



# Sunrise River WMO

2241 – 221<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Cedar, MN 55011

## DRAFT MINUTES

Sunrise River Water Management Organization Meeting

Thursday February 2, 2023

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, Tim Harrington, Candice Kantor, Jonn Olsen, Troy Wolens  
  
Audience: Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District (ACD)  
Cameron Blake, Recording Secretary (attending remotely via Zoom)
  
3. Approval of Agenda  
**Ms. Hegland moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Wolens seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**
  
4. Approval of Minutes for January 5, 2023  
Ms. Kantor and Ms. Hegland provided some edits for the January minutes.  
**Ms. Hegland moved to approve the minutes with those edits and Mr. Harrington seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**
  
5. Annual Meeting Items
  - A. Election of officers  
The current board roles are filled as listed:  
Chair- Candice Kantor  
Vice Chair- Janet Hegland  
Treasurer- Tim Harrington  
Secretary- Tim Melchior  
**Mr. Wolens moved to keep the existing list of officers and Mr. Harrington seconded that motion. The motion passed with all in favor.**
  
  - B. Designate newspaper of record

The board recalled spending time discussing this item at a previous annual meeting. One newspaper does not cover the whole watershed but the Forest Lake Times covers the largest portion. The board discussed that postings should also be made on the SRWMO website and certain posting must be made at the regular meeting location.

**Ms. Hegland moved to designate the Forest Lake Times as the SRWMO's newspaper of record. Mr. Harrington seconded this and the motion passed with all in favor.**

C. Set regular meeting dates through February 2023

Mr. Schurbon provided a proposed list of recommended meeting dates, noting that they are all the first Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm except for September which falls on the second Thursday of the month. They are proposed for the same months as in the past, skipping the summer months.

**Mr. Wolens moved to approve the list of regular meeting dates as presented through February 2024 including April 6, June 1, September 14, November 9, January 4 2024 and February 1. All meetings at 6:30pm. Ms. Hegland seconded this and the motion passed with all in favor.**

D. Hear any recommendations on amendments to the JPA and watershed management plan

The board and member communities have recently been updating the JPA. No additional comments were voiced.

6. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's report

Mr. Harrington reported that on the January bank statement there were four deposits, including the first half community payment from Linwood and Columbus, return of carp management funds from ACD, and JPA amendment funds from Columbus. There were debits. This resulted in a balance of \$48,384.99.

The board noted that the invoice from the attorney used during the JPA amendment process was less than the \$4,000 allocated so there is \$262 remaining out of the \$8,000 provided by the member communities for the JPA process.

**Ms. Hegland moved to accept the treasurer's report and Mr. Wolens seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

7. Unfinished Business

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

Ms. Hegland said she had seen a draft of the Columbus wetland and stormwater ordinance and will have a copy sent to Mr. Schurbon to briefly review it. A public hearing and adoption is planned soon. Hegland will provide ongoing updates.

B. JPA amendment recommendations update

Mr. Schurbon updated the board. The SRWMO board had previously asked the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to provide clear direction on what will happen with

various scenarios of Ham Lake moving to leave the WMOs, other cities dissolving and reforming the WMO, etc. BWSR has communicated that they do not have precedent to work from and are waiting to see the outcome of upcoming conversations with Ham Lake and other stakeholders. BWSR staff have had conversations with the Ham Lake Mayor and Councilmember Kirkeide, and they are willing to attend a daytime stakeholder meeting with others effected by the outcome (all communities, Anoka County, SRWMO, etc.). Ms. Hegland noted that it is critical that they attend, and no meeting should be held when they cannot attend.

It is understood that the Coon Creek Watershed District is not interested in taking over jurisdiction of areas of Ham Lake that are currently in the SRWMO, as this would not follow hydrologic boundaries and split through Coon Lake. It is also understood that Anoka County is not interested in taking over the responsibility of these areas. The board discussed that it would likely be much more expensive for the City of Ham Lake to try to administer watershed management on its own as opposed to costs of being in the WMOs.

Ms. Hegland expressed frustration that the City of Ham Lake in refusing to agree to the JPA, stated they will block 2024 budgets by not ratifying it, and communicated they will not move to leave the WMO's until November. This prevents the SRWMO from moving forward and implementing their watershed management plan in a timely way.

Ms. Hegland asked about the timeline for 2024 budgeting and consequences of late adoption of that budget. Mr. Schurbon explained that there is not a severe consequence in delaying the 2024 budget ratification as the SRWMO can, after tonight's meeting, send a budget to the communities that is ready for ratification. In this way, the communities will have numbers they can use for their budgeting and levy, albeit if not formally ratified yet and could change. The critical issue would be when 2024 arrives without a ratified budget.

Mr. Wolen's discussed that there are areas on the southwest shore of Coon Lake that have inaccurate watershed organization boundaries, and this needs to be fixed. There, the boundary of the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) goes up to the lakeshore, which doesn't make sense because the lake is in the SRWMO and those lakeshore lands clearly flow toward the lake. There are problems with application of CCWD regulatory processes on lands that should be in the SRWMO, as well as problems of taxpayers paying for the wrong or both watersheds.

The board would like BWSR staff to organize the stakeholder meeting. Mr. Schurbon is coordinating a poll to determine the meeting location. He was directed to ask BWSR staff to facilitate the meeting.

Ms. Hegland suggested a process for three communities to dissolve the SRWMO and immediately reform it without Ham Lake. The purpose of this would be to avoid a situation where the SRWMO cannot function due to lack of an approved budget. The board noted again that the JPA updates are almost complete so the time and cost remaining should be low. The potential timeline would be starting the dissolution process at the end of April, with the three participating communities adopting the new terms and 2024 budget and moving forward by May. Ham Lake could rejoin the SRWMO if they chose. Ms. Hegland asked if the SRWMO's JPA attorney could draft the resolution of the intent to dissolve and reform, because he has

expertise in watershed law and this may be more efficient than having each community's attorney do this separately.

Mr. Schurbon was asked what role we can expect from BWSR's legal counsel. He responded that he understands that attorney would not be present at the upcoming stakeholder meeting. The board directed Mr. Schurbon to reiterate to BWSR that their legal counsel's presence would be highly valuable at the stakeholder meeting, as BWSR's interpretation of statute will be key to understanding options and how to proceed.

Mr. Schurbon was directed to contact SRWMO JPA attorney Troy Gilchrist to ask for an estimate of costs to finish the JPA edits. Additionally, ask costs to assist three SRWMO communities in dissolving and reforming the SRWMO. It was discussed that the latter could require WMO boundary and watershed plan updates, but not to request costs for those items yet as they would be further into the future.

## 8. New Business

### A. Sunrise Chain of Lakes Carp Project - return of funds

Mr. Schurbon explained that the grant has expired and the project did well at accomplishing many water quality goals. But, fewer carp were removed than initially anticipated so the SRWMO will be returning 19% of grant funds. The ACD will also be returning approximately 18% (\$5,025.46) of matching funds to the SRWMO. \$5,025.46 is 17.6% of the \$28,500 the SRWMO provided as match to this project. 40% of match funds provided by the Linwood Lake Association have been returned to them.

### B. Website platform updates

Mr. Schurbon explained that the original understanding of the \$70 annual cost for adding SSL to the SRWMO website was actually based on a three-year agreement. The annual cost outside of a three-year agreement is \$100 so the board would need to approve this amount to make this update. A different full website update would include the SSL update.

The board discussed the need for a secure website. Ms. Hegland commented that website transfers to a new platform can come with a higher cost and suggested the SRWMO choose to upgrade to Joomla4 so the website would not need to be redesigned. The board agreed this option made sense, and to make the upgrade now as it will also include the SSL update.

**Ms. Hegland moved to upgrade the SRWMO website to Joomla4 with a not to exceed amount of \$800 in 2023. Mr. Harrington seconded this motion and the motion carried with all in favor.**

### C. 2022 work results from Anoka Conservation District

Mr. Schurbon reviewed the SRWMO chapter in the county wide 2022 water almanac report. He presented the Anoka SWCD website dashboard where the board can see projects and their pollutant load reductions.

### D. 2023 water monitoring and management contract

Mr. Schurbon explained differences between ACD's actual 2023 pricing and the SRWMO 2023 budget. Overall, actual costs will be \$1,182 lower than budget. Ms. Hegland asked if the

cost of administering the JPA could be formalized and added to the administrative tasks that ACD performs. She noted that the time for this was not included in ACD work plan in 2022 and doesn't want to be in that position in the future. Mr. Schurbon noted that "watershed plan amendments, boundary adjustment requests, and joint powers agreement changes or similar" are amongst the bulleted duties in the 2023 contract for consideration. He further clarified that ACD does not wish to have administrative decision-making authority, but can carry out the wishes of the board.

Ms. Hegland asked if the language in "Workshops Promotion" could be updated to reflect that the activities are being done by the SRWMO. She said it was confusing to have activities being done by the Lower St. Croix 1W1P organization staff when the SRWMO is no longer part of that organization. Mr. Schurbon will make those edits.

Schurbon noted that the previously-approved \$800 website update will be added to the contract, making the new total \$39,631.

**Ms. Hegland moved to approve the 2023 ACD Water Monitoring and Management contract in the amount of \$39,631 and Mr. Harrington seconded this motion. The motion carried with all in favor.**

Ms. Hegland asked if the returned carp funds would be considered carry forward and where this was going to be reflected in the SRWMO financials. Mr. Schurbon clarified that previous year's approved budgets will not be revised to reflect this, but it will be reflected on the SRWMO ledger, and placed in the reserve funds.

#### E. 2024 budget

Mr. Schurbon made the changes requested at the last board meeting. The new 2024 budget total will be \$47,186, after removal of the \$1,200 budgeted for the website platform update. The board noted the division of this budget may change based on the number of participating communities in the SRWMO.

**Ms. Hegland moved to send the draft 2024 budget to member communities and include the costs per communities based on either three or four member communities. Mr. Harrington seconded this and the motion carried with all in favor.**

Ms. Hegland asked for the 2024 budget information sent to communities be communicated very clearly; the SRWMO board has approved this budget and are providing to the communities to use for planning purposes. The board is not looking for the communities to ratify it yet, until a later date when hopefully JPA updates and City of Ham Lake exit issues are addressed.

#### F. Linwood Township street sweep study results

Mr. Schurbon shared the results of the street sweeping study which used a canopy cover analysis to model different street sweeping frequencies, and their respective cost per pound of phosphorus loading reductions. Ultimately, street sweeping is a very cost-effective loading reduction practice. In the studied areas around Martin and Linwood Lakes, a doubling of street sweeping frequency from one to two times per year and adjusting the timing would

result in a 5x increase in phosphorus capture. The study was done by ACD with funds from the Lower St. Croix Partnership.

Mr. Schurbon explained there are funds available to apply for enhanced street sweeping at \$100 or \$125 per street mile. Linwood Township board is considering whether to ask ACD to apply on their behalf. The board discussed which communities own street sweepers and the costs of the different sweeping frequencies. The board discussed that the SRWMO would consider using cost-share funds to further help cities with start-up enhanced street sweeping costs.

9. Mail

There were Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (LMCIT) bulletins from January and February 2023.

10. Other

Ms. Hegland asked if SRWMO has any plan for chloride reduction, a topic she has seen in the news. Mr. Schurbon explained that chloride levels in the SRWMO are low compared to the metro area but there are SMART Salting courses available for winter maintenance practitioners. Nearly all SRWMO communities' staff are certified. There are techniques that reduce the amount chloride applied and waste that can occur such as pre-icing, and technology that increases efficiency. Mr. Schurbon will email the SMART salting training frequency to the board.

11. Invoice(s) approval

A. Recording Secretary services for Jan 2023 meeting (\$200)

**Mr. Wolens moved to and Mr. Harrington seconded to pay the invoice #10523, payment for \$200. The motion carried with all in favor.**

12. Adjourn

**Ms. Hegland moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Harrington seconded this. The motion carried and Ms. Kantor adjourned the meeting at 8:35PM.**

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 6, June 1, September 14, November 9, Jan 4 (2024), Feb 1 (2024)

Submitted by:  
Cameron Blake