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MINUTES

January 14, 2010

I. A meeting of the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Tina Carstens on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 1:55 p.m., at the Clubhouse at Edinburgh, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present were: Tina Carstens, Brooklyn Park; Jon Knutson, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Shelley Schwaninger, Brooklyn Center.

Not represented: Brooklyn Center and Osseo.

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

III. Motion by Carstens, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes of the December 10, 2009 meeting**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Reports from Officers.

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

B. Motion by Carstens, second by Knutson to approve the **January claims**.* Claims totaling \$8,629.52 were approved by roll call vote: ayes - Carstens, Knutson and Jaeger; nays - none; absent - Brooklyn Center and Osseo.

V. Open Forum.

Jaeger stated that Maple Grove has been encouraging the installation of **rain gardens** in the gravel mining area. She also noted that Osseo has installed **porous pavers** on their main street.

VI. Communications.

A. The Commissioners reviewed the **Communications Log**.*

B. The Commissioners received a copy of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) **Level II Performance Review Report**.* It will be posted at <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html>.

C. Staff received notice from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that rule-making for the **Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area** (MRCCA) will commence by January 15, 2010 and the public has until March 22, 2010 to make comments on the draft rules. The cities of Champlin, Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center all have shoreline in this area. Within the corridor the proposed rules will establish minimum guidelines and standards for development in to be established districts. The rules will address floodplains; wetlands; gorges; areas of confluence with key tributaries; natural drainage routes; shorelines and riverbanks; bluffs; steep slopes and very steep slopes; unstable soils and bedrock; significant existing vegetative stands, tree canopies, and native plant communities; scenic views and vistas; publicly owned parks, trails, and open spaces; cultural and historic sites and structures; and water quality. When the draft rules are available the Commission will have an opportunity to comment on them.

The DNR is also forming an **advisory committee**. If a Commissioner or any interested member of the public would like to be considered they can contact Jeffrey Berg at the DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4032, 651-259-5729 and MRCCArulemaking@dnr.state.mn.us. The committee is expected to meet 2-4 times over a 9-month period from March to December 2010.

VII. Water Quality.

A. The Commission discussed the conceptual **2010 monitoring program** at the December meeting and requested a more detailed proposal. Staff's memo dated January 7, 2010, presents their recommendation for the West Mississippi 2010 Monitoring Program. The goals of this monitoring include:

1. Update the 1990-1992 monitoring to evaluate change over time.
2. Establish water quality of discharge from the watershed into the Mississippi River and determine watershed yield.
3. Provide flow and water quality data to calibrate the P8 model being built for the watershed.

Three sites - the 65th Avenue outfall in Brooklyn Center, the Environmental Preserve outlet at West River Road in Brooklyn Park, and the Nevada Circle outfall in Champlin - would be monitored for flow and water quality using automatic samplers. Edinbrook Channel drains a large part of Brooklyn Park north of 85th Avenue. It discharges into Mattson Brook, which would also be monitored for flow and water quality. Periodic grab samples will be collected from each site to be analyzed for E. coli bacteria, providing some baseline data in anticipation of the Upper Mississippi bacterial TMDL. To help understand watershed yield, Staff will also monitor Oxbow Creek by pressure transducer or level logger to determine how frequently there is water in the channel. It appears to be dry most of the time, so this data will help to understand how frequently the north central part of Brooklyn Park actually discharges to the Mississippi River. Brooklyn Park has identified two ponds and Champlin is looking for two candidates from its ponds in order to monitor pond levels. They will be monitored to learn how frequently those ponds discharge and to better understand how much storage is actually available.

This monitoring plan was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its January 7 meeting and is recommended for approval. If the Commission approves this program the 2010 budget should be amended to add this program to the 2010 budget and to allocate \$48,610 revenue from the reserves. Motion by Jaeger, second by Carstens to approve the monitoring plan and direct Staff to sell/give the equipment to the Shingle Creek Commission at program-end. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Two documents have been added to the **Upper Mississippi Bacteria TMDL*** webpage. The first is the final version of the report, *Data Analysis, Source Assessment, and Monitoring Recommendations Report for the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL*. It addresses comments received from stakeholders. The second, *Literature Review of Bacteria and Environmental Associations*, summarizes the pertinent literature reviewed to date. They are posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-uppermiss-bacteria.html>.

VIII. Watershed Management Plan.

A. **Cost Share Program.*** One of the ongoing concerns discussed with BWSR is the lack of flexibility in funding and implementing projects imposed by the Major Plan Amendment (MPA) process. Other WMOs are developing or have established cost share programs to participate financially in local projects and BWSR has suggested that the Commissions consider establishing a cost share program and fund projects through that mechanism. The CIP would list one project: a Cost Share Program (CSP). This would eliminate the need to constantly revise the CIP if the Commission desires to cost share in a project that is not on the current CIP.

Implementing the CSP would require an MPA. It would also require the concurrence of Hennepin County, which must approve the CIP and any projects funded through it by the ad valorem tax levy. The MPA would revise the CIP to include the cost share program and would add language to Section 7 - Capital Improvement Program and Work Plan and Appendix G - Capital Improvement Program to adequately describe the program. Brad Wozney, BWSR Metro Board Conservationist, has provided guidance on what needs to be included in a Plan Amendment in order to implement a cost share program. The proposed program description included as part of Staff's January 8, 2010 memo is organized according to that BWSR guidance. The TAC reviewed this proposal at its January 7 meeting

and recommends approval. If the Commissions desire to proceed, then Staff would bring the concept to BWSR and Hennepin County for review and craft proposed Major Plan Amendment language. If all parties are amenable to proceeding, the Commissions could initiate the MPA process in February or March to consider adoption of a Cost Share Program.

Some cities have already indicated they are interested in adding projects to the CIP. It is further recommended that cities be requested to submit CIP proposed revisions by February 1. If the CSP Plan Amendment becomes delayed or parties would like to take more time, then a Major Plan Amendment to revise the CIP can go forward in a timely manner. Motion by Knutson, second by Carstens directing Staff to present the concept to BWSR and Hennepin County and to proceed with the Major Plan Amendment process. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. Project Reviews.

Matthiesen provided an update of issues re the **St. Vincent DePaul area hydrology**. Areas of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove and Osseo all drain to a stormwater pond on the church property in Brooklyn Park. The property owner believes that flooding is occurring on-site due to stormwater runoff from Osseo. With no available storage capacity in the pond, it must be expanded. The analysis found that the added drainage area from Osseo resulted in an insignificant increase in discharge to the pond and no increase in pond flood elevation. There is no record of permits for drainage alternations. Matthiesen will meet with the cities' engineers.

X. Education and Public Outreach Program.

A. Water Quality Education Grants. No applications were received.

B. The West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) has concentrated its efforts in developing a west metro-wide education and public outreach plan. Members of the committee, representing the Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, Pioneer-Sarah Creek, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs, Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County Environmental Service, reviewed a third iteration draft plan at their January 5, 2010 meeting. A final draft will be presented to the Commissions at their February meetings. At that time prospective members will be asked to:

1. Recognize the West Metro Water Alliance as a consortium of organizations working to provide coordinated education and outreach on water resources issues in the West Metro Area.
2. Authorize [staff, Commissioners, Managers] and volunteers to participate in the WMWA.
3. Designate a formal representative as the representative from the Commission to the WMWA.
4. Provide comments on the vision, mission, goals, and draft Plan and administrative structure.

Others expressing interest in being members of this group include the Minnehaha Creek and Nine Mile Creek WDs, and the Mississippi WMO.

C. Motion by Carstens, second by Jaeger to approve the Professional Service Agreement with Metro Blooms to provide **rain garden workshops** in Champlin, Plymouth, Robbinsdale and Crystal/Golden Valley/New Hope at a cost not to exceed \$11,700.00. *Motion carried unanimously.*

XI. Grant Opportunities.

XII. Other Business.

A. Motion by Carstens, second by Knutson to approve execution of the **EPDB Conditional Use License Agreement*** with Hennepin County. *Motion carried unanimously.*



B. Commissioners were reminded that the **terms of representatives from Champlin and Maple Grove** will expire January 31, 2010. Jaeger has been reappointed for Maple Grove. Knutson will check on the status of his appointment.

C. Election of officers and annual appointments will occur at the February meeting.

D. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Commission, motion by Jaeger, second by Knutson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 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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