

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jill Crafton, Kathryn Kelly, Rich Sve, Andrea Date, Todd Holman, Jayne Hager Dee, Ted Winter, Tom Loveall, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Gerald Van Amburg, Joe Collins, Harvey Kruger, Paige Winebarger, Neil Peterson, Steve Colvin, DNR; Thom Peterson, MDA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Steve Robertson, MDH; Katrina Kessler, MPCA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Tom Gile, Melissa King, Travis Germundson, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Shaina Keseley, Mark Hiles, Erin Loeffler, Ryan Hughes, Barbara Radke, Kevin Ruud, Julie Krebs, Brett Arne, Tara Perriello, Jeannette Austin, Julie Westerlund, Marcey Westrick, Jeremy Olson, Suzanne Rhees, Dan Shaw, Ed Lenz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Dawn Doering, Coon Creek Watershed District; Brian Martinson; AMC; Alex Trunnell, EQB; Katie Pratt, EQB; Rebeca Gutierrez, EQB; Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, EQB; Emily Javens, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts; Valerie Grover, Lori Thronson, Andrew Graham, Frank Gross, Mary Jackson, Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Jeff Berg, MDA; Chad Hildebrand, Jill Trescott, Josi Lonetti, Tara Jensen, Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Paul Gardner, MPCA

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**
20-52 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Adoption of the agenda

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	19			1

**
20-53 **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2020 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the minutes of October 28, 2020, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2020 Board Meeting

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee				X
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			

Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

“A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today’s business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by staff before any vote.”

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the Administrative Advisory Committee has not met but was informed from Executive Director John Jaschke and Assistant Director Angie Becker Kudelka that they have been developing preliminary budget recommendations for the governor.

Attended EQB meeting on November 18 where the board received and approved the report on Feasibility of Solar Development on State-Managed Closed Landfills and the 2020 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Report that will be presented later in the agenda. At the EQB Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee meeting yesterday they discussed and took questions on the draft report about integrating climate information into the Minnesota Environmental Review Program requirements.

Chair Van Amburg attended the MAWD conference and congratulated Emily Javens and her staff for a well done conference.

This is the last board meeting of the year. Chair Van Amburg thanked BWSR staff for all the work they’ve done during this unusual time. He also thanked the retiring board members, Paige Winebarger, Tom Loveall, and Todd Holman for serving on the board.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Paige Winebarger reported that the committee has not met.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke reported the budget process is underway and that the Governor's budget usually gets released at the end of January.

Thanked the three board members that will be retiring from the board. New appointments will be made after January.

State has been in a hiring freeze since March. An exemption was approved for hiring for two Easement Processing Specialists and the Central Region Manager position.

Reviewed the day-of packet that included the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board letter, supplemental materials, Org chart, updated phone list, and an expense form.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently seven appeals pending. All but one of the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been three new appeal filed since the last Board Meeting (October 28, 2020).

The three new appeals include the following:

File 20-12 This is an appeal of an Administrative Penalty Order (APO) issued under the Buffer Law in Pennington County. The APO requires the placement of a 16.5 foot vegetative buffer along a public drainage system. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 20-11 This is an appeal of a restoration order in Pine County. The appeal regards the construction of an access road through wetlands. Appeal was submitted outside of the appropriate timeframe to file the appeal. The restoration order is final and appeal has been denied.

File 20-10 (11-12-2020) This is an appeal of duplicated WCA restoration orders in St. Louis County. The appeal regards the placement of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of fill in a wetland associated with an ATV Club trail crossing project that allegedly was approved by the LGU. No decision has been made on the appeal.

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 98 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). Currently there are 34 CANs and 13 Administrative Penalty Orders (APO) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 50 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 28 counties are fully compliant, and 47 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 968 CANs and 28 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1188 of those have been resolved.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Tom Schulz reported Committee met November 23 and have two items on the agenda.

RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall reported they met on December 16 to consider a resolution for Working Lands Easement Pilot Program with the allowance of haying and grazing.

Jill Crafton mentioned the DNR has a program where they are doing haying and grazing. There is some good guidance and criteria for performance and how it can be handled. If it's not done well there can be negative impacts.

Tom Loveall Stated the DNR was not at the meeting to provide context. Stated it would be built into the management plan.

Tom Schulz commented that Sharon Doucette stated each easement requires a conservation plan and includes a haying and grazing plan to be established by the SWCD and will be intact for the duration of the easement.

Jill asked if the vegetation will be diverse. Tom Loveall stated it was not discussed.

Neil Peterson stated this is an all-around good plan.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Todd Holman reported that the committee has not met.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported that the committee has not met. Jill asked if the 404 Assumption would be discussed today.

John Jaschke stated the 404 Assumption legislative directive includes an analysis that BWSR, MPCA and DNR are undertaking. The agencies are seeking a 1 year extension to complete the work because of COVID delays.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee - Kathryn Kelly reported that the committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) - Tom Loveall and Tom Gile reported they met on December 10. Reviewed the Drainage Work Group Report dated December 17, 2020 included in the day of packet.

Tom Gile thanked Tom Loveall for his work on the Drainage Work Group.

Harvey Kruger thanked Tom Loveall, Tom Gile and the entire drainage workgroup for the work they've been doing.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen thanked Tom Loveall for all his work on the Drainage workgroup.

On January 14 the US Forest Service will be taking action on Emerald Ash Borer. Minnesota will continue to regulate it, 25 of 87 counties are infested with it.

Ag Water Quality Certification Program will be announcing a goal of 1 million acres by 2022. Program is continuing to grow and endorsements are continuing to increase in numbers.

Thanked our teams and agencies for the work and engagement they've had with Tribal Governments especially on One Watershed One Plan.

Chair Van Amburg stated there is an Emerald Ash Borer report available through EQB.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported COVID cases are declining but they still remain high. Program operations are being significantly affected with 70% of staff in reassignments with COVID activities. The situation continues to evolve and develop, vaccines are being made available.

CDC stated water borne disease are a burden in our country. Estimated that 1 in 44 people get sick from water borne diseases every year in the US. Information is available on their website or you can contact Steve Robertson for more information.

They are supporting some of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects that were recently submitted to NRCS. A couple of the projects they are participating in are Minnesota River Watershed Partnership Wetland and Soil Health Program and a proposal that is led by Department of Agriculture to work with 18 or 19 counties in central Minnesota on implementing innovative irrigation practices to protect groundwater quality and quantity.

Their Environmental Surveillance Assessment Unit has been significantly affected by reassignments. Some of their activities have been moving slowly.

Nathan Redalen asked why training for the vaccine wasn't better planned for. Steve Robertson stated he does not have the answer and that many factors make it complicated.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Steve Colvin reported in November they issued all the permits, licenses, and other approvals for Enbridge Line 3. Continue to work with MPCA on the 3M settlement.

Jill Crafton congratulated Steve on his retirement and thanked him for helping serve on the board.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson thanked the board members that will be retiring and for their work on the board. Soil Management Summit will be on Tuesday and Wednesday, also known as the Conservation Tillage Conference.

January 20 is the next Climate Adaptation Conference and will be held virtual.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta reported the MPCA issued Air Hydrostatic Testing Discharge and Construction Stormwater Permits and the 401 Certification for the Line 3 Project in November.

December 16 there was an Ag-Urban Partnership Forum that was developed by MPCA, BWSR, Dept of Agriculture, MSU Mankato, and the city of Mankato.

MCPA is working with Les Lemm at BWSR on a report to Legislature on State Assumption of 404 Permit Program. This includes an evaluation to make sure water quality standards are considered if and when the program transitions to the State. If more details are needed contact Katrina Kessler or Glenn Skuta.

Gave an update on WRAPS projects. There are 64 watersheds out of 80 that are finalized or public noticed. At this point they are ahead of schedule for meeting the statutory deadlines to have them completed by mid-calendar 2023.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported they recently held their annual business meeting where they adopted new priorities and platforms among the environment related issues of water and conservation issues.

AMC shared that because of the impacts of COVID they are going to continue the service terms of their officers and board members, which means their president and BWSR board member Rich Sve will continue to serve as president in the next year.

Local Government Water Round Table met yesterday, which includes MAWD, MASWCD, AMC, and board member Neil Peterson. They reviewed their shared platforms. Received updates on clean water fund, SWCD capacity funding and coordinated watershed management. Heard from BWSR staff with an update around One Watershed One Plan. Meeting also included a wrap up discussion about vision and plans for the Round Table heading into the next year. Focusing efforts on clean water fund and making sure that One Watershed One Plan and other local government conservation efforts are adequately addressed moving into the future.

Thanked John Jaschke and his staff in facilitating and supporting the work of the Round Table.

Thanked Commissioner Loveall for his service on the BWSR Board.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – No report was provided.

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

Minnesota Association of Townships – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens reported they met with Commissioners of Agencies that participate in Clean Water Fund. The goal is working towards keeping these programs sustainable and to provide services both on a state and local level.

Local Government Roundtable met. They've only met once in the past year and decided they need to meet more frequently.

MAWD annual conference presentations are available on demand and will publicly release one presentation per week.

Neil Peterson thanked Emily Javens and Brian Martinson for their work on the Local Government Water Round Table.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – John Jaschke stated there is a Farm Bill Assistant Program meeting on Monday where they will be assessing what the future will look like.

Chair Van Amburg called a recess at 10:52 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:03 a.m.

John Jaschke announced the Watershed District Employee of the Year was Maggie Karschnia from Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Watershed District Administrator Employee of the Year was Jan Voit from Heron Lake Watershed District, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Employee of the Year was Peter Nelson from Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles presented FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award.

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY21 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 24, 2020, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for eligible local governments to apply for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants in three program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram and Multipurpose Drainage Management (Board order #20-26).

Applications for the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 29 through August 17, 2020. Local governments submitted 61 applications requesting \$19,754,194 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR Clean Water staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards. The BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the recommendations on November 10, 2020 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 23, 2020 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

Tom Loveall asked if the \$700,000 available from multipurpose drainage management grants is up, down, or the same? John Jaschke stated it's about the same. Tom also asked if all \$700,000 was used in the last biennium? John stated it is done in two annual allocations and a small amount was left over in the second allocation. The Committee's recommendation was to move that money into the project and practices categories to partially fund additional projects in that list.

**
20-54 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			

TOTALS	20			
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Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision – Kevin Bigalke presented Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision.

BWSR has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure public funds are used for their program intent and legislative purpose. The proposed policy revision will allow BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Management policy.

The proposed revisions will reduce the frequency of reconciliations from one grant per grant allocation fiscal year per grantee to one grant every third grant allocation fiscal year per grantee.

Under the current policy, all applicable grants over \$50,000 are annually monitored, risk assessed, and based on these risk assessment scores, the Grants Compliance Specialists will select one grant from each fiscal year per grantee to reconcile. All of the high-risk grants are subject to reconciliation. The threshold at which we would consider a reconciliation complete is 70% spent. The 70% threshold reconciliation happens at any point during the grant life.

The proposed revised policy will still require all grants over \$50,000 to be annually monitored and risk assessed, but instead of reconciling one grant per grantee every fiscal year, the revised policy would allow flexibility for us to, at a minimum, reconcile one grant per grantee every 3rd year with no change to reconciliations of high risk grants.

The proposed policy revision allows BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Management policies.

This proposed revision to the Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy was developed by BWSR’s Grants Monitoring Workgroup and was reviewed by its Grants Team. The policy revision has been reviewed by the Senior Management Team and the Grants Program and Policy Committee (GPPC). The GPPC recommended approval of the revised policy at its November 23, 2020 meeting.

**
20-55 Moved by Tom Loveall, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			

Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	20			

Northern Region Committee

Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan– Tom Schulz, Erin Loeffler, and Ryan Hughes presented Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in northern Pine and central Carlton counties in Minnesota. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On November 3, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

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

On December 2, 2020 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee’s decision was to recommend approval of the Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jayne Hager Dee asked what we do when it’s included in another state, is there a way we can collaborate to see if they are on board with our plan and have some of the same thoughts that we do in Minnesota? Tom Schulz stated that during the planning process Wisconsin was included in on some of the meetings with regards to what has been happening in this plan.

Jill stated the Wisconsin DNR has been good in the past. Looks like a good plan and would be nice to get updates as we go along.

**
20-56 Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			

Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	20			

Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Jeff Berg, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes presented Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

The Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in Northwest Minnesota encompassing portions of Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Mahnommen, Norman and Polk counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On November 11, 2020 BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

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

On December 2, 2020 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee’s decision was to recommend approval of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

**
20-57 Moved by Jeff Berg, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			

Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve				X
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	19			1

Southern Region Committee

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters – Ed Lenz presented Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters.

On November 12, 2020, the Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors passed a resolution approving the district’s change of principal office location to 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota from the 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, Minnesota location. BWSR’s Southern Regional Committee met on November 19, 2020 to review this request and voted to recommend approval of the change of principal office location to the full BWSR Board.

**
20-58 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Nathan Redalen, to approve the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			

Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve				X
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	19			1

Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ed Lenz, Jill Sackett Eberhart, and Shaina Keseley presented Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Watonwan River Watershed was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant in June of 2017. The Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership (Partnership) established a Memorandum of Agreement on April 17, 2018, for the purpose of watershed planning. Planning was initiated on July 30, 2018 via notification to designated plan review authorities. The Partnership has followed One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and the Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Steering Team members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and kept open communication throughout plan development. The Partnership submitted the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on October 14, 2020, for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 19, 2020, to review the planning process, the contents of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.

Jill Crafton thought they did a good job of identifying priority issues. All the way around this represents a really good effort.

Joe Collins stated the PTMApp had a component where they determined cost effectiveness of the BMP. Can look at different BMPs and determine which one was most cost effective in removing total phosphorus or nitrogen and thought it was an interesting feature.

**
20-59 Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Tom Loveall, to approve the Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			

Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve				X
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

Central Region Committee

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher presented Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) is located exclusively in Hennepin County in the western portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound by the Crow River to the north, on the northeast by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south and southeast by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and on the west by Wright and Carver Counties. The Commission includes all or parts of the following six municipalities: Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed covers approximately 70.5 square miles. There are seventeen lakes in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed and six major streams. The watershed continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture and rural residential development, with some high density housing, commercial, and townhouse developments in the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain.

The cities of Independence, Minnetrista, Medina and the Hennepin Conservation District created the Pioneer Creek Watershed Management Commission on January 13, 1978. On June 7, 1983, the City of Greenfield offered a resolution to the Pioneer Creek Commission requesting a merger of the Sarah Creek and Pioneer Creek Watersheds. This merger combined administrative services and avoided the creation of numerous small watershed organizations. In December 1984, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was formally established through a Joint Powers Agreement. Since that time, Watertown Township in Carver County and the city of Corcoran elected to leave the Commission, becoming members of adjacent WMOs. The current plan was approved by the Board in January 2015.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The Commission initiated work on the Fourth Generation Plan in November 2019. The Commission underwent an early input from the water management agencies as well as its partners in late 2020 and held a kickoff meeting in early 2020. The Commission Board and partners were in agreement that a full re-write of the Plan was not necessary, but the goals and implementation should be addressed and revised as needed. The 60-day draft was submitted in June 2020 and the Commission held their public hearing at the October Commission meeting. The Commission had adequately responded to all

comments from the 60-day draft and no additional comments were received on the 90-day draft which was received by BWSR on October 22, 2020.

The Plan includes a self-assessment and information required in Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 8410, Local Water Management: an updated land and water resources inventory, goals and policies; an assessment of problems and identification of corrective actions; an implementation program; and a process for amending the Plan.

Fourth Generation Management Plan Priorities

1. Make systematic progress toward achieving lake water quality goals by 2030:
 - a. Delist South Whaletail Lake.
 - b. Protect Lake Rebecca so it continues to meet water quality standards.
 - c. Meet state water quality standards in the following lakes: Independence, Sarah, Spurzem, Half Moon, and Ardmore.
 - d. Achieve a 10% reduction in TP concentration in the other monitored lakes over the previous ten years.
2. Work in a coordinated way with urban and rural property owners, cities, lake associations, public and private entities, Hennepin County, and TRPD building partnerships to conserve our water and natural resources and deliver implementation projects.
3. Raise the profile of the Commission across the watershed, within Hennepin County, the western Metro area, and the Crow River Watershed.
4. Serve as an informational and technical resource for the cities, citizens and property owners in the watershed.

The Commission has made significant water quality improvements to Lake Independence, Lake Sarah and North Whaletail thanks to concentrated efforts and effective use of grant funding. This plan update should allow the Commission to further those improvements and build upon the stronger relationships with partners like Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District and the landowners of the watershed.

The Capital Improvement Program included in this plan is realistic with the funding availability and allows them to make systematic progress. The Commission also remains committed to working with the member cities to further efforts based upon the available financial resources and landowner willingness.

**
20-60 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			

Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve				X
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

Dakota County Groundwater Plan– Melissa King and Kevin Bigalke presented Dakota County Groundwater Plan.

Background

Dakota County (County) is part of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The County is the third most populous in Minnesota, with an estimated 2018 population of 428,558. Between 2010 and 2018 the population of the County increased 20%, and the Metropolitan Council projects that population will reach nearly 514,000 by 2040. Approximately 36% of the County is urbanized, 43% is agricultural land, and 21% some type of open space (forests, shrubland, water, etc.).

Groundwater provides 90% of the water supply in the County, with the majority of the County served by 14 public water suppliers. Contaminants and increasing groundwater demands threaten the drinking water supply. Hastings and Rosemount municipal water supplies have elevated levels of nitrate, with the nitrate concentrations almost doubling in the last 20 years. County research has found that nitrate and pesticides are prevalent in groundwater wells the rural south/southeast portion area of the County where land use is predominantly agricultural, and naturally occurring manganese tends to be above Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water guidelines in the north/northwestern part of the County. Public waters suppliers provide water that meets health standards; however, the groundwater poses health risks that water suppliers and private well owners must address.

The Metropolitan Council estimates that portions of the County may experience 20-30 feet of drawdown in the Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers; the two aquifers that provide most of the County’s municipal water supplies and agricultural irrigation water. The largest drawdowns are predicted to occur in areas with high municipal water use and in cities with the highest projected population increases – Apple Valley, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, and Lakeville. Aquifer drawdown is also predicted to occur in heavily irrigated agricultural areas in the southeastern portion of the County.

Plan Process and Highlights

The County began the planning process in early 2019. Throughout 2019 the County completed a substantial outreach effort to engage the public and stakeholders in plan developments. This included activities and events for the general public, meetings with an ad hoc technical advisory group consisting of representatives of various government partners and construction, agriculture, hydrogeology and well drilling interests; and meetings with the County Planning Commission.

The Dakota County Groundwater Plan defines Dakota County’s role in groundwater resource management for the next ten years by identifying goals, strategies and tactics the County will complete over the life of the Plan to address groundwater quality and availability issues facing the County. The

Plan was developed with significant early involvement from State and local government units, private partners, and the general public and builds off existing resource conservation and improvement efforts.

There are four overarching Plan goals which include:

- Water Quality: Groundwater and drinking water are free from unhealthy levels of contaminants.
- Water Quantity: Groundwater is sufficient to meet human needs and sustain groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
- Education: People who live and work in Dakota County are knowledgeable about water issues, conserve water, and prevent pollution.
- Governance: Groundwater programs and services are efficient and effective.

The Plan includes specific strategies (framework to achieve Plan goals) and tactics (actions to achieve strategies) developed to address specific issues identified through research and by stakeholders, for each goal. Implementation of strategies are prioritized into three classifications (high, medium and low priority) and include annual measures of progress for each tactic, as well as identified outcomes anticipated at the end of the 10-year period. The Plan is well organized and focuses on what the County can realistically accomplish to address the growing needs within Dakota County.

Formal Plan Review Process

The draft Plan was received by the Board for the initial 60-day review on May 20, 2020 per MS §103B.255, subdivision 8. The draft Plan was also circulated to other state agencies, local governments within the county, adjoining counties and was also made available to other stakeholders and the general public for comment. The initial 60-day review period concluded on July 20, 2020. The County prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on September 1, 2020. The Board received the revised draft Plan for the final 45-day review and Board approval on September 17, 2020. Comments received during the final 45-day review period indicated that the reviewers had no further comments.

Recommendation

On December 2, 2020, the Board’s Central Region Committee and staff met with representatives from Dakota County in St. Paul and virtually via WebEx, to review and discuss the final Plan. The Committee’s decision was to recommend approval of the Dakota County Groundwater Plan to the Board per the attached draft Order.

Joe Collins stated that it’s important we recognized that groundwater is an important Minnesota resource and that this plan makes a good effort to protect that.

Jayne Hager Dee stated she participated in some of the outreach meetings and stated they were very well attended. Plan is very science strong, data driven, and a thoughtful process.

**
20-61 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the Dakota County Groundwater Plan.
Motion passed on a voice vote.

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Dakota County Groundwater Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			

Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler/Glenn Skuta (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen/Steve Colvin (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson	X			
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen/Jeff Berg (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve				X
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	17			3

NEW BUSINESS

Interagency Pollinator Protection Team Overview – Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno presented Interagency Pollinator Protection Team Overview.

The PowerPoint presentation covered an overview of the 2020 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Report, Interagency Pollinator Protection Team and how the collaboration can further the state’s pollinator work and civic engagement.

2020 State Water Plan: Water and Climate – Erik Cedarleaf Dahl and Suzanne Rhees presented the 2020 State Water Plan: Water and Climate.

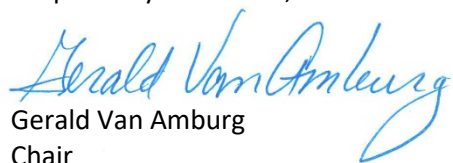
An overview of 2020 State Water Plan was presented.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, January 27, 2021 in St. Paul and by WebEx.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 1:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,


 Gerald Van Amburg
 Chair