



Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221st Ave
Cedar, MN 55011

DRAFT MINUTES NOT YET APPROVED

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting

Thursday February 4, 2021

Meeting was held remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mager called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm after Mr. Babineau explained he was calling in from a car and would prefer not to chair the meeting tonight.

2. Roll Call

Present: Leon Mager, Sandy Flaherty, Tim Harrington, Janet Hegland, Dan Babineau, Tim Peterson, Tim Melchior.

Audience: Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District (ACD)
 Cameron Blake, Recording Secretary
 Mike Halliday, Linwood Supervisor (not entire meeting)

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hegland dropped off the call. Mr. Schurbon asked to add item d. “Designate public notice posting location” under agenda item 5. “Annual meeting items”. The board agreed.

Mr. Peterson moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Harrington seconded this motion. Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes for January 7, 2021

Mr. Harrington moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to approve the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

5. Annual meeting items

Mr. Schurbon introduced the board to Tim Melchior who was replacing Shelly Logren as a City of Columbus representative. Ms. Hegland rejoined the call at 6:41pm.

A. Election of officers

Mr. Leon said he thinks board members should rotate positions so they have a chance to experience the different roles on the board. Mr. Leon recommended Ms. Flaherty to the Vice Chair role, commenting that she thoroughly reviewed the meeting packet materials. Ms. Flaherty declined, explaining that she served as Treasurer for the Upper Rum WMO so she did not feel like she had the time. The board asked if Mr. Babineau would continue as the Chair and he said he was willing to continue if no one else was interested in that role.

Mr. Harrington moved and Mr. Melchior seconded to appoint Mr. Babineau as Chair. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

No one volunteered for the position of vice chair. Ms. Hegland agreed to serve this role as a trade if Ms. Flaherty agreed to serve as secretary.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Melchior seconded to appoint Ms. Hegland as Vice Chair. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Melchior moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to appoint Mr. Downing as Treasurer. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

The board asked Ms. Flaherty if she would be willing to serve as the Secretary and she said yes.

Mr. Harrington moved and Ms. Hegland seconded to appoint Ms. Flaherty as Secretary. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

B. Hear any recommendations on amendments to the JPA and watershed management plan

Mr. Mager opened the floor for discussion from the board, recalling from previous meetings that Ms. Hegland may want to speak on the topic. Ms. Hegland said she believes language needs to be added to the JPA to address how to resolve gridlock if communities disagree on the budget. She knows this may involve getting the four member communities together for discussion and action. Ms. Hegland said she would bring a list of proposed amendments for the JPA at the next board meeting.

Mr. Mager recalled this was different than previous discussion about the financial responsibilities of the member communities and asked how this was related to the structure or the content of the SRWMO JPA. Ms. Hegland explained that months ago the board discussed conflict resolution and she had talked to the League of Minnesota Cities afterwards. She thinks the SRWMO has an old JPA and the board can use the League of Minnesota Cities as a resource to find a template or new language to address it.

This is separate from the discussion about member contributions to the SRWMO. Mr. Mager suggested tabling this motion until next meeting for the board to take action based on Ms. Hegland's materials.

Ms. Hegland moved and Mr. Babineau seconded to revisit this topic of JPA updates at the next board meeting upon which Ms. Hegland will provide a list of suggested changes, potentially resulting in distribution to member cities for consideration. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

C. Set regular meeting dates through February 2022

Mr. Schurbon welcomed Mike Halliday to the meeting who entered prior to the start and before 6:55pm.

Mr. Schurbon asked if the board wanted to continue the same meeting time of 6:30pm on the first Thursday of the month. He proposed a recommended dates for regular board meetings: 4/1/2021, 5/6/2021, 9/2/2021, 11/4/2021, 1/6/2022, 2/3/2022. He proposed a summer meeting in the form of a board tour with date TBD. The board concurred with the recommended dates.

Mr. Harrington moved and Ms. Hegland seconded to approve the recommended regular meeting dates through February 2022. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

D. Designate public notice posting location

Mr. Schurbon suggested the board officially designate the SRWMO website as the SRWMO's public notice posting location. There was discussion around whether this satisfied legal requirements as the State used to require a newspaper. Based on recent discussions websites may be an acceptable public notice posting location for at least some types of notices. Mr. Babineau moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to designate the SRWMO website as the SRWMO's public notice posting location but the board then entered further discussion after which the motion and second were withdrawn.

Ms. Flaherty asked what documentation of this decision is needed, such as a resolution. Mr. Schurbon said the meeting minutes could serve as documentation. Ms. Hegland said the City of Columbus

understood they needed a physical location or to name a newspaper and that a website was not sufficient. It was noted that there is not a single newspaper that circulates throughout the entire SRWMO area. Mr. Peterson recommended the Forest Lake Times as the newspaper covering the largest area. The board discussed the availability of the newspapers, noting that because they are no longer free circulation is reduced. This limits their effectiveness as a public notice posting location. Mr. Schurbon asked if Ms. Hegland could check with the League of Minnesota Cities and Mr. Mager agreed that this item should be tabled until a legal opinion was received.

Ms. Hegland moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to table item 5D until legal opinion was sought. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

6. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's report

In the absence of Treasurer Downing, Mr. Schurbon displayed the January 2021 SRWMO bank statement and reported a beginning balance of \$26,481.76 with three deposits and two debits for an ending balance of \$52,548.45. The total 2021 community contribution was received from East Bethel and Ham Lake. The first half contribution was received by Columbus and Linwood Township with an invoice date of June 2021 for the second half.

Mr. Harrington moved and Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

B. Member community contributions for 2021 update

This was covered during the treasurer's report.

C. Current grants financial report from Anoka Conservation District (ACD)

Mr. Schurbon went over the report and pointed out that they had passed the grant reconciliation process for the 2019 WBF grant from BWSR. There was not a lot of recent activity on the carp projects.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Jurisdictional boundary update with Rice Creek Watershed District

Ms. Hegland explained that the City of Columbus had their engineer map out the parcel changes by address and that she had the green light from the city administrator to approve this boundary change from Columbus's standpoint. Mr. Schurbon explained to Mr. Melchior the background of this item. Ms. Flaherty asked what an "orphan parcel" was. Ms. Hegland answered with her understanding that an "orphan parcel" is where the hydrological boundary line created a parcel separated from neighboring parcels resulting in an incontiguous boundary, whereas the boundary needs to be contiguous; so orphaned parcels were reassigned to the watershed that ensured a contiguous boundary for that watershed was maintained.

Ms. Hegland moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to direct Mr. Schurbon to email the RCWD with the SRWMO board's concurrence with the proposed boundary revision dated November 19, 2020. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

B. Ham Lake local surface water management plan

Mr. Schurbon updated the board that since the last SRWMO meeting the following activities have occurred: he submitted the SRWMO's comments to the plan writer, a meeting was held with the plan writer, and he received an email from the plan writer with responses to SRWMO comments. Based on these responses the next draft of the plan promises to meet SRWMO expectations and so

he recommended the board to wait to receive the next draft of the plan before approving it. No action is recommended at the February SRWMO meeting. Ms.

Flaherty asked Mr. Schurbon if he had heard of any new laws for WMO's coming up in 2024, which she heard from someone else. Mr. Schurbon said he wasn't sure what that could be in reference to.

C. 2022 budget

At the January meeting the following edits were made to the draft 2022 budget: spent down \$5,000 additional undesignated reserve, and reduced line 16 (ag outreach) from \$1,120 to \$0. Mr. Schurbon provided the draft budget reflecting those changes. Discussion was opened for additional budget revisions, with none heard. The next step is for it to be sent to the member communities for ratification with a deadline of the May SRWMO meeting.

Mr. Harrington moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to approve the 2022 draft budget totaling \$43,880 to be sent to the member communities for ratification. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

The board thanked Mr. Schurbon for his work and asked if he would be sending them out tomorrow as two of the member communities were having their board meetings next week. Mr. Schurbon confirmed this.

D. Review of communities' ordinances for compliance with SRWMO minimums

Mr. Schurbon updated the board on this ongoing agenda item with his updated memo. Columbus was close to completion and Ham Lake was complete. Linwood staff are working on it and finding that ordinances in other communities are much more complex than needed in Linwood because those bigger communities are subject to State MS4 regulations. Ms. Flaherty noted that the timing of this editing was not ideal and that it may be helpful for the township to delay. Mr. Schurbon agreed and suggested Linwood adopt the SRWMO policy as a temporary measure with the ordinance edits being addressed later on. He has not had any recent responses from East Bethel with only about 10% completion. He asked Mr. Harrington for assistance in reaching out to city staff and Mr. Harrington said he would touch base with his contacts tomorrow. Ms. Flaherty asked for Mr. Schurbon to clarify the language of stormwater standards vs. ordinances within his table. He confirmed that the term stormwater standards applies to WMOs and ordinances applies to cities and townships.

8. New Business

A. Approve Lower St. Croix 1W1P annual work plan for Watershed Based Implementation Funding

Mr. Schurbon led the discussion of this topic. The Lower St. Croix CWMP Implementation Policy Committee, which includes SRWMO board Member Hegland, unanimously approved a 2021-22 work plan to be sent to local boards for review and approval at their February meetings. All participating governing boards, including SRWMO, must consider whether to approve. If this work plan gains approval of at least 2/3 of the participating local entities, our partnership is scheduled to receive \$1,263,531 in Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) from the State of Minnesota in 2021-22.

The work plan includes several programs that can be applicable to the SRWMO area including expansion of the East Metro Water Resources Education Program, which Washington Conservation District leads, to the entire basin. This will not supersede the ACD educator's position and will be a good partnership. The relatively small \$39,531 for wetland restoration specifically mentions a site that Mr. Schurbon is working on that drains to Typo Lake. While it's not certain that this project will become reality, we're well positioned to use these grant funds. The site is in Isanti County but drains to Anoka County. Funding will be available for internal loading studies with Martin and Linwood

Lakes on the list of candidates. Funding will be available for subwatershed assessment studies and Linwood Lake is on the list of candidates. Linwood Lake is also in the SRWMO's watershed plan for 2022-23, so we'd have those matching funds available.

It is imperative that 2/3rds of the parties, including ACD, approve this work plan in February. Failure to do so means foregoing this year's allocation of state funding. Staff recommends the board approve the Lower St. Croix 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work plan dated January 25, 2021.

The Policy Committee approved the workplan unanimously, however after the vote a dissenting letter was distributed from the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District. Ms. Hegland and Mr. Schurbon summarized some of the points that caught their attention which included differing opinions on how the funding was being distributed and prioritized. Although this is not the right time to delay accepting the workplan, there were some points worth considering and they suggested putting the letter on the next SRWMO board's meeting agenda for discussion.

Ms. Hegland moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to approve the Lower St. Croix 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work plan and to direct Mr. Schurbon to distribute the CLFLWD for discussion at the next board meeting. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

B. 2020 draft work results from Anoka Co Water Resources Outreach Collaborative

Mr. Schurbon presented the 2020 list of accomplishments and events while highlighting the work done that was specific to the member communities. Although 2020 was a challenging year for this work, there was still a lot of great outreach achieved. Emily Johnson from ACD switched many of the events over to a digital format. The board commented that they were impressed by the videos. Ms. Hegland recalled Ms. Johnson attending the Columbus fall fest last year and that she did a great job with engaging the community there.

C. 2020 work results report from ACD

Mr. Melchior sent Mr. Schurbon a link from BWSR regarding guidance for leading public meetings. This may be applicable to earlier discussions of public meeting notice posting. Mr. Schurbon presented a 2020 report .

The list of activities included monitoring, outreach and education, and administrative support. Mr. Peterson asked what the findings were on the carp study completed for Linwood. Mr. Schurbon said carp slightly exceed the threshold for lake health with an additional concern of younger carp which can increase the population. Mr. Schurbon explained that no box netting would occur for Linwood or Martin Lakes, but under ice seining efforts could. He will send the board email updates of the winter carp activities. Mr. Peterson asked if they found the carp spawning in Boot Lake and Mr. Schurbon said this was not observed.

There was volunteer outreach for water quality monitoring at Coon Lake and Mr. Mager reminded Mr. Schurbon that this was done by Arlan Mercil. He asked if the data Arlan gathered should go to Mr. Schurbon and Mr. Schurbon said the current structure was fine.

Mr. Schurbon went over the administrative activities such as website maintenance, the audit, and grant searching and applications. He reviewed recommendations including a way to replenish the SRWMO cost-share grant fund without affecting the budget. Mr. Peterson noted that the two new ponds on the west side of Martin Lake looked good.

D. 2021 contract with ACD

The tasks in the contract are identical to the 2021 budget. Mr. Schurbon identified \$1,368.28 of savings that could be applied to the cost-share program funds. Mr. Mager asked if there was monitoring planned in 2021 for Coon or Linwood Lake. This was not planned until 2022 according

to the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Mager said he believes the SRWMO should monitor those more frequently.

Ms. Hegland moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to approve contract for services between the SRWMO and ACD for 2021 Water Monitoring and Management. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried.

E. Public officials tour

The board discussed whether this activity could take place in 2021 as there are a lot of great projects to see. The uncertainty of COVID seems to prevent counting on plans until August or September at the earliest. Mr. Schurbon thinks that two months of notice at least would be adequate for planning. The board decided to table this for further consideration.

9. Mail

The insurance is paid and up to date (item 11B).

10. Other

No other topics.

11. Invoice(s) approval

A. Recording Secretary services for Jan 2020 meeting (\$200)

Mr. Harrison moved and Ms. Flaherty seconded to pay the invoice #10721, payment for \$200. Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Insurance renewal

Topic covered in previous item (9).

12. Adjourn

Mr. Harrington moved and Mr. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:11 pm. Hegland yes, Hegland yes, Harrington yes, Mager yes, Flaherty yes, Babineau yes, Melchior yes. Motion carried. Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 1

Submitted by:

Cameron Blake