shoreline stabilization. The EPOC included funding in the Commissions’ 2008 education budget to become a Blue Thumb partner, joining about 30 other organizations.

C. NPDES Annual Report. Motion by Carmody, second by Gustafson to approve the 2007 activities report. Motion carried unanimously. It will be distributed to member cities for use in preparing their 2007 NPDES Phase II reports.

D. Matthiesen contacted Joel Settles in Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCES) re the Commission’s interest in developing a **shoreline buffer incentive program**. He was very supportive of the concept and thought the tax credit could be an effective method to enlist volunteer property owners’ participation. He recommended that he talk to Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat or his staff to get their



support before talking to Tax Payer Services. Further conversations with Greg Perlick in the Hennepin County Office of Taxation revealed that Minnesota does not allow tax credits but could do a classification break such as a "Buffered Lake Shore" classification. Tom May in the Hennepin County Assessors Office prefers that the County or Commission issue checks directly to the participating property owners. Matthiesen also asked Settles about dovetailing with the County's Natural Resources Incentives for Critical Habitat (NRICH) grant program. He will follow-up on this discussion.

Matthiesen also spoke with Dave Ferris, the Conservationist with Burnett County (Wisconsin) Land and Water Conservation in charge of their shoreline buffer program. He is very enthusiastic about the program, stating they have about 600 participating parcels with enrollment of 45 per year. He is available and willing to discuss the Burnett County experience with the Commission and to critique any program proposal. Matthiesen will continue to follow-up. This project is eligible for inclusion in the Commissions' CIP.

XII. Grant Opportunities.

XIII. Other Business.

A. Peichel informed the Commissioners of the upcoming **Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL**. It will involve identifying data gaps, forming a very large stakeholder group and dealing with metro-wide BMPs. She will keep the Commissions informed.

B. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Commission, motion by Jaeger, second by Carmody to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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