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MINUTES

September 10, 2009

I. A meeting of the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Tina Carstens on Thursday, September 10, 2009, at 3:14 p.m., at Lancer at Edinburgh, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present were: Della Young, Brooklyn Center; Tina Carstens, Brooklyn Park; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Charlie LeFevere, Kennedy & Graven; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Shelley Schwaninger, Brooklyn Center, and Jon Knutson, Champlin.

Not represented: Champlin and Osseo.

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

III. Motion by Jaeger, second by Carstens to approve the **minutes of the August 13, 2009 meeting**. * *Motion carried, Young abstaining.*

Motion by Carstens, second by Jaeger to approve the **notes of the August 13, 2009 Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Work Session**. *Motion carried, Young abstaining.*

IV. Reports from Officers.

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

B. Motion by Carstens, second by Young to approve the **September claims**. * Claims totaling \$5,438.23 were *approved by roll call vote: ayes – Young, Carstens, and Jaeger; nays - none; absent - Champlin and Osseo.*

V. Open Forum.

VI. **Communications.** The Commissioners received copies of the following:

A. **Communications Log.**

B. **Minnesota Plant List.** New Hope Commissioner Diane Stauner also provided a link to a list of Minnesota native plants, http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/plant_list9-25-02.pdf.

C. Notice of open houses for public input on the **Bottineau Corridor Analysis Results**.

VII. Watershed Management Plan.

The Commissioners received Staff's September 10, 2009 memo regarding the Major Plan Amendment. The proposed amendment would adopt a revision to the Commissions' joint Capital Improvement Program for year 2010 to add a potential \$750,000 Shingle Creek restoration project in Brooklyn Park between Regent and Noble Avenues. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) board approved the amendment on August 27, 2009. Approving a resolution adopting the amendment is the final step in the amendment process which began in January 2009. Motion by Jaeger, second by Young to adopt **Resolution 2009-02 Adopting a Major Plan Amendment to the Second Generation Plan Revising the Capital Improvements Program**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. Water Quality.

IX. Project Reviews.

X. Special Studies.



XI. Education and Public Outreach Program.

A. Water Quality Education Grants.

1. Students who participated in the **2009 Patrick Henry High School project** will present a recap of their project as part of the October watershed tour.

2. The Commissioners received the final reports on the **Cleveland Neighborhood and Victory Neighborhood Rain Garden Projects**. Thirty rain gardens, 15 in each neighborhood, were created through a special program offered by Metro Blooms as a variation to their Part A and Part B workshops. The Part A workshop is a classroom workshop covering several general water quality topics and providing an overview of rain garden construction. Traditionally, the Part B workshop is a small group assisted by landscape architecture interns who help the property owners design their rain gardens. Under this special program, Part B included on-site consultation with a landscape architect intern who provided designs to the property owners. A work crew from Metro Blooms dug the rain gardens. The property owners were responsible for planting and maintaining their rain gardens. Pictures of the projects were viewed during the meeting.

B. Staff will continue discussions with three website providers re options for alternative hosting and updating of the **Commissions' website**.

C. **NEMO – Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials**. On September 4, Amy LeMieux, JASS, attended the monthly NEMO meeting. NEMO offers a variety of presentations, tools and methods to communities and local water resource educators to provide effective programs for local decision-makers. NEMO is a national program with 32 states currently participating. Northland NEMO has been in Minnesota since 1993. Its partners include the Capitol Region, Minnehaha Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Rice Creek, and South Washington Watershed Districts, Mississippi WMO, Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Met Council, MPCA, U of M Extension, Minnesota Sea Grant and the Water Resources Center.

MPCA is starting the process of creating **Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS)**. MIDS will include performance standards to be adopted as city ordinances for practices such as rain gardens, green roofs, pervious pavement, etc. Stakeholder meetings will be held throughout the state in October. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

D. The next meeting of the **Joint Education and Public Outreach Committee** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at Plymouth City Hall. The group will begin developing the education and public outreach program for the coming year.

XII. Grant Opportunities. There will be upcoming grant opportunities resulting from the funds raised from last years' approved state constitutional amendment dedicating sales tax to natural resources and arts programs. These may be worth pursuing to help fund projects on the Commissions' or cities' CIPs, or projects that have been discussed but are not yet on the CIPs.

A. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has developed the **Conservation Partners Grants Program** to provide funding for the enhancement, restoration, or protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. That grant announcement is expected out shortly, with the first round of grant applications due November 3, 2009. and the second round March 1, 2010. Examples of some projects that might qualify are wetland restoration or restoration of fish habitat in lakes or streams.

B. The grant program(s) to be funded from the **Clean Water Fund** are still in development, but it is likely that they will include "pots" of funding for TMDL implementation projects, projects that are protective of non-impaired waters, and likely some dedicated funds for agricultural BMPs and other focus areas. The lake TMDLs identified a number of potential projects and some stream restoration projects are being developed as well. It is expected that grant solicitation will occur this fall.

C. Riparian Restoration and Stream Stabilization Program. Hennepin County received \$500,000 from the Clean Water Fund to make small grants to projects that reduce erosion and stabilize stream banks. Priority will be given to projects that incorporate the use of the Minnesota Conservation Corps or the Tree Trust, or that significantly leverage grant funds from other sources. Improvement of Impaired Waters is also a priority. There are potentially several small projects on Shingle or Bass Creeks that could use MCC or Tree Trust labor to repair localized erosion, remove invasive species, plant native buffers, and add habitat features such as root wads and rock vanes.

Peichel gave a brief recap of other upcoming state and federal grant programs. Staff will advise member cities of these grant programs and investigate possible opportunities for project-sharing.

XIII. Other Business.

A. The Commissions have discussed touring **sites in the watersheds** following the October meeting.

1. Some **potential sites** include creek restoration sites in Brooklyn Park, Wetland 639W, Paired Intersection Study test section, Crystal Lake, Twin Oak Pond site, Stauner rain garden, Lake Success, Pike Creek restoration, New Hope pond project sites, Arbor Lakes pond projects sites, potential West Mississippi wetland restoration sites, Great River Energy LEED platinum building and site, wetland monitoring sites, and city project sites. Moore requested that her neighborhood rain gardens be included on the list. Staff recommended that the tour conclude at Webber Park in Minneapolis with a presentation from the Patrick Henry High School students.

2. This list is more than can be completed in 1.5 - 2 hours. One suggestion is to break it up into an October tour and a November tour. A site like Pike Creek would be easier to view later in the season when leaves have fallen and vegetation is less dense. It was agreed by consensus to conduct two tours and that the October meeting begin at noon.

B. The Board of Water and Soil Resources will present the results of the **Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)** review at the October meeting.

C. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Commission, motion by Jaeger, second by Young to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
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