

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting
Thursday July 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Chair Babineau, Leon Mager, Paul Enestvedt, Tim Harrington, Tim Peterson, Matt Downing,

Absent: Dennis Peterson, Sandy Flaherty

Audience: Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District (ACD)
Jared Wagner, Anoka Conservation District (ACD)
Sharon LeMay, Anoka Conservation District Supervisor
Dan Fabian, Mn Board of Water and Soil Resource (BWSR)

3. Approval of Agenda **Jamie S requested to add item under 9. Other “B. Local Water Plan Reviews” Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Downing seconded to approve the agenda with one addition under Other. Motion carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes **Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Enestvedt seconded to approve the May 3, 2018 minutes as written. Motion carried.**

5. Treasurer's Report Mr. Downing reported a June 2018 beginning balance of \$68,031.74 with no deposits or checks during the month, keeping the balance at \$68,031.74.

Mr. Downing, who recently became the SRWMO Treasurer, reported that he went to bank to become signer. It was reported that Mike Jeziorski, East Bethel Finance Director, suggested he should be removed as a signer because he prepares the checks. Mr. Mager agreed that he could be a third signing if the board wishes. **Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Downing seconded to authorize adding Mr. Mager as third signer on the SRWMO bank account at First Bank and Trust and removing Mike Jeziorski as a signer. Motion carried.**

Subsequent to this action authorized signers on the bank account will be Mr. Mager, Mr. Downing and Mr. Babineau.

6. Unfinished Business A. St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) update
Mr. Schurbon gave an update on the recent 1W1P activity. There is a consultant on board, and so far administration has been the focus. There is a boat tour scheduled in Taylors Falls on 8/27/2018.

B. St. Croix Workshop on the Water (WOW) update
Mr. Downing, Mager, and Peterson attended and gave update from their attendance at this recent workshop. There were over 120 attendees for the 4 hour workshop. DNR and Parks gave a session on carp, St. Croix history, and native mussels. In another session participants gave input on watershed planning through posters and discussion. The final session was about volunteer networks and “Adopt a Storm Drain” which has little relevance in SRWMO because there are few storm drains.
Overall, the sentiment was there was not enough discussion about 1W1P.

C. Watershed Plan update

Mr. Schurbon gave an overview of the process of updating the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan including completed tasks, tasks for this meeting, and upcoming tasks.

1. Review May 24 public officials tour and public input meeting

Mr. Schurbon presented a summary of the May 24 Officials' Tour and Kickoff Meeting. The new watershed plan will include the event summary. It was noted that participants ranked priorities of water quality, septic systems, aquatic invasive species and water monitoring are the same as in the current SRWMO Plan. One audience absent from this event were city staff and city council members (aside from those serving on the SRWMO board). A notable piece of verbal public input was to work more closely during the planning process with public land managers including the MN DNR and Anoka County Parks.

2. Evaluate current watershed plan and develop vision for next plan

Mr. Schurbon noted that State Rules for the plan update process require evaluating the current watershed plan. He asked the Board members to complete a questionnaire about the previous watershed plan. Discussion included:

- The plan length is about right.
- Expenditures to various expense categories were about right but more project cost share grants to landowners are desired, particularly for shoreline restorations.
- More outreach and education is needed and it should be on a more personal level to be effective.
- Outreach should be structured to promote project installations.
- More DNR enforcement of illegal shoreline alterations is needed.
- Septic system failures continue to be a problem. Detection of problem systems and offering assistance to fix them is important.

These comments, along with additional comments from questionnaires filled out by board members will be compiled into a summary. That summary will be included in the new watershed plan, as required.

Mr. Schurbon asked the board members to complete another questionnaire regarding their vision for the new watershed plan. Discussion included:

- The new watershed plan should be reviewed and updated/amended every two years during its life.
- A desire for more cost share grants that encourage residents to do water quality projects. This may be a way to get more work done with minimal additional expenditure.
- Increased community awareness of the SRWMO and water quality is needed.

These comments, along with additional comments from questionnaires filled out by board members will be compiled into a summary. That summary will be included in the new watershed plan, as required.

There was discussion about how to get city councils and staff involved in the watershed planning process so their input can be incorporated. Discussion included:

- Watershed Based Funding is an incentive for strong city participation. City projects are eligible for this funding only if they are in the SRWMO Plan.
- Planning updates can be given to city councils and staff at planning milestones such as priority setting. An update to them about the May 24 planning kickoff event may be in order. Having city staff help give these presentations may be useful.
- City staff should serve on the planning technical advisory committee. That committee may want to meet relatively soon to discuss Watershed Based Funding implications for planning, comparisons of city water-related ordinances, and local water plan updates that are currently ongoing.

3. Review regional and city plans, ordinance and studies. Identify gaps and commonalities.

Schurbon provided a written summary of a review of city local water plans, plan of neighboring watershed organizations, city ordinances, and other studies and plans. In all, ACD staff reviewed 4,000 pages of such information. Discussion included:

- Streamlining and adding clarity to linkages between the SRWMO plan, city water plans and city ordinances is desirable. City local water plans and ordinances do not always have clear linkages or consistency. Some city ordinances with respect to water are unclear about their requirements, or residents may have a difficult time navigating them.
- The SRWMO area has an unusually high number of high quality natural areas, but only two of four communities have ordinances that require this be considered during the development process.
- TMDL studies and the Sunrise River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) provide technical information and guidance for the SRWMO plan.

The written summary provided by Schurbon will be included in the new watershed plan, as required.

7. New Business None

8. Mail No mail.

9. Other A. Determine if enough members will be present for quorum on 8/2/2018
 All in attendance anticipated attending the August 1, 2018 meeting, so a quorum should be attained. The meeting date was not changed.

B. Local Water Plan Reviews

A letter was received from the consultant that did the Columbus Comp and Water Plans, requesting SRWMO review. Mr. Schurbon noted that all cities are undergoing required updates to their local water plans. The SRWMO has approval authorities; these plans

must be consistent with the SRWMO watershed plan. Mr. Schurbon stated he can provide review of city local water plans and provide a recommended action to the board using already-contracted administrative hours. He noted that this task was not anticipated when the number of hours were contracted, and may cause a shortages of hours later in the year. Mr. Schurbon asked if he should proceed with the work, and there were no objections.

10. Invoice
Approval

A. Members tabled item to pay the Recording Secretary invoice for July of \$175. The Recording Secretary was absent from this meeting, and it was unclear whether the invoice was for work at the present meeting or a previous meeting.

B. Mr. Mager moved and Mr. Peterson seconded to pay the ACD 2018 Monitoring and Management Work Plan Invoice #2018031 payment 2 of 3 for \$12,680.00. Motion carried.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Downing seconded to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion carried.

Jared Wagner, Anoka Conservation District
Submitted via email on 7/16/18