



# North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization

Serving the Townships of: Castle Rock | Douglas | Eureka | Greenvale | Hampton | Randolph | Sciota | Waterford  
And the Cities of: Miesville | New Trier | Randolph

## DRAFT MINUTES

### BOARD OF MANAGERS

April 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Castle Rock Townhall  
and Virtual Zoom

#### NCRWMO Managers Present:

Sandy Weber	Castle Rock Township
Frank Wergin	Waterford Township
Wayne Peterson	Greenvale Township
Dan Peine	Hampton Township
Harlan Lichty	City of Randolph
Tony Van De Steeg	Sciota Township
Don Dinesen	Randolph Township

#### Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Staff  
Jayne Hager Dee, Dakota County SWCD Board  
Melissa King, Board of Water and Soil Resources

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion** by Dan Peine, second by Don Dinesen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

#### 3. Audience

Chair Weber asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Board on an item that is not on the agenda. No one appeared.

#### 4. Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

##### 4.2 Invoices for Payment

##### 4.3 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

**Motion** by Wayne Peterson, second by Harlan Lichty to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

#### 5. New Business

##### 5.1 Watershed Based Implementation Funding

- a. **Metro Cannon through Dakota SWCD** – First Watershed Based Funding grant is held by the NCRWMO, and then there is a JPA with the SWCD to implement the activities/projects. This grant will expire at the end of this year. Most project dollars are spent already. The second grant was a collaborative process and the grant is held by the SWCD but work is being done throughout the watershed.
- b. **Greater Cannon through Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board** – Received their grant from BWSR and group is beginning to implement. A lot of work has been put into policies, and start-up items. At the last CRWJPB meeting, an Executive Committee was established with the four officers and Slavik was elected as the at-large member.

## 5.2 NCRWMO Watershed Plan Update

The NCRWMO Watershed Plan expires August 29, 2023. Plan updates are required every 10 years. The Board of Water and Soil Resources recommends a minimum of 18 months for planning process. The Draft RFP was used for discussion on the following topics:

- **Qualified respondents-** In the past, the SWCD was contracted by the NCRWMO to facilitate the planning process and write the Plan. While the SWCD is open to this, they recommend a private consultant complete these tasks. Cost has been a factor in the past, so if all proposals are too high, could re-consider contracting the SWCD for some aspects of the Plan update.
- **Budget-** NCRWMO budget has set aside \$1,500 annually for a new Plan, that results in \$15,000 over ten years. Certificate of Deposit is around \$12,000 and maturity date is August 2022. Savings account, minus grant dollars, is around \$50,000. A Plan update could easily be around \$30,000. Looking at two other WMO's in the County, one was around \$20,000 another was \$75,000. The Board may have to consider whether they prefer to take from reserves, increase member dues, or a combination of both.
- **Grants-** It was recommended to look into any potential grants that could cover planning costs, one mentioned was Community Development through the County. Since this is required planning it is very unlikely that grants would cover the cost but the Administrator will look into options.
- **Modeling needs-** There is an emphasis at the State level on Prioritize, Target and Measure. This planning area has a number of models and studies complete that could be used. If during the planning process it is determined that further modeling is needed, this could increase the cost.
- **Public engagement-** This is a required component. Could be one advisory committee or two, a technical group and a citizen group, or even some other format.
- **Timeline-** Option to start RFP process now or wait until the July meeting. Board preferred starting now, which would allow for review of proposals and costs sooner rather than later.
- **Submittal and review-** Members prefer paper copies. Administrator will coordinate delivery/pick-up. The full Board will receive the proposals. Administrator will summarize but prior to selection a review/ranking/discussion on the proposals will occur at the July Board meeting.
- **Local Water Plans-** Many Comprehensive Plans, including the Rural Collaborative Plan reference the NCRWMO Plan in order to meet the Metropolitan Council requirements for a Local Water Plan (LWP). If the NCRWMO Plan were allowed to expire, it would likely mean all entities would need a LWP. Furthermore, the NCRWMO may not be eligible for state grants either.

**Motion by** Don Dinesen, second by Frank Wergin to adopt the resolution with the intent to update the NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan. Motion carried.

**Motion by** Dan Peine, second by Wayne Peterson to release the Request for Proposals according to the timeline presented. Motion carried.

## 5.3 Website Updates

Administrator has been providing content to the web developer. The SWCD website is complete, and now the WMO websites are starting to come together. However, NCRWMO website is not ready to go live yet.

## 5.4 Harvestable Covers Program

The SWCD updated their cost-share policies to include harvestable covers. This is different than cover crops because cover crops are not allowed to be harvested for sale/income but harvestable covers are, which is why the rate is slightly lower. Allowing income opportunity can help increase the longevity of adoption of this practice. Examples include alfalfa, intermediate wheatgrass (such as the trademark variety Kernza) and winter annuals like camelina and pennycress. There are benefits to both groundwater and surface water quality. Some areas of the County have greater impact, such as groundwater sensitive areas and would therefore be more of a priority. For

example, partner organizations recently sent a postcard on Kernza to targeted areas/landowners in the Hastings Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA).

**5.5 Summer Tour Ideas**

Greenvale will host the July meeting, so something around that part of the County for a tour/site visit. There may be a wetland that could be visited, could have Lindsey talk about water monitoring, or other ideas. Administrator will come up with a tour idea for before the July meeting.

**6. Agenda Items and Location for July 21, 2021 Meeting**

**7. Member Community Reports**

Jayne Hager Dee mentioned that while not in the NCRWMO but within the Cannon River Watershed, there have been two new public land acquisitions through the Trust for Public Land. One is near Shields Lake, which is the start of the Cannon River. The other is in Goodhue County in Sogn Valley.

**8. Adjournment - Motion** by Harlan Lichty, second by Frank Wergin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.