



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Managers Regular Meeting

October 13, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Remotely Online

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski, Chair - Inver Grove Heights
Sheila Vanney, West St. Paul
Michael Randle, South Saint Paul
Tom Sutton, Lilydale

Karen Reid, Vice Chair - Saint Paul
Julie Eastman, West St. Paul
Jill Smith, Mendota Heights
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Ross Beckwith, West St. Paul
Tom Kaldunski, Inver Grove Heights
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Sue Polka, South St. Paul
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lencowski at 3:00 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)

MOTION by Smith to approve the agenda for the current meeting, second by Randle; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Randle, Vanney, Smith; motion passed.

2. Approval of the September 8th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Lencowski asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting minutes.

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

3. Approval of the October 13th, 2021 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 Smith; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Randle, Vanney, Smith; motion passed.

4. Review and Comment on Draft LMRWMO Website

Barten provided a draft version of the updated LMRWMO website and asked for any comments to be sent directly to him. The updated and final version of the website will be complete by the end of November.

5. Review Draft 2022 SWCD/LMRWMO Work Plan and Budget

Barten summarized the information in the packet and noted that the SWCD has served as the Administrator for over 20 years through this annual agreement for services. The Board discussed the proposed work plan and budget.

MOTION by Reid to approve the proposed 2022 SWCD work plan and budget and authorize the LMRWMO Chair to execute an agreement with the SWCD, second by Smith; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Randle, Vanney, Smith, Halvorsen, Sutton; motion passed.

6. Review of Existing LMRWMO Strategies and Policies

Williams summarized the information in the packet. He went through the individual items in the policies and strategies document for consideration and asked for feedback. He noted that he will be editing the document further and presenting to the Board at the next meeting.

Spreiter noted that it would be helpful to ensure the LMRWMO requirements are not redundant with City MS4 requirements. She suggested noting how Cities will follow MS4 permit requirements vs. having specific language. There was discussion on thresholds for permits and standards in different Cities, as well as the potential for overlay areas, potentially in direct drainages for high value waterbodies, with a higher standard for stormwater treatment. Williams suggested having a separate document in the plan with performance standards, vs. having that within the plan. The Board discussed having a banking or credit system for stormwater improvements, perhaps this is tied into the overlay zone methodology.

Barten requested having Barr identify areas for potential overlay zones for Board consideration, based primarily on waterbody impairments. This could include both a lower standard for sites greater than 1 acre or having stormwater treatment standards apply for sites less than 1 acre. Spreiter noted she would support this approach. Murphy noted that this can be difficult in implementation and asked for it to be very clearly portrayed up front as to what standards apply in different areas. Murphy noted that the Capital Region WD has a more stringent standard and a pay in lieu of treatment program. He said they can have a difficult time in implementing regional projects with that funding from payment in lieu of treatment program, due to difficulty in long term operations and maintenance. He added that any increase in requirements carries administrative costs for inspections and oversight by the City.

7. Review Proposed Scope of Work for Pine Bend SNA

Joe provided an update on the LMRWMO assisting the City of Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, and MN DNR to seek resolution to the ravine erosion issues near the Pine Bend Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). Barten noted that Barr Engineering has provided a draft scope of work for engineering services. He will be convening a meeting with the other project stakeholders to see how they would like to proceed. The Board discussed the potential for the LMRWMO to contribute funds towards the proposed Barr work. Vanney suggested including pollutant reduction calculations into the final report and also requesting the Dakota County attorney draft an agreement for the work, if necessary. Williams will modify the proposal to include pollutant load calculations. Board members also suggested starting with the assumption that the other partners bare the majority of the cost. Barten will come back to the Board with more information and to enter into an agreement at a future meeting.

MOTION by Vanney to approve up to \$5,000 in LMRWMO funds towards the completion of the Barr study, second by Randle; Roll call approval by Lencowski, Reid, Randle, Vanney, Smith, Sutton; motion passed.

8. Updates and Handouts

8.1 Watershed Plan Update Status

Williams provided a brief update on items not already discussed.

8.2 Watershed Plan Extension Approval

Barten noted that he received official approval of the plan extension from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.

8.3 FY-19 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Extension

Barten noted that he has received notification of approval for a one year grant extension to the Fiscal Year 2019 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant, to now expire on Dec. 31st 2022.

8.4 Seidls Lake Grant Submittal

Barten noted that he has not heard yet on the approval of funding for the grant.

8.5 MN Water Stewards Outreach

Barten said that Barr staff were preparing a scope of work for the Board to review at a future meeting.

8.6 Final 2022 LMRWMO Budget

Barten provided the final budget as approved at the previous Board meeting.

8.7 Grant Tracking Update

Williams provided a summary.

8.8 Other Updates / Member City Updates

Member City representatives provided updates on projects in their City.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: November 10th, 2021 – Held Remotely

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Chair Lencowski at 5:00 pm.