



Scott Watershed Management Organization

200 Fourth Avenue West

Shakopee, MN 55379-1220

MINUTES

Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission

County Boardroom

June 24, 2019

Members Present:

Brian Schmidt
Mark Vierling
Jim Schwinger
Rita Weaver
Virgil Pint

Staff Present:

Paul Nelson
Ryan Holzer
Melissa Bokman
Megan Tasca
Beverly Cox-Alexander

Others Present:

Charlie Howley
Tom Wolf
Sarah Fellows
Kevin Shea

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schwingler called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

- Specific details and video of the entire June 24, 2019 Scott County WMO Watershed Planning Commission Meeting is available for viewing on the Scott County Website.
- The video link can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_K-1qSQ3WM

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Pint; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the June 24th agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1

Motion by Commissioner Pint; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the Open Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment # 1. The motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Paul Nelson

Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1

- The Amendment adds a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to Table 5.5 of the Plan
- The CIP is currently being designed
- The WMO has left over grant monies to pay for much of the CIP
- The Amendment will allow the addition of a streambank stabilization project in the Helena township stretch of Sand Creek where there is a lot of erosion

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Commissioner Pint; Second by Commissioner Vierling to close the public hearing for the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Weaver to approve the May 20, 2019 minutes as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

SCOTT SWCD:

- Reports are available in the meeting packet for review

Scott WMO:

Paul Nelson provided WMO updates

- The WMO sent out post cards regarding the high arsenic levels the WMO observed in private wells
- There is new information on the WMO website regarding arsenic and drinking water wells

- BWSR's Clean Water Fund grant cycle will open for applications in August with applications due in September
 - The board will decide on applications in January
 - BWSR has \$13M for competitive grant applications
 - There is a new category for well head protection areas to buy and set aside land in well head protection areas
 - Within the competitive grants for the \$13M BWSR will no longer have a category for accelerated implementation for feasibility studies.
 - All grant funds are dedicated for implementation rather than studies
 - Another new category within the competitive grants targets practices to protect drinking water supplies
- The WMO has another mailing going out this week to land owners in the drinking water supply area where the WMO has not been able to determine one way or another if they have sealed an old well.
 - The purpose is to solicit if they will be interested should the WMO find funding to seal the well
- The WMO is working on the budget for 2020 and will provide more detail to the Commissioners in July or August
 - One of the key drivers is if the WMO should opt to dedicate funding relief for McMahan Lake
- Land Lock Lakes with no outlets continue to be high
 - Markley Lake
 - McMahan Lake
 - Cate's Lake
 - Kingsley Lake (Lakeville, Dakota Co)

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates

Updates from Paul Nelson

- The City of Savage will be moving forward with the deicing machine purchase which utilizes lower salt use.
 - Commissioners previously recommended approval of \$15K in cost share for the project

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- Phase III
 - CIP is currently being designed
 - The WMO is working with the landowners regarding an access point
- Phase IV
 - Inter-Fluve completed final survey shots last week
 - Conceptual design to be completed by the end of June
 - Full design anticipated to be complete in August
 - Getting ready for bids is expected in late August early September
- BWSR Corrective Action
 - The WMO recently had their second reconciliation with BWSR on the Targeted Watershed Grant

- The final report is still pending
- Clarks Lake Outlet
 - There is some concerns with residence the lake levels were not as high this spring as historic levels were along with concern if the outlet is holding up
 - The WMO determined the outlet holding up
 - There is no erosion around or through the outlet
 - There may not be as much open water as there is a large quantity of cattails
 - The WMO will continue to monitor the situation
 - Some landowners have approached the state senator for the area and the senator is pushing the DNR regarding the elevation of the outlet

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Lake treatments are all complete and receiving positive feedback regarding the treatments
- There was a fish kill on Cedar Lake this spring resulting in the loss of a few hundred fish, the DNR was notified

Corrective Action Plan Update

- The WMO sent the Corrective Action Plan draft to BWSR
 - There are a few comments the WMO is addressing with BWSR
 - The WMO anticipates having the correction clarifications complete by the end of the week and will resubmit to BWSR
 - In July the WMO will submit to the Board to adopt the amendment to the docket

McMahon Lake Update

- Last week the WMO had an open meeting with residence and land owners around McMahon Lake. The Area Fisheries Supervisor from the DNR attended the meeting as well.
 - Land owners are very frustrated, the water level is up to a 100 year flood level
 - The WMO recognize water levels are high
 - The WMO & County has a policy about investing based on public benefit
 - From staff perspective public benefits include:
 - Ability to use boat launch
 - Investments to shoreline
 - WMO has invested approximately \$78K
 - Landowners have invested approximately \$36K
 - If the lake does get high enough the water level could reach County Rd 8
 - The WMO had an Engineer look at a feasibility study

- The preliminary estimate is about \$250,000.00 to install an outlet pipe that would run along the right of way of County Road 8
- Paul advised residents the WMO would not support 100% of the cost. While there is some public benefit most of the benefit is private. Funding is a discretionary decision and while the WMO may be willing to support some cost share it is a County Board decision
- The WMO suggested a Special Assessment as another funding option for the residents
 - 15 to 20 of the parcels touch the lake
- In the short term there was discussion of the possibility of setting up a siphon along County Road 8
- The WMO will get back to residents in August with some additional information on Special Assessments

Kevin Shea, resident of McMahan Lake commented

- Kevin Shea is a resident of McMahan Lake and grew up on McMahan Lake. Some of his family members also have property on the lake
 - Residents received good information from Paul and Melissa at the meeting
 - Water is getting into residents septic mounds
 - The public access road on Mushtown Road is under water
 - They are open to Special Assessment
 - Appreciated the good information and the county working with the residents

NEW BUSINESS

Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1 Recommendation

- Memo in the meeting packet for a recommendation regarding the amendment
- BWSR reviewed the Agenda and advised the WMO still needs to have a 30 day comment period review by State agencies
- No public comment was received, this is a minor amendment
- Paul Nelson suggested options
 - Table this item and bring it back in August
 - If Commissioners are comfortable and no additional comments are received staff is authorized to bring the amendment to the Board with Commissioners recommendation of approval

Motion by Commissioner Pint that we table the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1 Recommendation until to the 30 days are up; if no significant agency comments are received the amendment goes to the WMO Board for approval based on the Commissioners recommendation. In the event there are significant comments a special session is recommended as soon as the 30 days are up; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2026 Amendment #1 Recommendation as discussed and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Final Report: Conservation Beliefs and Action in the Sand Creek Watershed; Center of Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota; Fellows, Davenport & Pradhananga

Updates from Melissa Bokman and Sarah Fellows

Key Findings

- Landowners surveyed place a high value on clean water, are concerned about water pollution and its varied impacts and view themselves as stewards of the watershed.
- Landowners are influenced in their water-related decision making by multiple groups including family, neighbors, and the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
- The biggest drivers of conservation practice adoption appear to be stewardship ethic, availability of financial incentives, and perceived benefits of conservation practices.
- Landowners believe in financial incentive-based programs to drive water resource protection but are unsure or opposed to government regulation and policy change as a driver of water protection.
- Only half of the landowners surveyed feel obligated to engage in civic actions.
- When comparing 2011 and 2018 survey results, Scott County landowners' concern about the consequences of water pollution for their own lifestyles was higher. 2018 landowners also expressed less skepticism about anthropogenic climate change and its impacts than in 2011.
- Scott County landowners rated the water quality in their nearest stream / ditch as higher in 2018 than in 2011.
- Overall, Scott County landowners surveyed in 2018 place more responsibility on landowners, as well as local, state, and federal government to protect water quality than landowners in 2011.

TACS Projects – Kim Gensmer, Shoreline Protection

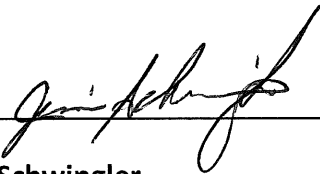
Presented by Paul Nelson

- Kim Gensmer, Shoreline Protection Application for lakeshore stabilization on McMahan Lake.
- If approved, this would go on a waiting list until there is grant funding available.
- Because this is on McMahan Lake this would also wait until the WMO is more certain about McMahan water levels.

Motion by Commissioner Vierling to approve the Kim Gensmer, Shoreline Protection application where the application would be placed on a waiting list until grant funding is available and the WMO is more certain about McMahon water levels; Second by Commissioner Weaver to approve the Kim Gensmer Shoreline Protection Project as discussed and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

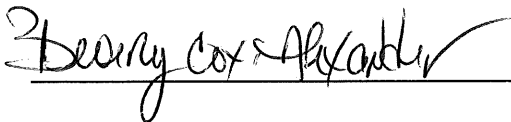
Motion by Commissioner Pint; Second by Commissioner Vierling to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM. The motion carried unanimously.



Jim Schwinger
Chair, Watershed Planning Commission

8.28.19

Date



Beverly Cox-Alexander
Secretary