

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jill Crafton, Joe Collins, Andrea Date, Jack Ditmore, Todd Holman, Kathryn Kelly, Harvey Kruger, Tom Loveall, Neil Peterson, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Steve Sunderland, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Paige Winebarger, Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Chris Elvrum, MDH; Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Whitney Place, MDA; Jess Richards, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Dan Fabian, Melissa King, Nicole Clapp, Ed Lenz, Tom Gile, Dan Shaw, Doug Goodrich, Mark Hiles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA
Phil Belfiori, EQB
Erik Dahl, EQB
Brian Martinson, AMC
Emily Javens, MAWD
Dan Livdahl, Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District
John Shea, Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**** 19-58 ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Neil Peterson, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**** 19-59 MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Kathryn Kelly to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Megan Lennon, Legislative Coordinator
- Rita Weaver, Chief Engineer/Manager
- Jason Beckler, Easements Assistant Section Manager
- Aimee Gerhartz, Assistant Program Analyst

Chair Van Amburg and the board welcomed the new staff to BWSR!

John Jaschke orally reviewed the bylaws of the board stating agency Commissioners can delegate someone to attend board meetings in their place if it's done in advance.

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported that the committee has not met.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported they met this morning and reviewed Minnesota Management and Budget's (MMB) certification for internal controls in BWSR. In the past staff reviewed and the Executive Director would sign off and submit to MMB. This year MMB wanted a signature from the Board Chair. The committee reviewed what has been done by the staff in the past and this year to identify and address potential risks. Committee decided in the future to bring in the Audit and Oversight Committee early on to go through the process. The Board Chair will then sign off and submit to MMB after the committee has reviewed.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke reported that leadership staff have met with several environmental groups about things we're working on or they're interested in and will continue to do so. Also will be meeting with ag groups soon.

John stated he attended community events in the past few weeks. In North East Minneapolis the Islamic Community Center did some rain garden work with Mississippi WMO. The Capitol Region Watershed District had their grand opening for their office facility in St. Paul. The Dept. of Ag, PCA, and BWSR organized a field session in Northfield to demonstrate how water quality practices, soil health practices, and climate mitigation practices all can provide multiple benefits especially with ag land. There was an easement field training at Camp Ripley. Thanks to Camp Ripley and TNC staff for helping with it. John also attended a mini legislative session in SE Minnesota. Agencies coordinated a presentation on the

issue of plastics in the water. Stated he will be meeting with Mississippi Headwaters Board at their annual meeting on November 1st.

It's a bonding year in the legislature. BWSR has two proposals, the rest of the money for CREP and a request for the Local Government Wetland Replacement Program.

The packet was reviewed with the Board, which included Snapshots, an updated BWSR staff listing, an updated organizational chart, a form for business cards that can be returned to Rachel and two updated board orders for decision items.

Jack Ditmore stated he appreciated seeing the agriculture and climate change Snapshot article. Chair Van Amburg also stated he really appreciates the Snapshots stories.

Chair Van Amburg attended the Minnesota Water Resources Conference where the Dave Ford award was presented to BWSR's recently retired Chief Engineer Al Kean.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson stated the title of the report has changed to incorporate the compliance tracking under the buffer law or any other compliance activity the Board is involved in. There are three WCA appeals pending and no new appeals filed since the last board meeting. All three appeals involve enforcement orders under the Wetland Conservation Act.

The Buffer Program has received 25 notifications of noncompliance from 12 counties where BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Out of those, 3 counties are compliant and 3 corrective action notices have been issued and there are several in the pending status. Overall there are 17 counties across the state where they are fully compliant, and 41 counties have enforcement cases in process.

Grants Program & Policy Committee - Steve Sunderland reported that they met on October 14, 2019 and will have one item in front of the board today.

RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall reported that the committee has not met.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee - Jack Ditmore reported they will be meeting on November 22, 2019, and there will be a call-in option available.

Kathryn wanted to say thank you to staff who arrange for a call-in option, which allows them to participate if they are unable to attend in person.

Wetland Conservation Committee - Tom Schulz reported that the committee has not met.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee - Kathryn Kelly reported they will be meeting on October 29, 2019, in Waite Park.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) - Tom Loveall and Tom Gile reported that they met on Thursday, October 10, 2019. They provided an update of meetings scheduled between the DNR, MAWD/AMC regarding re-establishment of records and DNR guidance. A meeting between those entities is scheduled for October 24, 2019. The DWG also discussed the MN AG BMP Loan program, current funding available within the revolving fund and potential uses associated with Drainage management. DWG had a

discussion regarding recent local discussions between Jackson County and Heron Lake Watershed District. Information was shared on current MPCA Rule amendments to certain water quality standards, with DWG members encouraged to review and provide comments to MPCA. BWSR staff provided an overview of 1W1P emphasizing the role and importance of considering Drainage Management within the planning process and for drainage authorities to consider being active participants in those planning processes.

Next in-person DWG meeting will be either November 14, 2019 or December 12, 2019. There was some discussion at the end of the DWG about the purpose of DWG and interest in getting back to policy/statutory “fixes” and proposing solutions. Intent of last meeting(s) of this year will center around setting the stage for more likely policy discussions during 2020 DWG meetings. Likely discussion topics will include an update on progress for DNR guidance/re-establishment of records discussions and other potential policy items.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Whitney Place reported on their Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. There are 803 farmers that are certified farming over 550,000 acres. Through BWSR’s eLINK and tracking system they were able to calculate the impact of those conservation practices and have reported saving 101,000 tons of top soil on the landscape, reduced phosphorus loads to Minnesota waters by 45,000 pounds, and have also reported reducing CO2 by 36,000 tons per year.

Minnesota is hosting the NRCS State Conservationists and the National Chief of NRCS. Department of Ag Advisory Team is hosting the reception and will be able to showcase the program to a national group.

The Ag BMP loan program is at capacity.

Minnesota Department of Health – Chris Elvrum reported they have funding for plastics assessments and are working with other agencies to assess where we find plastics and what the risks might be. Attended a conference a month ago at the Wilder Foundation. Speakers from across the county attended, plastics are everywhere, and we don’t know what the risks are.

News release today from Environmental Working Group (EWG.org). Released an update to the tap water database that has information from all public water supplies.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Jess Richards reported they are holding public meetings this week on PFAS contamination in the east metro area. Informing citizens about PFAS and what is being done by state agencies to plan for use of settlement dollars from 3M.

Repairing, removing, and replacing aging dam infrastructure. Lake Bronson Dam in northwestern Minnesota is the number one priority for DNR for replacement. Will be part of their bonding request this year. Environmental Assessment Worksheet on the Willow River Dam removal and stream restoration project.

Reported by the National Weather Service in Duluth, they thought they saw a potential forest fire on radar, but it turned out to be 600,000 southward flying ducks.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported the Water Resources Conference had a great conference with 900 plus in attendance, a new record. The Minnesota Climate Adaptation Conference is being held

January 22nd. One key note speaker scheduled so far is Beth Givens, Executive Director of American Society for Adaptation Professionals. One of the challenges in finalizing the rest of the program is having 50 proposals for about 20 slots. The WRC has brought on Kate Knuth who will help with a long-term plan on the conference and broader climate adaptation partnerships.

Jill Crafton stated she attended the Water Resources Conference and liked it a lot. Would like more education on ecosystems and ecological services.

Members discussed ecosystems and ecological services. Joel stated they have teams and initiatives at the University that are looking at the issue of valuing ecosystems and could provide more information if interested. Jess stated in their strategic priorities they are elevating ecosystems and ecological service, especially in climate adaptation and climate impacts. They are close to finishing a biodiversity action plan. Also pushing some new initiatives about sampling to have a better idea of trends and changes to our ecosystems through consistent sampling efforts. Jess stated that the DNR could also provide information to the board.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler reported Class 2 water quality standards are the largest class for aquatic life. Several years ago, a tiered structure was developed called Tiered Aquatic Life Uses. It recognizes that different flowing, and large or small streams have different potential for aquatic life and ecological systems. They are now going through and using the data collected around the state.

Will be releasing the 2020 draft list for impaired waters next month.

St. Paul hosting Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Executive Team and Water Quality Team next Monday and Tuesday. Topics include nutrient reduction strategies that states have going in the Gulf and goals. Minnesota is updating ours and a draft will be ready for steering team members to review next month. Will be using grant money made available by EPA.

MPCA has a proposal out for a new bonding pilot program to provide grants to local units of government who are interested in upgrading their infrastructure related to resiliency.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – John Jaschke reported on behalf of Chessa Frahm. MACDE was chosen as the host for the 2020 North Central/Northern Plains Regional Leadership Conference. They will be hosting a two- or three-day event for Conservation District employees and partners from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The conference will be likely held the second week of August somewhere near the MSP Airport. Details are still up the in air, but we had great success with the first conference this year in South Dakota and the region would like to continue to offer this educational opportunity for all employees.

The MACDE board is looking forward to the BWSR Academy and their annual meeting. We will be hosting a social event during BWSR Academy on the second night. We will have our annual meeting immediately following the last session on October 30. The social will be the same evening beginning at

7:00 p.m. in the dining area. There will be light snacks, door prizes, activities and a cash bar. We invite any BWSR Staff and board members that are at Breezy Point to join us.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen reported their annual conference is on the 22nd and 23rd in Mankato at the Civic Center. Dave Weirens will be at a round table for BWSR and will have a session the next day on 1W1P.

There are 87 counties, 80 counties have townships, there are 1,751 townships, and there are 9,081 officers that serve those townships.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts –Emily Javens reported last month they had a two-day Governance 101 Training with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Local Govt. Water Round Table met for a visioning session about why we are sticking together, what is important and what our main messages and projects are going to be.

MAWD annual conference December 5 and 6. There is a Pre-Conference Drainage Workshop in collaboration with counties.

Spent a lot of time with Heron Lake WD and Jackson County. Farmers are unable to pay drainage project loan off in the next three years. Thanks to BWSR for assisting and writing a letter to the entities, which led to the county retracting their resolution. Still working on a solution for how we're going to help the farmers pay for that project.

Met with a developer who brought legislation forward last year that would take away the ability of watershed districts to do rule making. Will continue to meet with developer.

Meeting with the DNR tomorrow over the reestablishment of drainage records.

Natural Resources Conservation Services – No report was provided.

Gerald Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

Sunrise River Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-yr Plan Amendment – Dan Fabian and Kevin Bigalke presented Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan.

Background

The Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) was originally formed in 1985 through a Joint Powers Agreement ratified by Columbus, East Bethel, and Linwood Township in order to cooperatively develop a Watershed Management Plan and form the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO). The City of Ham Lake was added to the JPA in 2000.

The SRWMO is located on the fringe of the Twin Cities metropolitan area encompassing approximately 45,300 acres in the northeast corner of Anoka County, consisting of relatively flat topography that contains extensive lakes and wetland areas. The area also has large areas of high-quality natural communities, including large areas of public lands many of which are used for recreation. Residential development historically occurred primarily around lakes. However even with its proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, future growth is expected to be light and mostly residential. While most watershed organization's boundaries are based on hydrological watershed boundaries, this is not entirely the case for the SRWMO. Because watershed organizations are only required in the seven-county metropolitan area, the SRWMO's north and east boundaries are the Anoka County boundaries. To the north, portions of Isanti County drain into the SRWMO jurisdiction. To the east, the SRWMO outlets into Chisago County via the West and South Branches of the Sunrise River. The SRWMO is currently participating in the Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan planning effort to help overcome the non-hydrological based boundaries.

Plan Process and Highlights

In 2016, prior to the SRWMO starting their 10-yr Plan update, BWSR completed a Level II PRAP for the SRWMO. It was noted in the general conclusions that the SRWMO had many high value resources with population concentrated in proximity to those resources, and a low tax base relative to those resources. Nevertheless, it was further noted that the SRWMO had managed to accomplish or make progress on many items in their current watershed management plan. The SRWMO received four commendations in the PRAP report and two recommendations which were addressed during the development of this new plan.

Approximately a year after the completion of the PRAP the SRWMO, on January 19, 2018, initiated the planning process for completing the required 10-year update to their third generation Watershed Management Plan with the required "Notice of Decision to Update" their Plan and a request for Agency and local stakeholder input per 8410.0045 Subp. 2. and Subp. 3. The initial kick-off event and planning meeting, held on May 24, 2018, included a bus tour of the watershed for public officials and an open house for residents to learn about the SRWMO and to provide input through an issues/priority identification exercise. A subgroup of attendees was recruited to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The SRWMO utilized the CAC and TAC (technical advisory committee) throughout the planning process. Additionally, planning materials and drafts were posted on the SRWMO website. These stakeholder engagement efforts are documented in Appendix A of the plan.

The plan contains goals, policies, and an action plan to address the priority issues identified by the SRWMO planning process. The issues are grouped into one of three tiers "High Priority Issues," "Medium Priority Issues," and "Low Priority Issues." The extensive process followed to identify and then prioritize the issues into tiers is documented in Section 6. Then in Section 7 specific goals and action items are assigned to address each priority. The individual goals and action items are numbered so they can be easily referenced back to, from the Implementation Plan Tables found in Section 8. As can be expected addressing the "High Priority Issues" of *1) Lake and stream quality; 2) Water monitoring; 3) Funding; 4) Communications with member communities; and 5) Outreach and education*, receive the bulk of the SRWMO's efforts and proportion of their limited budget funds during the 10-yr life of the plan. An example of an established high priority goal would be G8, which is a goal to achieve the pollutant reductions needed to delist currently impaired Martin and Linwood lakes.

“Medium and Low Priority Issues” while still important for plan implementation tend to be delegated to the Member Communities, with some oversight from the SRWMO. Appendix C provides a summary of assigned Member Community actions and Local Plan requirements. A key component for implementing the plan is a contracted administrator position that includes a responsibility for working with and oversight of Member Communities implementation of required actions. The specific tasks of the administrator are identified and budgeted for in the Implementation Plan. Currently (and for the expected future) the SRWMO is leveraging its successful partnership (as mentioned in the PRAP) with the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) and contracting with them for administrator services.

To help keep the plan concise and streamlined the SRWMO has incorporated into the Plan by reference “Guidance Documents,” which are key studies and reports that were used in the development of the Plan and will be used to guide implementation of this management plan. Included in the list of adopted guidance documents described in Appendix D are specific project prioritizing, targeting and feasibility documents that have been prepared to help target the most cost-effective projects for priority areas in the SRWMO. A procedure is also established for the SRWMO board to adopt future guidance documents and incorporate them into the Plan (most likely via the minor amendment process). An example of adopted guidance documents would be the carp management feasibility assessments for Martin, Typo, and Linwood lakes. The SRWMO will use these feasibility assessments to help direct their efforts in implementing projects to meet the G8 goal to delist Linwood and Martin lakes during the 10-yr life of this plan.

One concern we have for the proposed implementation program is that we would have liked it to be more aggressive in the amount of pollutant reduction projects sought to address other identified priority issues within a reasonable time frame. We do however understand the SRWMO Boards hesitancy to promise more than they feel they can deliver as well as the resistance/ability of their local communities to provide additional funds. We believe the plan has the potential to result in competitive grant applications and attract additional matching grant funds from partners, which would result in the budgeted match funds being able to go further. An additional concern we have is that many of the implementation program activities are delegated to member communities. The hiring of a part-time contracted administrator helps alleviate this concern.

Formal Plan Review Process

The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on May 19, 2019, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The SRWMO prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on August 1, 2019. Following the hearing the SRWMO Managers approved a motion to send the revised draft Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (and State Review Agencies) for the final 90-day review and approval. This was received by the Board on August 5, 2019. Comments received during the 90-day review period were resolved to the satisfaction of the commenters with some additional minor revisions to the Final Draft Plan.

Jill asked if there would be more follow-up on commitment. Dan stated they partnered with Anoka Conservation District and submitted a grant for carp removal. They also participated in the 1W1P planning effort for the Lower St. Croix. Dan said they will keep pressure on as they can but it’s also up to them to implement, evaluate, and bring back their plan every two years.

Board discussed they are working with a limited budget because they have limited tax capacity. Stated that the Watershed Based Implementation Plan could be a source of revenue.

**
19-60

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Sunrise River Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-yr Plan Amendment. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension – Melissa King and Kevin Bigalke presented Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) was originally established on March 4, 1970, by order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board (MWRB) under the authority of the Minnesota Watershed Act. The order was in response to a petition filed with the MWRB by residents within the watershed on June 24, 1969.

PLSLWD is approximately 42 square miles in north central Scott County and ultimately drains to the Minnesota River. There was no outflow from the watershed until 1983 when an outlet channel was constructed at the southwest end of Lower Prior Lake. Land use in the District is a mix of both suburban developed land and undeveloped agricultural land. Government units within the District include: Scott County, the cities of Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee, portions of Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships, and a portion of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

On September 3, 2019, the Board received an initial petition from the PLSLWD requesting an extension to their Water Resources Management Plan from the current expiration date of December 31, 2019, until a new expiration date of December 21, 2020. The District formally began the Plan update process in February 2018 and has since been in process of updating the Plan. PLSLWD staff recently undertook a major effort to reformat the draft Plan to be more ‘user-friendly’, which has delayed the Plan update process. The District currently anticipates distributing the draft Plan for the 60-day review and comment period in December 2019.

BWSR staff have discussed the extension request with PLSLWD staff and is recommending that the extension request be provided to December 31, 2020 to ensure the District has adequate time to complete the Plan update process and to complete the review process. As a result of the plan extension approval, PLSLWD would maintain eligibility to apply for and receive grant funding through 2020.

On October 10, 2019, the Board’s Central Region Committee met to consider the request and upon a unanimous vote, recommended approval of the extension request to the full Board.

Jill Crafton stated she is glad to see they are taking their time to do it right.

**
19-61

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement –Kevin Bigalke presented North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement.

The purpose of the petition is to correct the boundary between the North Fork Crow River Watershed and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District and to have the legal boundary match the hydrologic boundary; and the area to be enlarged and included drains into the county ditch systems, under

Minnesota Statutes 103E, and into the North Fork Crow River Watershed District are not included in the current boundary of the North Fork Crow River Watershed.

Tom Loveall clarified that there were portions of drainage systems that were out of the boundaries and now are in. Stated that the watershed district was unable to assess costs to it but are now able to.

Kevin noted that when mapping the boundaries, the goal is to get as close to the true hydrologic boundary as possible so you may have some parcels split.

**
19-62 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy – Nicole Clapp and Dan Shaw presented Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy.

This is a new program in fiscal year 2020 that is aimed at issuing grants for the creation of demonstration projects to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. A policy is needed to provide guidance to grantees on the requirements of this new program.

Katrina Kessler asked about the cities, counties, watershed districts, etc. that we are giving grants to, how are we targeting them to let them know they need to do this work? Nicole stated Communication has been going out through mailing lists, GovDelivery, and there has been communication with local governments and various partners.

Chris Elvrum asked if the funding requires a match and can that match be met by the applicant and/or the people who ultimately receive the funds and do the work on their property. Nicole stated a match is a requirement of the appropriations.

Steve Sunderland asked if eLINK will be used by everyone. Nicole stated eLINK is required and information is available to them on how to access eLINK. There is a BWSR staff person available to help with their questions.

Tom Loveall asked if there are cities that have clean lawn ordinances that might conflict with this? Nicole stated the landowner would need to investigate if there are any ordinances in place that would impede them from participating. Tom asked what the maintenance would be? Stated there are different maintenance needs with each project type. Simpler ones for home owners and others that are more complex depending on the project type.

Jack Ditmore asked if there is any risk or concerns in issuing grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGO) that don't have a local government to serve as a fiscal agent for them? Nicole stated that Amie Wunderlich is the BWSR Compliance Coordinator and will review financial documents of NGO applicants. Nicole also stated these are reimbursable grants.

Kathryn Kelly asked if this is a revolving grant application or if there is a definite date? Nicole stated there is a definite date, it is scheduled for the RFP to open in November with a deadline in December so grants could go out in February.

Steve Sunderland clarified that it is a reimbursable grant where they will be paid after the work is finished. Asked for clarification on the board order why it says to return any unused funds. Nicole stated it was boiler template language and will remove it.

John Jaschke stated we are committed to provide training on eLINK to make it work for all those applying.

**
19-63 Moved by Chris Elvrum, seconded by Harvey Kruger, to approve the Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Southern Region Committee

Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment– Ed Lenz presented Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment.

The petition proposes to amend the watershed district's watershed management plan to establish a water management district along the northern edge of the City of Glencoe. Territory is limited to the Central Ditch drainage area encompassing approximately 1,132 acres. The establishment of the water management district will allow the district to collect revenues to support a comprehensive stormwater management project over the drainage area of the ditch.

**
19-64 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Tom Loveall, to approve the Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ed Lenz, Doug Goodrich, Mark Hiles presented Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Missouri River planning area includes all waters of the state that are tributaries to the Missouri River Basin and include the Upper Big Sioux, Lower Big Sioux, Rock River, and Little Rock River major watersheds in Minnesota. The Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was a resultant plan associated with the “2016” round of One Watershed, One Plan planning grant applicants. The Plan area contains portions of the counties of Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock as well their Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Kanaranzi-Little Rock and Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Districts in southwest Minnesota. Dan Livdahl (Okabena-Ocheda WD) and Doug Bos (Rock County SWCD/Land Management Office) are the local lead staff responsible for development of the Plan.

On July 22, 2019, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearings, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #16-17. The Planning Partnership has responded to all comments received and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan. The State agencies recommended that BWSR approve the Plan as submitted.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On September 26, 2019, the Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Whitney Place appreciated the inclusion of the priorities of drinking water. They have been working a lot with partners on the Ground Water Protection Rule and the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and it's great to see all the coordination.

Tom Schulz appreciated the way the board order was written.

Jill Crafton stated it was nice to see it all put together.

Harvey Kruger stated they did an awesome job at presenting at the Committee meeting. Stated there could be a working relationship across the board.

John Jaschke recognized and thanked John Shea and Dan Livdahl for their work.

**
19-65 Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

NEW BUSINESS

2020 State Water Plan – Phil Belfiori and Erik Dahl, EQB presented the 2020 State Water Plan.

The EQB is directed by statute (MS §[103B.151](#)) to prepare a state water plan, a “comprehensive long-range water resources planning” document, every ten years. The 2020 plan will be the fourth such plan since 1991.

Tom Schulz stated he would like to see interested parties informed so they understand what this might mean for them.

Paige Winebarger asked how their plan collaborates with the Clean Water Council's (CWC) plan? Phil stated they presented to CWC last month. Coordination will take place through an inter-agency process and will have regular check-ins with staff and anticipate an ongoing partnership. For the groups of non-profits, they are having multiple focus groups to coordinate.

Rich Sve asked how this translates into the work that we do here with local water plans and 1W1P? Phil stated they rely heavily on BWSR and other staff on the inter-agency team. Will have multiple conversations as the plan develops.

Jill Crafton asked for them to look at ecological services in the area and to draw attention to it with the people making those plans.

Jack Ditmore stated that partnering in focus groups with universities could be a beneficial resource to draw into the discussion.

Chair Van Amburg asked if the hope for their plan is to drive adaptation to climate change? Phil stated the plan will focus on adaptation techniques and mitigation.

Harvey mentioned one of the focus group that might be missing is Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

Paige Winebarger stated they talked about sustainable being the goal. Have we as a state adopted sustainability as a goal in various areas of natural resources that are affected? John Jaschke stated there is not one global goal of sustainability, it's in various parts depending on what sector of conservation or natural resources we're talking about. Phil stated it depends on the action but will analyze each potential action as they put it into the plan.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2019, in Waite Park.
- Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2019, in St. Paul or by conference call.
- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 18, 2019, in St. Paul.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Van Amburg
Chair