

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Andrea Date, Jayne Hager Dee, Kathryn Kelly, Neil Peterson, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Dan Shaw, Shaina Keseley, Mark Hiles, Brad Wozney, Steve Christopher, Sharon Doucette, Dave Weirens, Dave Copeland, Marcey Westrick, Ryan Hughes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Brian Martinson, AMC; Emily Javens, MAWD; Troy Danielle, NRCS; Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Jason Garms, DNR; Don Bajumpaa, Amanda Bilek, Jan Voit

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

21-53 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Todd Holman, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll vote.***

21-54 **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2021 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the minutes of October 27, 2021, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll vote.***

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 committee has not met. Attended MAWD annual conference virtually and thanked BWSR staff that were involved and helped with programs.

Congratulated Rich Sve for serving a historic two year presidency with the Association of Minnesota Counties. Chair Van Amburg stated Governor Walz declared a Rich Sve Day at the convention. Rich Sve thanked Chair Van Amburg for acknowledging it and stated it was an honor.

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke reported the annual meetings of the Counties, Watershed Districts, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been completed. Conservation awardees for the AMC/BWSR acknowledgment were tied this year and were presented to Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine and Washington Counties) and to Community Conservation Partnerships by the Crow Wing County Highway Department. MAWD held their conference virtually and was well put together. Information from the conference has been made available on their website. SWCD had their meeting this week in Bloomington and stated it was also very well put together.

A petition from the Watershed Association regarding rulemaking was received. It is being evaluated with legal counsel and will be responded to between now and early January.

Kevin Bigalke will be taking a position in the private sector and BWSR will work to get that Assistant Director position filled along with other vacancies. Annie Felix-Gerth has filled the position vacated by Marcey Westrick as the Clean Water Coordinator.

John stated they are working along with other agencies on ideas for the Governor’s consideration on budget and policy. State has a budget surplus with a number of components to it.

Executive Director Jaschke thanked Andrea Date for her service on the BWSR Board. Andrea will be stepping aside from her board position as the Metro City representative at the end of December.

Jill Crafton stated she attended the SWCD meeting and that it was a great experience and would encourage more people to attend.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported they have not met. Meeting is scheduled for January 20th.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently five appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been four new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting. Two are identified in the current report in the board packet.

File 21-7 appeal of WCA notice of a decision in Pope County. Appeal regarding the approval of tile lines around water of a US Fish and Wildlife Service property allegedly impacting wetlands. Issue is the elevation at which the tile lines were approved. No decision has been made on this appeal.

File 21-6 appeal of WCA restoration order in Brown County, filling and grating of two alleged wetland areas. Petition states they are not wetlands and alterations that occurred were approved previously by local unit of government. No decision has been made on this appeal.

File 19-7 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA replacement plan decision in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the denial of a replacement plan application associated with wetland impacts described in a restoration order. The restoration order was appealed and placed in abeyance until there is a final decision on the wetland application (File 18-3). The appeal has been placed in abeyance until there is no longer mutual agreement on the viability of proposed actions for restoration. The LGU has since notified BWSR that there is no longer mutual agreement on continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance. As a result, a decision was made to grant and hear the appeal. The hearing proceedings have been extended by mutual agreement. A settlement agreement was executed and it dismisses the appeal filed with BWSR.

File 18-3 (10-31-18) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the alleged filling and draining of over 11 acres of wetland. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications. That decision has been amended several times to extend the time frame on the stay of the restoration order. The LGU decision was appealed (File 19-7). A settlement agreement was executed and it dismisses the appeal filed with BWSR.

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 93 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 6 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 86 of those have been resolved.

Statewide 31 counties are fully compliant, and 50 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 701 CANs and 67 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1,915 of those have been resolved.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman thanked Andrea Date for chairing the previous two committee meetings. Last meeting was on November 29 and will have action items later in the agenda. The next meeting is January 10. Todd stated they will be looking at the watershed based

implementation funding formula again at a future meeting. Todd congratulated and thanked Kevin for his service.

Todd thanked staff for their participation at the MASWCD conference. Stated the Mark Crampton family was nominated by the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District for a certificate of achievement using the Crow Wing River Healthy Water Partnership RIM program.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported they met and there is an action item on the agenda.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Andrea Date reported they met November 29 and there is an action item on the agenda.

Chair Van Amburg thanked Andera for all her work on the board.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported they had a 404 Assumption Workshop and hope to be hearing more about it in the future.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee - Kathryn Kelly reported the committee has not met. Kathryn Congratulated and thanked Kevin and Andrea for their work. Kathryn stated she attended the AMC conference and congratulated Rich Sve. Kathryn stated she is at the end of serving her two year term and thanked everyone.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Neil Peterson and Tom Gile reported the Drainage Work Group has not met and is planning to meet January 13.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reported the Ag Water Quality Certification Program continues to move toward their goal. Stated they have started to form teams for the Groundwater Protection Act in areas that have high nitrate. Department is still looking at some kind of drought package to provide some relief to farmers. Stated fertilizer could be an issue this spring; farmers are looking at rates and alternative practices. Stated Bob Patton is retiring from the Department and oversees agriculture preserve programs. They will be bringing in new people to help run the programs.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported he went to Minnesota Ground Water Association conference. Content from the conference was recorded and is available on their website. Steve stated the Infrastructure bill passed and will bring money to Minnesota for drinking water and clean water activities. The PFAS monitoring program is about 50% done, results will be available in January. EPA announced they will be working on developing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFO and PFAS. Also indicated they will be revising their approach towards health risk where values will be lower than what they have now for the health advisory levels.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported it was nice to see people in person at the MASWCD and AMC conferences. In partnership with MPCA, a press event was held at Medicine lake in the Three River Parks District at French Park to talk about new data around climate and in particular the loss of ice days on Minnesota Lakes. On average Minnesota lost 10-14 lake ice days over the last 50 years.

Sarah stated she spent two days in Lac qui Parle County talking with members of the Lac qui Parle County Board and staff from the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District. Stated it was a great two days spent trying to figure out better ways to work together.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported at the Minnesota Groundwater Association there was a presentation from Jeff Broberg from the Minnesota Well Owners Organization. They have been working on a project with the Groundwater Association with running a series of drinking water testing clinics for different regions across the state. Joel stated they have been talking with them on how to build up that program in partnership with them. They are in the early stages of those conversations and as it develops Joel will bring back more information.

Joel stated they will be holding their Nutrient Management Conference on February 8 in Mankato. The Nitrogen Conference will be February 25 in St. Cloud. Both will have online options.

They are continuing to work through Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership efforts. One of the projects they are working on is to develop a statewide more detailed and fine downscaled climate projection data. Climate Adaptation Awards Ceremony is being held on January 31 and looking to hold a broader conference in April.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta reported the 2022 Agriculture-Urban Partnership Forum on Water Quality is being held January 18.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported AMC recently held its annual conference in Bloomington. Thanked Executive Director Jaschke and Commissioners Petersen, Kessler, Strommen, and their staff for participating and contributing to various events during the conference. Conservation awards were presented to Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine, and Washington Counties) and to a Community Partnership via the Crow Wing County Highway Department.

Brian stated they are setting priorities for next year and updating their platform. The top two priorities they will focus on are mental health and behavior health issues as well as updates to legislature dealing with the recent opioid settlement. For the Environmental and Natural Resources there are two priorities, one is dealing with the public waters inventory. The second is maintaining and reinforcing county ability to manage solid waste. The Resources Committee reviewed nine potential platform changes or additions and adopted seven. One is to update and expedite the ability to get septic system professionals onboarded and trained. Need for more septic systems professionals around the state and want to see that addressed.

Underground utility mapping is a new item that came from language adopted by the Clean Water Council and comes from collaborated work at the state with Geospatial and Gopher State One to provide more environmental protection and safety.

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 – Eunice Biel reported this fall they had district meetings throughout the state that went well. There was a presentation on American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding. Stated the spending for the ARPA money in township is limited on how it can be spent. Stated they are involved in a Workman's Compensation audit for townships.

They will be offering web classes through MAP for township officer; 2022 is an election year. There will also be training on best practices.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts –Emily Javens reported they submitted a legal petition on November 8 in regard to a rulemaking item from the last board meeting. Stated their platform for the next year is to make sure that all Watershed Districts have the capacity to fund their work.

Emily stated they held their annual conference virtually and all sessions were recorded. Stated that MAWD gave two awards, the project of the year was awarded to Sand Hill River Ecosystem Enhancements. The Watershed District Program of the year was awarded to Comfort-Lake-Forest Lake for their citizen assisted tributary monitoring program. DNR awarded Valley Branch for Watershed District of the year. The Administrator Award went to Jamie Byer, Bios de Sioux Watershed District. BWSR gave an award for an Outstanding Employee awarded to Cody Fox who is a program manager for Cedar River. The Video Award for best picture was awarded to Bassett Creek.

Chair Van Amburg thanked Emily and Maddy Bohn for their work on the conference.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell reported he attended the MASWCD conference and stated almost every presentation talked about partnerships. Troy thanked the BWSR Board and staff for their partnerships.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Committee

Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) – Sharon Doucette presented Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot).

ML21 1st Special Session, Ch.1, Art. 2, Sec. 6(g) designated the following:

\$2,500,000 the first year and \$2,500,000 the second year are for permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), or for grants to local units of government for fee title acquisition to permanently protect groundwater supply sources on wellhead protection areas or for otherwise ensuring long-term protection of groundwater supply sources as described under alternative management tools in the Department of Agriculture Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, including using low-nitrogen cropping systems or implementing nitrogen fertilizer best management practices. Priority must be placed on land that is located where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and on lands with expiring conservation reserve program contracts.

ML17 Ch. 91, Art. 2 Sec. 7(g) and ML19 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g) both contained similar language allowing for grants to local units of government for wellhead protection.

In 2019, the Board approved a pilot Wellhead Protection Partner Program to utilize all available options given by the legislature for wellhead protection. The board order for the pilot authorized \$1 million for the pilot program. Since that time, we have funded 3 successful local acquisition projects which have utilized most of the \$1M, but we have not piloted a long-term easement/contract via a local partner. Staff is requesting that the pilot grant program continue with added funding to learn from these additional options provided in the program as well as to allow for development of a wellhead specific RIM rate that will be in conjunction with updated RIM rates presented to the board within the next 6 months.

Jill Crafton stated she supports this order and was glad to hear the need of inspections and building in accountability.

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21-55 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot). **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

Chair Van Amburg recessed meeting at 10:30 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:35 a.m.

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Dan Shaw presented Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP).

Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. This cost share grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity.

Kathryn Kelly thanked Dan for his work and asked if the grant money is approved, can it be marketed to CRP landowners to enhance their CRP lands. Dan stated CRP land is eligible for this program.

Jill Crafton stated this would be good opportunity to do sampling for soil organic matter and asked if we could implement it into policy. Dan stated this is something they have been talking about for a variety of programs. They are working with conservation districts to do more testing of soil before and after installation of projects.

Ron Staples asked if the deadline of February 3 is a short period of time or if that's a normal time frame for submittals. Dan stated for this type of grant they provide around 2 months for applications. Most of the potential applicants are aware this is happening. Another email will be going out letting them know it was passed by the board and more detail about the grant will be provided.

Joe Collins asked if this was applicable for urban areas. Dan stated city and park lands are eligible for the program.

Jill Crafton asked if the Lawns to Legumes Program is still going on. Dan stated it is still going on and there is currently an RFP out now. Might have a little bit of overlap, more applicants for this program will be on larger more intact natural habitat where lawns to legumes has more of an urban focus to it.

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21-56 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP). **Motion passed on a roll vote.**

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) – Dan Shaw presented Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA).

Cooperative Weed Management Areas are partnerships of federal, state and local government agencies along with tribes, individual landowners and various other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area. The BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Program was developed in 2008 to establish strong and sustainable CWMAs across Minnesota for the collaborative and efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas. \$200,000 is proposed for FY2022 and FY2023 for newly developing and existing CWMAs/terrestrial weed management partnerships in Minnesota.

Kathryn Kelly noted a couple typos on page 7, under number 15, Conflict of Interest, under number 1 completing duties is run together and under number 3 all competitors is also run together.

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21-57 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA). **Motion passed on a roll vote.**

FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles presented FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award.

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY22 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 23, 2021, 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 #21-16).

Applications for the FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 30 through August 17, 2021. Local governments submitted 66 applications requesting \$22,066,713.66 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 9th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 29th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

Jill Crafton asked if the funds going forward will stay with competitive grants and won't get diverted to other programs. Shaina stated what is in those application tables is what it will go to it. John Jaschke stated shifting would need to be done though a future board order.

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21-58 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award. **Motion passed on a roll vote.**

General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7 – Kevin Bigalke presented General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7.

Since 2016, BWSR has partners with TSA 7 (SE Minnesota) and the NRCS on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to address feedlot management in the Lower Mississippi River Watershed. The RCPP grant has been completed and the project generated more interest than the RCPP grant could fund. During the 2021 Legislative Special Session, BWSR was appropriated general fund dollars for feedlot water quality grants for feedlots under 500 animal units and nutrient and manure management projects. This request is to provide the \$260,000 in FY2022 & \$260,000 in FY2023 General Fund Feedlot grant dollars to TSA 7 to continue the work started with the RCPP project. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on November 29, 2021 and recommended approval to the full Board.

Thom Petersen asked if they could talk more about the interest and the demands for these grants. Dave Copeland stated they have done a good job of communicating the availability of funds and projects. With this grant they anticipate addressing two or three feedlots that are backlogged. They will also look at the potential to work with NRCS to coordinate state money with Federal EQIP dollars. In talking to TSA staff, they don't see any issue in being able to get projects done and utilize the funds. It won't address all the back log but will certainly help.

Ted Winter asked about the current feedlot grants and if there is any percent of local interest that has to be a part of it and if there are there any guidelines. Kevin stated in the past these grants matched with RCPP and have a been a 90/10 split. Landowner would be contributing 10% of the overall cost of the project and the grant would cover up to 90%.

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21-59 Moved by Thom Petersen, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7.
Motion passed on a roll vote.

Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee

Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF) – Brad Wozney presented Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF).

Since late 2020, BWSR staff have evaluated the current NPPF to determine its value and relevance. From this evaluation staff believe in taking the necessary time to revise it to better reflect and align with the changes in state planning and programming since the last revision in 2018. Staff are proposing another extension to December 2023. Senior Management Team approved the proposed board order deferring development of the NPPF to the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee (WMSP). The WMSP discussed the proposed process and basis for alternative content and recommended approval of the order for the NPPF to the Board.

Jill Crafton stated she would like to see this come to the Water Management Strategic Planning Committee and the Grants Program and Policy Committee. Brad stated it is on the schedule to bring to the committees to get their involvement as well.

Joe Collins stated in the metro they have comprehensive watershed management plans. Joe asked what the reference to local comprehensive watershed management plan via 1W1P program is and if they are trying to focus only on 1W1P with this. Brad stated they will not be exclusively citing the 1W1P. One of the components of the non-point priority funding plan is estimating the need for non-point costs so they will be using metro plans as well as 1W1P comprehensive plans to help acquire that estimated need. It won't be exclusive to outstate plans.

Ted Winter asked why we don't list them, instead of via the 1W1P. Kevin stated it wasn't the intent to have it exclusive of metro water plans but linking local comprehensive water management plans via the 1W1P program but a matter of stating 103b.801 1W1P and the 103b.235, which is the metro comprehensive watershed management plans. They are locally driven and state supportive. John Jaschke stated it might be simpler in the board order, sub item 2b, to remove the specific reference to that program and link to local watershed plans in general so it would be inclusive to both.

Language in the board order under number 2b in the Order section will be changed to read: linking to local watershed management plans which are locally driven and state supported.

Ted Winter asked for clarity on going from the traditional clean water fund competitive grants to noncompetitive watershed based implementation funding approach.

Kevin stated the nonpoint priority funding plan is a statutorily required plan that talks about how clean water funds in a general sense of project and programs activities would be prioritized for utilization. With the proposed revision to the nonpoint priority funding plan, it's providing a better context to the more comprehensive watershed based planning approach that Minnesota is now undertaking and is utilizing those plans that incorporate the state driven data. This information is put into a prioritized approach at the local level, balancing both state priorities with local priorities and initiatives. The watershed based implementation approach utilizes comprehensive watershed management plans to

allocate funds. The local government uses their implementation plans that are prioritized and targeted to determine how to use those funds based on the development and what their comprehensive plans say. It eliminates and provides a more stable predictable level of funding for each biennium. With watershed based implementation funding a particular set of local government partners in a watershed area, there will be a relative sense based on legislative appropriations every year and an amount of money that will be going to the watershed for utilization partnership. They'll know based on their priorities that are set in their plan where they're going to be working and which projects they are going to be working on without needing to go through the competitive process.

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21-60 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF). **Motion passed on a roll vote.**

Central Region Committee

Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher presented Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) is approximately 56 square miles in the southwestern portion of Anoka County, bisected by the Rum River. It is bound by the Mississippi River to the south, Sherburne County to the west, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization to the north and the Coon Creek Watershed District to the east. The WMO includes all or part of the Cities of Andover, Anoka, and Ramsey. The LRRWMO is moderately developed with suburban land use.

The LRRWMO was formed in 1985 through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) signed by the Cities of Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Ramsey. Since establishment, the JPA has been revised and amended to incorporate statutory and rule changes, the Wetland Conservation Act, and cost sharing on LRRWMO projects. The JPA was also revised in 2014 to revise its legal boundary as the City of Coon Rapids was transferred to the Coon Creek Watershed District.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The LRRWMO initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in 2019 soliciting input from its stakeholders, holding kickoff meetings, and convening Citizen Advisory and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. The LRRWMO also completed an analysis of potential 2011 Plan gaps.

Through the process identified above, the LRRWMO Board identified the following as the most relevant issues:

- Adverse impacts from stormwater runoff
- Degraded water quality of lakes, streams, and rivers
- Flood risk and water quantity issues
- Excessive erosion and sedimentation
- Integrity of wetlands, shoreland, and natural areas
- Groundwater contamination
- Efficacy and efficiency of the LRRWMO permit program
- Limited funding and capacity
- Opportunities for increased education and engagement

The Plan states measurable goals associated with each of the issues identified including those related to the LRRWMO's organizational effectiveness/capacity such as funding and engagement.

The Plan's Implementation Program is structured around Administration, Programs and Projects which is consistent with the current Plan, however it adds specificity to the actions the LRRWMO will undertake. The identified projects will largely rely on grant funds for implementation. The LRRWMO partners and the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program should provide strong opportunities for advancement recognizing that need.

Joe Collins thanked Kevin Bigalke, Andrea Date, and Kathryn Kelly for their work.

Jill Crafton stated she appreciated the Metropolitan Council and the MPCA pushing for specificity.

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21-61

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll vote.***

Gerald Van Amburg thanked Kevin Bigalke for all his work and Kathryn Kelly and Andrea Date for their time on the board.

Kevin Bigalke thanked Board Members for their work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Southern Region Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at Murray Soil and Water Conservation District, 2740 22nd Street, Slayton and by Microsoft Teams.
- Audit and Oversight Committee is scheduled for January 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 101 at 520 Lafayette Road, North, St. Paul and by WebEx.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

Chair Van Amburg stated in the day of packet there is a letter from the Minnesota Campaign Finance Board. John Jaschke stated each board member should be receiving a letter directly.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Van Amburg
Chair