



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Managers Regular Meeting

December 9, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Remotely Online

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski, (Chair) Inver Grove Heights
Sheila Vanney, West St. Paul
Lyle Hanzal, Lilydale

Karen Reid, (Vice Chair) Saint Paul
Mary Jeanne Schneeman, (Sec/Tres)
Jill Smith, Mendota Heights

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Tom Kaldunski, Inver Grove Heights
Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Ross Beckwith, West St. Paul
Valerie Grover, Dakota County
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Ryan Ruzek, Mendota Heights
Pat Murphy, St. Paul
Dee McDaniels, Dakota County
Emily Gable, Dakota County
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

1. Call Meeting to Order

1.1 Public Comment / Introductions

Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda. Please limit to three minutes.

1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

MOTION by Hanzel to approve the agenda for the December 9th, 2020 meeting, second by Reid; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Schneeman, Hanzal; motion passed.

2. Approval of the November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Lencowski asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes, there were none.

MOTION by Reid to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Hanzal; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Schneeman, Hanzal; motion passed.

3. Approval of December 9, 2020 Financial Summary & Invoices

Spreiter provided an overview of the finances and invoices to be paid and recommended approval.

MOTION by Hanzal to approve the financial summary and invoices to be paid, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Schneeman, Vanney, Hanzal; motion passed.

4. Review and Approve 2021 Board Meeting Schedule - SWCD*

The Board discussed the proposed 2021 meeting schedule. Kaldunski suggested adding that the meetings will be planned to be held remotely online.

MOTION by Hanzal to approve the 2021 meeting schedule with the suggested changes, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Schneeman, Vanney, Hanzal; motion passed.

5. Review Water Stewards Applications & Select Participants

Reid summarized the review of the applications and said the ranking and scoring of the applications showed them all very close. There was consensus among the reviewers to fund all 4 applications, vs. the top two as previously discussed. Barten will notify the participants and ask them to pay the \$150.00 (10% of total fee) up front portion of the program fee as part of participation.

MOTION by Schneeman to approve funding for all four of the MN Water Stewards who applied for the 2021 program, second by Hanzal; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Schneeman, Vanney, Hanzal; motion passed.

6. Presentation: Addressing Groundwater Concerns in the LMRWMO

Valerie Grover, the Dakota County Groundwater Unit Supervisor, presented on groundwater concerns in Dakota County and the LMRWMO. Meeting notes are below.

Water Quality

- Manganese is big concern in Inver Grove Heights. Water softeners do remove majority of Manganese, around 95% or 97% removal with softener. If Cities can provide water softening, this could help with reducing chloride levels and also removing manganese. IGH has highest number of wells in County. Chloride, highest levels near roads or SW ponds. Nitrate less of a concern, is correlated to AG, less intensive agriculture in WMO. Pesticide presence is correlated to nitrate concentrations.
- PFAS, comes from consumer products, may be in air and rainwater at this point.
- Geologically occurring arsenic, not much of an issue, is hit or miss where levels occur.
- How is data compiled, who holds data? Comes from County atlas from 80's, is missing some newer wells.
- Ordinance updated to make customers aware of potential pollutants through testing when the dig a well.
- Pharmaceuticals are another concern that is emerging and requires more information.
- Some naturally occurring contaminants, all you can do is testing and then treatment.
- MGS will be updating MN Geologic atlas and will have more information on surface/groundwater interaction.
- County will have renewed focus on northern communities well inventory and testing.
- Nitrate reduction effort, ACRE (Ag Chem Reduction Effort)

Water Quantity:

- There are areas of County which are expected to have a 50% drawdown of aquifers in next 20 years.
- County plan shows highest users in each community.
- May promote groundwater reuse through policies or programs. Promote irrigation limitations through policy, may be 30 to 50% increase in winter to summer, attributed largely to irrigation.

Vanney Asked to put the action items from Valerie’s presentation into the minutes, those are shown in the below tables. Lencowski asked for copies of the presentation. Barten will post the presentations on the LMRWMO website under the meeting materials.

Water Quality	
Strategy	WMO Involvement
1B2 – Reduce contamination from turf and landscape maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support landscape/turf maintenance training - Consider partnering with SWCD to support cost-share programs to promote conversion of turf grass to perennial vegetation, and Landscape for Clean Water projects
1B4 – Prevent groundwater contamination from chloride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider developing a local chloride reduction plan and policy in accordance with the MPCA Management Plans - Support Smart Salt Training Classes and other education and outreach efforts related to chloride reduction - Consider cost-share programs for replacement of outdated water softeners

Water Quality	
Strategy	WMO Involvement
2A2 - Promote Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider participating in a County-wide water supply/conservation initiative - Consider cost-share programs for water conservation programs and projects.
2A3 – Support alternative water supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering partnering with the County on cost-share programs for water reuse projects.
2B2 - Protect, preserve, and restore resources that support groundwater-dependent ecosystems (wetlands, fens, trout streams)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider updates to wetland protection and management plans, as needed. - Consider partnering with the County for wetland retention and restoration activities.

Education	
Strategy	WMO Involvement
3A – Inform and educate general public	Help expand groundwater conservation and pollution prevention education and outreach efforts.
3B – Provide training and education to targeted audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist with development of K-12 education materials - Make existing WMO materials available as examples - Help promote County private well water testing programs - Support smart salt and turf management training events

Emily Gable, a Water Resources Specialist with Dakota County, presented on septic system issues in Dakota County and the LMRWMO. Meeting notes are below.

Septic Systems:

- Dakota County requires compliance inspection for property transfer, timelines to fix failing systems, design standards. County implements program in areas of its jurisdictions. City or township jurisdiction must be as strict as County standards.
- Record keeping: County tracks systems through maintainers, construction records, property transfer requirements. Inver Grove Heights has most systems with over 1,500.
- Ways that WMO can be involved in Septic Systems is for the LMRWMO and Cities to help coordinate inventory creation with residents and help in public outreach for septic system related issues.

7. Updates and Handouts

7.1 Grant Tracking Update

Williams noted that more habitat and ecological restoration grant opportunities are on the docket. He noted the Laura Jane Musser Fund deadline coming up. Kaldunski asked for more information on that grant program.

7.2 Other Updates / Member City Updates

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: January 13th, 2021

9. Adjourn – 5:00 pm

Meeting adjourned by Chair Lencowski at 5:00 pm.