



Scott Watershed Management Organization

200 Fourth Avenue West

Shakopee, MN 55379-1220

MINUTES

Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission

County Boardroom

October 28, 2019

Members Present:

Brian Schmidt
Jim Schwingler
Mark Vierling
Rita Weaver
Virgil Pint
Kevin Shea

Staff Present:

Paul Nelson
Ryan Holzer
Melissa Bokman
Beverly Cox-Alexander
Troy Kuphal
Kate Sedlacek
Megan Tasca
Vanessa Strong

Others Present:

Tom Wolf
Charlie Howley

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

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

- Specific details and video of the entire October 28, 2019 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=M1Xf3rN7lrw>
- Chair Schwingler expressed a huge Thank You to Paul Nelson for his many years of leadership and contributions to the County

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Weaver to approve the October 28, 2018 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES August 26, 2019:

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; and Second by Commissioner Pint to approve the August 26, 2019 minutes as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

SCOTT SWCD:

- Troy Kuphal provided highlights of the October 2019 SWCD report that is available in the meeting packet
- Commissioner Pint expressed Congratulations to the SWCD team on obtaining 100% Buffer Law compliance
- Paul Nelson commented on Equipment rental use being lower than previous years
 - Troy Kuphal's Comments:
 - There is typically a larger push later in the year when there is fall seedings and cover crops / dormant seedings.
 - It should pick up in the next (2) months and while it is not anticipated to reach the last (2) years numbers we still expect to see 1000 to 1500 acres by year end
- Paul Nelson requested an overview on the Credit River chloride monitoring results report
 - Troy Kuphal's comments
 - Monitoring confirmed what we expected to see; there are spikes in late winter / early spring when initial run off events are occurring
 - Seeing hot spots further downstream within urbanized areas where concentrations are peaking as compared to more upstream
- Commissioner Pint requested the number of acres and an estimate on what kind of capacity the Helena Wetland Bank will have at its peak
 - Troy Kuphal's comments:
 - The project size is approximately 87 acres
 - Of the 87 acres about 45 acres are wetland with the balance upland
 - The total wetland credits would be about 55

SCOTT WMO:

Paul Nelson advised on staffing changes:

- Commissioner Weaver is the New Chief Engineer with BWSR
- Kate Sedlacek is Paul Nelson's Replacement as the Environmental Services Program Manager
- Vanessa Strong is Paul Nelson's Replacement as Water Resources Supervisor
- Kevin Shea is the new WPC Commissioner

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates

Updates from Melissa Bokman:

- The WMO will be hosting (2) smart salting classes for applicators
- There will be a new class available for Property Managers on November 26th

Ryan Holzer provided updates on Capital Improvement Projects.

Project by the Water Tower in Jordan:

- The Landowner passed away this spring and family members showed some interest, however when it was time to sign off on easements the family felt the timing was not right
- It's possible they will have interest in 2020
- EPA grant carries over to 2020; there is still the potential that construction could happen in the Spring
- The family has expressed concern regarding signing off on easements for (30) years
- This is a smaller project with an estimated cost of \$60,000
- This could potentially be a 10 year project
- Ryan will contact the family at the beginning of the new year to see if they want to pursue the project

Project South of the Golf Course in Jordan:

- Approval has been received from the landowner
- (6) bids were received with SunRamp Construction as the successful bidder
- Construction to start the week of Thanksgiving with a 6-8 week construction time
- Substantial completion by February 2020
- Restoration of site July 2020

McMahon and Markley Lakes – High Water

Markley Lake

- Pump operation continues to progress with no issues
- The pump has been running continuously since August 20th
- There has been a total lake reduction of about 31"
- Currently about 1 foot below the 100 year flood elevation
- The WMO is permitted to reduce the lake as low as 893' or another 20"
- The City of Prior Lake continues to inspect downstream structures and have observed no negative impact
- Expecting to stop pumping sometime in November; however if weather permits it's possible to continue pumping into December

McMahon Lake (Short Term Fix)

- Pumping has started with the help of the public works department
- Pumping permit received early October with pumping starting on October 14th

- Pipe was installed under Mushtown Road
- DNR required the WMO to install an additional filter as McMahon Lake has an aquatic invasive species, Eurasian Watermilfoil
- After 22 days of pumping the lake is down 5-6"
- Permit expires on November 30th
- Pumping at about 1,350 gallons per minute
- Anticipate the lake will be down approximately (1) foot by the time pumping ends for the winter

McMahon Lake (Long Term Fix)

Commissioner Shea provided feedback on the McMahon Lake meeting with Senator Pratt, Representative Albright and Committee Administrator Dallas Fischer.

- A firm project cost estimate for a permanent water level management system on McMahon
 - Can the County get actual bids?
 - Albright and Dallas didn't blink an eye at \$500,000
 - Erroring on the high side is better than having to go back to ask for additional funding
- Input from septic system inspectors
 - Albright looking to have an opinion on how close the water level is and the contamination risk
 - This seemed to be the greatest concern and most powerful talking point / rebuttal if they encounter push back during the legislative process
- Coordination of Watershed Management with Sand Creek
 - What will the water release / flow rate be and over what period of time?
 - How will that impact St. Catherine and Sand Creek, if at all?
 - How will the County manage the drawdown if we experience heavy rains?
- Additional downstream improvement needs, if any
 - Can the existing watershed (lakes, creeks, sand creek outlet) handle the McMahon draw down as currently designed?
 - Does the County need additional funds for downstream improvements to handle McMahon draw down?
 - Does the County have other known unfunded improvement needs it wants to include in this ask (related or not)?
 - County will need to identify and cost them, if any
- Status of State and Federal DNR support to outlet from the retired fishery / holding pond

- Albright wants to know if there may be issues here
- Is the path cleared at State/ Federal levels?
- If not, what is needed to get approvals

These questions will be reviewed by Vanessa Strong, Melissa Bokman and Megan Tasca. Once they have had a chance to review, a document will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

Technical Assistance and Cost Share Policy Manual for 2020

Ryan Holzer provided a review of the changes to be incorporated into the Technical Assistance and Cost Share Policy Manual for 2020

- Proposed changes have been reviewed by the screening committee members from the Scott SWCD Board and the WPC Board along with SWCD and WMO staff members
- BWSR provided a courtesy review of the docket
- All changes would be adopted and incorporated into the 2020 Docket
- Focus items of the changes include:
 - Focus on long term outcomes
 - Prognosticating ways to achieve sustainability
 - Encourage experimentation and innovation
 - Focus on building capacity

Motion by Commissioner Pint; second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the Technical Assistance and Cost Share Policy Manual for 2020 as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TACS Applications

Justine Hagness – Wetland Restoration

Presented by Ryan Holzer

- Estimated incentive of the wetland project is \$3,200.00
- Funding is available through the Sand Creek Targeted Watershed Grant
- Proposed restoration is a cessation of cropping

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; second by Commissioner Pint to approve the Justine Hagness Wetland Restoration project. The project carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

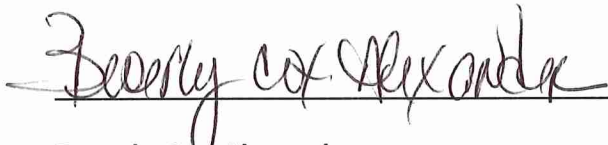
Motion by Commissioner Pint and Second by Commissioner Vierling to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 PM. The motion carried unanimously.



Jim Schwingler
Chair, Watershed Planning Commission

11-25-19

Date



Beverly Cox-Alexander
Secretary