



Scott Watershed Management Organization

200 Fourth Avenue West

Shakopee, MN 55379-1220

MINUTES

Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission

County Boardroom

April 27, 2020

Members Present:

Rita Weaver
Virgil Pint
Pam Caselius
Joe Thill
Mark Vierling
Brian Schmidt
Kevin Shea

Staff Present:

Vanessa Strong
Ryan Holzer
Melissa Bokman
Beverly Cox-Alexander

Others Present:

Bruce Loney
Tom Wolf

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Chair Weaver called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

- Specific details and video of the entire April 27, 2020 Scott County WMO Watershed Planning Commission Meeting is available for viewing on the Scott County Website.
- The video link can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v47EhQtpJWU>

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Pint; second by Commissioner Shea to approve the April 27, 2020 Meeting Agenda as amended below. The motion carried unanimously.

Amended Agenda

New Business Item

b.) Elko New Market Local Water Management Plan Approval

Motion Carried

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020:

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; and Second by Commissioner Thill to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes as written and presented.

Motion Carried:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

APPROVAL OF 2020 MEETING DATES

Motion by Commissioner Schmidt; and Second by Commissioner Caselius to approve the 2020 Watershed Planning Commission Meeting Dates as presented.

Motion Carried:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

STAFF REPORTS:

SCOTT SWCD

- Details of the April 27, 2020 SWCD report are available in the Watershed Planning Commission meeting packet

SCOTT WMO – COVID-19 Operations Plan

Updates from Vanessa Strong

- Every division within the County put together an Operations Plan to identify what our essential services are and how we would deliver those essential services to residents and the public to provide them what matters while keeping them and staff safe
- Most of our essential services can be carried out during this time
- We have the ability to use video and phone conferencing along with a lot of field work that does not involve person to person contact
- In-person meetings have been suspended and have been replaced with video meetings
- A lot of our educational events are currently on hold, and we are looking for creating ways to hold them later this year (possibly via a webinar that is interactive)
- Melissa Bokman is working on getting our Watercraft IAS monitoring programs up and running

- The Operational Service Plans went through the County for approvals
- Staff is working from home
- Ryan Holzer completed the Sand Creek Targeted Grant Final Report (\$2 Million Grant received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources).
- Staff is currently working on the 319 Grant for the MPCA which opens in the next few weeks
- Vanessa Strong is working on the Watershed Based Funding
- WMO Staff is assisting with the draw down for Markley Lake right now.
 - Currently have 2 lakes that require draw downs and pumping

Commissioner Weaver inquired if the Operations Plan needs approval from the State, or is it just in place and kept on file?

Vanessa Strong responded the Operations Plan is approved by the Director and goes through approval to the Administrator. The Board approves the Operations Plan as well.

Commissioner Shea asked if we are planning on pumping down a couple of the lakes this year?

Vanessa Strong replied; at the moment we do not have funds in the budget for drawing down either Markley or McMahan Lake. However, Vanessa and staff are working with Brad Davis and they are looking at the budget for creative opportunities to find funding.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- Our Clean Water Fund, the Targeted Watershed Grant has come to an end
 - No additional costs could be incurred after March 11th
 - The termination date was April 11th
 - All submittals were completed on time
- All staff, including Vanessa, Megan and Melissa pulled together a nice report which is available on the WMO website
- The WMO has a current EPA grant we are working on that is also in the Sand Creek Watershed
 - We are looking at an extension, MPCA staff contacted us amidst the COVID 19 situation to see if we would be open to extending that grant another year
 - We were planning on wrapping it up by August of this year and largely still plan on having most of the projects completed
- We are currently wrapping up our Quarter 1 grant reporting
 - Each quarter we submit our expenditures and those will be submitted this week
- CIP construction Phase IV to start back up later this week or early next week
 - Remaining items include restoration clean-up and plantings

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Curly leaf treatments

- We are moving forward with CLP treatments
- Cedar Lake was treated on April 15th
- PLM is monitoring the concentration and will add another dose in about (2) weeks from that date
- Melissa will start pretreatment surveys when she hears from volunteers that Curlyleaf is growing
- Staff from Environmental Health will help with surveys while following the Operations Plan Social Distancing guidelines

McMahon Lake Outlet Legislative Proposal

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- McMahon Lake is a landlocked basin and has been rising for the last several years
- In 2019 the water level rose to 2.6 feet above the ordinary high water level which is the highest it's ever been.
- Last year the WMO spoke about McMahon Lake applying for a DNR Flood Mitigation Grant to secure funds to install a permanent outlet on McMahon Lake
- Commissioner Shea along with some residents from McMahon Lake contacted Representative Albright and Senator Pratt for assistance in finding funding for the project.
- Prior to the end of 2019, Melissa Bokman put together a proposal for Claire Robling to include in Scott County's legislative funding requests
- Senator Eric Pratt sponsored a bill for the permanent water control structure on McMahon Lake for a grant from the State's General Fund
- On March 3rd, Melissa Bokman and Noah Levie (McMahon lake resident) testified at the Minnesota State Legislature in front of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee at the Minnesota State Senate.
- On April 17th an update was provided by Claire Robling
 - The project is included on a list of other proposed statewide flood mitigation projects that could be funded by the DNR if they get money from a proposed bonding bill
 - The original idea to get a grant from the General Fund, as proposed in a bill that was heard in the State Environment Committee, is basically out of the question now with the extra costs and loss of tax revenue due to the pandemic.
 - Claire Robling recommended to Noah the best bet is to get Representative Albright and Senator Pratt to push the project with the bonding committee chairs
 - Unless the DNR gets its full funding request for flood hazard mitigation projects, Claire is not hopeful the WMO will see funding for this project this session.
 - If the DNR receives their \$20 million funding request, we still need to go through the DNR criteria and scoring process and there are a lot of other projects on their list that we would be competing against.
- The WMO set aside \$130,000.00 towards a cost share for the DNR grant
 - The \$130,000.00 was determined by the feasibility study completed early last year
 - Since that time Melissa Bokman has put together a proposal for the legislature, whereas the total cost of an actual outlet is much higher than originally anticipated with an estimated cost of approximately \$600,000.00.
 - The DNR Grant requires a 50% match, the WMO would need to come up with another ~\$150,000.00.

2020 Watercraft Inspections

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- The WMO received a quote from Waterfront Restorations
 - Pricing is lower than the previous year
- A draft contract has been completed and is working its way through the contract approval process
 - At this time, it is still unclear whether the DNR will allow watercraft inspections to occur this season.
 - Inspections are tentatively scheduled to start the weekend of June 12th
- The funds for this program come from the MN Legislature, AIS Prevention funding

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Annual Report and Newsletter

Updates from Vanessa Strong

- Actual revenue in 2019 was \$1,601,798 which was roughly \$390,000.00 less than the amended budget. This was largely due to reimbursements under the 319 grants being less than budgeted, and Watershed Based Funding being less than budgeted.
- Overall expenses were also less than budgeted by roughly \$419,00.00. The Land and Water Treatment, Education, and Inventory and Assessment programs were the largest contributors to expenses being under budget.

Motion by Commissioner Pint; and Second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the 2019 Annual Report and Newsletter as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion Carried: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Elko New Market Local Water Management Plan Approval

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Elko New Market submitted their draft in late December.
- The WMO reviewed the draft plan submitted by Elko New Market and determined the plan meets the requirements of MN Statute 103B.235 and MN Rule 8410.0160.

Motion by Commissioner Shea; and Second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the Elko New Market Water Management Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion Carried: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Savage Local Water Plan

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- The City of Savage’s Water Management Plan is dated January 2020, however the WMO did not receive the actual draft until the end of February
- The WMO has determined the Plan is missing some required information.
 - As the City has a Comprehensive Wetland Management Plan, the WMO would need to review that as part of the local water plan review; however, the plan was not received.
- A letter was drafted and sent to the City of Savage on April 2nd, we are currently awaiting a response and updated draft of their plan.

Adam Simon Grassed Waterway TACS Application

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- The application is for \$7,032.00 from the WMO and the applicant would pay an estimated amount of \$1,758.00 for a total project cost of \$8,790.00
- The WMO funds would come from the EPA grant

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; and Second by Commissioner Caselius to approve the Adam Simon Grassed Waterway TACS Application as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion Carried:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Thill and Second by Commissioner Shea to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

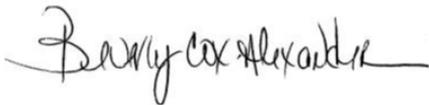


5/19/2020

Rita Weaver

Date

Chair, Watershed Planning Commission



Beverly Cox-Alexander

Secretary