



Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221st Ave
Cedar, MN 55011

APPROVED MINUTES

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting

Thursday November 3, 2022

Meeting was held in person at the East Bethel City Hall

1. Call to Order
Ms. Kantor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call
Present: Janet Hegland (arrived 6:39PM), Tim Harrington, Candice Kantor, Tim Peterson, Tim Melchior, Leon Mager, Troy Wolens

Audience: Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District (ACD)
Cameron Blake, Recording Secretary (attending remotely via Zoom)

3. Approval of Agenda
The group discussed adding an agenda item as 10c; preapproving a not to exceed payment amount for 2023 MCIT insurance invoice to ensure this is paid in time before the January board meeting.
Mr. Peterson moved to approve the agenda as amended and Mr. Wolens seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes for September 1, 2022
There were edits received from Ms. Kantor that will be incorporated into the minutes.
Mr. Harrington moved to approve the minutes with those edits and Mr. Mager seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

5. Financial Reports
A. Treasurer's report
After discussion about an error in the treasurer's report, Mr. Harrington reported a beginning balance of \$31,567.48 with an ending balance of \$13,392.22 if all invoices are approved at the end of the meeting.
Mr. Peterson moved to accept the treasurer's report and Mr. Wolens seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

6. Unfinished Business

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

Mr. Schurbon said Ham Lake and East Bethel are currently in compliance, Linwood's process should be complete by December 1st, and Columbus should be in compliance by the end of December. Mr. Schurbon will bring one last update to the board at the January meeting.

B. SRWMO JPA amendment process update

The administrators and council representatives from SRWMO communities have met twice recently to discuss JPA amendments. The meetings were October 4 in person and Oct 19 on Zoom. Progress has been made on many administrative/housekeeping edits. The funding formula remains under discussion. A goal is to have agreement on all issues by the conclusion of a scheduled December 6 meeting. Thereafter, each community would have time to approve the revised JPA in December-January.

There is tentative agreement on budgeting process changes, but it will be revisited after the funding formula is determined. Points of tentative agreement include:

- A period of 60 days should be allowed for community's initial review of a draft SRWMO budget. Failure to respond within this time period constitutes ratification.
- If there are objections to the budget the SRWMO may amend the budget and send it back to the communities for review. That second review is 30 days. Failure to respond within this time period constitutes ratification.
- Objections to ratifying the budget must include a reason which must be about the budget, not about the JPA terms.
- Unanimous budget ratification by all four communities is required.

The board discussed the timeline of the SRWMO budget process compared to the budget timeline for the communities. The goal is to get the funding formula determined and sent to the communities in January. Ms. Hegland noted the SRWMO budget is laid out in the SRWMO 10-year management plan which communities have agreed to. One concern is the lack of councilmember liaison from Ham Lake, and this concern has been expressed to the city administrator.

Because the meetings of the member communities have been going well the board agreed the next meeting could occur without the facilitator to save money.

C. Sunrise Chain of Lakes carp management grant update

The Sunrise Chain of Lakes Carp Management grant expires at the end of the year. Project goals included carp biomass reduction below 89 lb/acre in Typo, Martin, and Linwood Lakes and reductions in phosphorus levels towards the state standard. The biomass goal has been met for Typo Lake, and new population estimates are coming soon for Martin and Typo Lakes. Martin Lake is almost reaching state water quality standards and a 27% phosphorus reduction was reached in Typo Lake. Linwood Lake efforts were less successful during the course of the grant although initial population estimates were too high. Not all of the grant

funding was spent. Once project costs have been finalized some funds will be returned to the state. If not all matching funds from the SRWMO District and Linwood Lake Association are required, they may be returned as well.

Ms. Hegland asked if any of the remaining grant funds could be used for the feasibility study but this is not possible as it was not part of the original work plan. Ms. Hegland asked if the SRWMO could apply for a grant extension and Mr. Schurbon explained the SRWMO is unlikely to see more progress. As the number of carp diminishes the cost/lb removal increases. Many removal methods were attempted: open water, under ice, sport fishing, intercepting migrating carp, etc. Other methods are likely not cost effective or infeasible. The group discussed lake aerators and lake health.

Next steps include maintenance harvests which are recommended to begin in 2024. The SRWMO could rent or lease box nets from Carp Solutions and do the work with a well-trained volunteer group.

Other steps for water quality improvements for these lakes include the Adopt-a-Drain program, enhanced street sweeping, and stormwater projects, among other options outlined in the board memo. Linwood Township is considering applying for an enhanced street sweeping study through the LSC Partnership this winter.

7. New Business

A. Lower St. Croix Partnership operations

Ms. Hegland referred to the meeting packet memo with an update on this topic. She felt that the concerns she brought to the Lower St. Croix (LSC) Partnership Policy Committee were ignored and the discussion on the topic was insufficient. Ms. Hegland noted that the attorney for Washington County also recommended a JPE organizational structure but the group did not act on that either.

Ultimately the Policy Committee decided to continue to stay a Joint Powers Collaborative and to annually re-visit whether to transition to a Joint Powers Entity. There was discussion about lack of policies and procedures. All were directed back to staff to further develop. Ms. Hegland noted she felt the staff involved were doing excellent work and were focused on the projects; but the Policy Committee should be responsible for addressing these policy concerns and she doesn't feel they are. She feels the Policy Committee will continue to operate with inadequate policies and procedures and this currently opens participants up to too much risk and liability. For example, policy members should abstain from voting on funding projects within their own organizations because doing so creates a conflict of interest. There was no interest in drafting a Conflict of Interest Policy. She believes there is bias in the decisions being made, unequal treatment in the project decision process, and poor practices and procedural issues that will continue without policies in place to prevent them. The group discussed the current voting structure and makeup of the Policy Committee and political influences that have been observed.

Mr. Schurbon explained the options he sees the SRWMO as having: exiting the LSC, continuing to participate for short time to see how what policy changes are adopted, or continuing to participate while seeing if the LSC will transition to a JPE arrangement in the more distant future. He noted if the SRWMO exits the LSC they will be ineligible for grant

funds through them. There are identified opportunities the SRWMO has to apply for LSC grant funding which they would be unable to use however there are other funding options the SRWMO can use. He also explained the group should specify if they will continue to adopt the LSC Management Plan as their guidance document which can be used as a requirement for state funds for future grant applications.

Ms. Kantor asked how other watershed groups are structuring their organizations and Mr. Schurbon explained it was variable. He said there is no required action from the board tonight but they can make a decision if they wanted. Mr. Schurbon has drafted a resolution for the board to use if they so choose.

Ms. Hegland moved to adopt the draft resolution for the SRWMO to exit the LSC Partnership. Mr. Mager seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

B. Linwood Township 22529 Martin Lake Dr stormwater pipe issue

A letter dated September 16, 2022 to the Anoka Conservation District and the Sunrise River WMO, care of Mr. Schurbon, was received from Linwood Township's attorney. The letter was also addressed to Anoka County Environmental Services. This letter and its enclosures were provided to the SRWMO board members on September 27, 2022. The letter concerns a stormwater pipe at 22529 Martin Lake Drive. The letter states the pipe appears to be under the home and has deteriorated. There are questions about solutions and responsibilities. The letter does not ask anything of the Sunrise River WMO. It does request certain information from the ACD and Anoka County about the aforementioned property, stormwater conveyances, and a rain garden. The Anoka County Attorney office has replied to this request for information.

The group asked Mr. Schurbon to send these documents to their attorney so that he is aware of the issue and can provide any advice to the SRWMO that he deems appropriate.

8. Mail

Mail included:

- Brochure from MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) about insurance.

9. Other

10. Invoice(s) approval

A. Recording Secretary services for September 2022 meeting (\$200)

Mr. Wolens moved to and Ms. Hegland seconded to pay the invoice #90122, payment for \$200. The motion carried with all in favor.

B. Anoka Conservation District 2022 services invoice 3 of 3 (\$17,975.26)

Ms. Hegland moved to and Mr. Peterson seconded to pay the invoice #2022038, payment for \$17,975.26. The motion carried with all in favor.

C. MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) 2023 Insurance

The MCIT insurance rate estimate for 2023 was \$1,774.

Ms. Hegland moved to and Mr. Wolens seconded to preapprove up to \$2,000 for payment of the 2023 MCIT insurance invoice when received. The motion carried with all in favor.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Mager moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hegland seconded this. The motion carried and Ms. Kantor adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.

At 8:05PM Chair Kantor reconvened the meeting. She described that there are upcoming payments for the SRWMO joint powers amendment process that will need timely payment. **Hegland moved and Harrington seconded to authorize payments not to exceed \$8,000 for the JPA amendment process to Milt Thomas for facilitation, Kennedy and Graven for legal, and Anoka Conservation District for coordination. Motion passed with all in favor.**

Mager moved and Hegland seconded to adjourn. Motion passed with all in favor.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: 2023 - January 5, February 2

Submitted by:
Cameron Blake