



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Managers Regular Meeting

August 11, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Remotely Online

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Karen Reid, Vice Chair

Sheila Vanney, West St. Paul

Michael Randle, South Saint Paul

Jill Smith, Mendota Heights

Mary Jeanne Schneeman, Mendota Heights

Tom Sutton, Lilydale

Julie Eastman, West St. Paul

Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights

Ross Beckwith, West St. Paul

Tom Kaldunski, Inver Grove Heights

Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

Sue Polka, South St. Paul

Pat Murphy, Saint Paul

Dawn Gaetke, Inver Grove Heights

Brian Watson, Dakota County SWCD

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Reid at 3:05 pm.

1.1 Public Comment / Introductions

Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Barten asked to add the approval of insurance liability waiver to the agenda as item number 7.

MOTION by Halvorsen to approve the agenda as amended for the August 11th, 2021 meeting, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

2. Approval of the July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Reid asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes and noted that she was in attendance at the previous meeting.

MOTION by Schneeman to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Randle; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

3. Approval of the August 11th Financial Summary & Invoices

Spreiter summarized the information in the packet and recommended approval of the financial summary.

MOTION by Randle to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

4. Authorize Engineering Request at Pine Bend Bluffs

This agenda item was tabled at the July LMRWMO Board meeting. Barten summarized the information in the packet and provided background on the issues in this area. There was discussion on the potential role of the WMO in a future project and there was general agreement that a third party engineering review by the LMRWMO would be beneficial to help find a solution to the erosion issues in this area.

The Board discussed the amount for Barr to spend on engineering and the timeline for the analysis. The Board directed the Administrator and Barr to hold a meeting with the project partners to gather additional information and then for Barr to prepare a proposal for engineering to be approved at a future meeting.

5. Authorize Submittal of Seidls Lake Grant

Barten summarized the information in the packet regarding the Seidls Lake Shoreline restoration project and potential grant application to the MN DNR's Conservation Partners Legacy grant program. Barten added that he has met with City of South St. Paul and City of Inver Grove Heights staff and they are supportive of the approach for the LMRWMO to apply for funding and manage a shoreline restoration grant project. The Board discussed the project and grant request and indicated support for the project.

MOTION by Halvorsen to authorize the LMRWMO Administrator to apply for up to the maximum amount allowed in grant funding through the MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant program for the Seidls Lake Shoreline restoration project, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

Vanney and Reid added that additional budget for the LMRWMO Administrator to implement grant projects, such as this one, should be considered for future years budgets.

6. Review Draft List of LMRWMO Priority Waterbodies

Williams summarized the information in the packet regarding the priority waterbodies. He went through this list of LMRWMO waterbodies in detail and reviewed the potential methodologies which could be implemented to prioritize the different waterbodies. The Board discussed not having size dictate priority. Kaldunski noted that the Marcott chain of lakes is a high priority for the City of Inver Grove Heights. Barten noted that he received input from Leslie Pilgrim regarding the consideration of ecosystem services values of the waterbodies in the prioritization. Barten noted that he would like to see the categorization of restoration vs. protection included into the analysis. Spreiter asked for connectivity and watershed to be included in the analysis. Vanney asked about the necessity for using size as a criteria and about the connectivity to groundwater as a consideration. Williams noted that size can be removed and that there is not enough data on groundwater connectivity to use as a criterion but it can be used if that information is known for a specific waterbody. Williams will continue work on this prioritization and bring additional information to the Board in September for consideration.

7. Approval of Insurance Liability Waiver

Barten explained that the Board must act annually on this insurance waiver.

MOTION by Schneeman to not waive the limits on liability coverage, second by Sutton; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

8. Updates and Handouts

8.1 Updated Meeting Schedule

Barten noted that the next meeting is to be held in-person at the Villa Del Sol community room in Saint Paul. There was discussion on requirements for an in-person meeting, such as masks and social distancing. The Board discussed verification of vaccination to be required for attendance at the meeting. Reid mentioned that it could be on the honor system for asking for vaccination.

MOTION by Sutton to require demonstrated proof of vaccination and that masks and social distancing be required for the September LMRWMO Board meeting, second by Schneeman; Roll call approval by Reid, Schneeman, Halvorsen, Randle, Vanney, Sutton; motion passed.

8.2 Final Report & Presentation on Nonylphenol and Sediment, Freshwater Society

Barten noted that the Freshwater Society staff had completed their study on Nonylphenol presence in river and riverine lake sediments, which was partially funded by the LMRWMO. He offered to have Freshwater staff provide a brief presentation on the study results. There was general agreement with having staff provide a presentation but Vanney asked that it be short and that WMO plan update discussions are prioritized over this presentation.

8.3 Other Updates / Member City Updates

Member City representatives provided updates on projects in their City.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: September 8th, 2021

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair Reid at 4:40 pm