

NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF MANAGERS

November 16, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Castle Rock Township Hall
2537 240th St W
Farmington, MN 55024

NCRWMO Managers Present:

Jeff Reed	Douglas Township
Wayne Peterson	Greenvale Township
Greg Langer	Greenvale Township
Dan Peine	Hampton Township
Don Dinesen	Randolph Township
Nancy Sauber	Eureka Township
Sandy Weber	Castle Rock Township
Tony VanDeSteege	Sciota Township

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Staff
Jayne Hager Dee, Dakota County SWCD Board
Steve Christopher, BWSR Board Conservationist
Mark Henry, Castle Rock Resident

1. Call to Order

Chair Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Langer, second by Reed to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Audience

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 July 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

4.2 Invoices for Payment

4.3 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

Motion by Sauber, second by Reed to approve consent agenda. Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Approve Draft Watershed Plan for 60-Day Review

All managers received a copy of the draft plan during internal review, and recently received a copy of the updated Plan based upon changes made during internal review. The changes were minor in nature. Comments were received from BWSR, DNR, Freshwater, Dakota County, and SWCD. A few people commented that they had no comments. Gallagher scrolled through a few of the changes that were made in the document.

The process from here is to release the Draft Plan for 60-day agency review. When the comment period closes, there needs to be written responses to all comments. They must be posted 10 days prior to the public hearing. Public hearing would be held before the regularly scheduled meeting on February 1, 2023. Pending no major comments at the public hearing, the Draft Plan could be approved for 90-day review at the February meeting.

Motion by Sauber, second by Peine to approve the Draft Watershed Plan for 60-Day review. Motion carried.

BWSR staff mentioned that authority should be given to staff to respond to the comments.

Motion by Sauber, second by Reed to authorize staff to respond to 60-day comments. Motion carried.

5.2 Approve 2023 Budget and Dues

Gallagher reviewed the draft budget. Changes from previous year include an increase in the SWCD hourly rate from \$85 to \$90. Watershed Plan budget was decreased because most of the work on the Plan was completed in 2022. Other programs remain in the budget including Landscaping for Clean Water, Agricultural cost share which helps as grant match, and the Wetland Health Evaluation Program which helps meet Education & Outreach goals. There was a slight increase in water monitoring due to staff costs and the addition of chloride sampling. The budget balances due to use of general reserve funds. Question was asked if this meant dues would need to increase in the future. Won't necessarily have to if other budget items come in under budget. There is no fund balance policy, the Board could consider a policy in the future.

There was a question about dues and why they changed. The dues amount of \$40,000 remains the same as 2022, and the equation for calculating dues never changes as it is written in the Joint Powers Agreement. What is updated annually is the Tax Capacity of each member. This information is generated by the County Assessor's Office and is posted online for anyone to see. That is why there are slight shifts in each member's dues.

Motion by VanDeSteege, second by Sauber to approve the 2023 budget and dues. Motion carried.

5.3 Approve 2023 Workplan with SWCD

Most changes to the workplan were discussed during review of the budget. Upon NCRWMO approval of the workplan, it will go to the SWCD Board for approval, then the entities will enter into a Joint Powers Agreement.

Motion by Reed, second by Langer to approve the 2023 workplan with SWCD. Motion carried.

5.4 Review 2021 Water Monitoring Report

Gallagher reviewed the report. It takes time to analyze data which is why this is the 2021 report. A few edits were noted. Question as to how this report is used or distributed. It is posted online so anyone has access. However, report is not widely distributed, someone likely has to be looking for it to find it on the website. There were also questions about how flow affects monitoring. There is routine sampling and then there is runoff event sampling. This is factored into analysis. Monitoring done after a large rain event is not going to be considered an average condition. Discussions about dry conditions this year in 2022 and how that will factor into water monitoring results. This led to discussion on floodplains, and how they are determined. It was suggested that Dee McDaniels could come to a NCRWMO meeting to cover shoreland ordinance and floodplains.

5.5 Review 2022 Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) Summary

The watershed organizations across the county all contribute to the program. Through this program homeowners learn about water quality, design a project and can apply for a \$250 grant to install their project. Projects through LCW are raingardens, native plantings, or shoreline plantings. NCRWMO had two interested homeowners who applied but did not install projects this year. They may apply in future years. There is a \$25 fee to the homeowner to participate in the design workshops, this pays for materials provided. The dates for 2023 are currently being set,

Gallagher will send 2023 LCW schedule to NCRWMO when finalized so members can promote the LCW program in their communities.

5.6 Delegate Data Practices Authority

At the last meeting the Board took action on an item related to data practices, which was the records retention schedule. NCRWMO should also have updated Data Practices Policies. Gallagher is coordinating with the attorney on the draft policies and will bring the policies to the next meeting. For this meeting the Board should delegate a responsible authority. It is recommended that the Administrator be the authority. This means that any request must go through the responsible authority, and the responsible authority can then coordinate with legal counsel.

Motion by Sauber, second by VanDeSteege to have Ashley Gallagher, Administrator, or successor as the responsible authority. Motion carried.

5.7 Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule

Meetings roughly follow the same schedule as 2022. Locations determined at meeting prior.

Motion by Peine, second by Langer to approve the 2023 meeting schedule. Motion carried.

6. Agenda Items and Location for February 1, 2023 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Eureka Township volunteered to host. Potential agenda items include floodplains/shoreland. There was also discussion on the proposed mine in Waterford Township. There will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which allows for public comment. SWCD and Dakota County are currently working with a consultant to review existing mining ordinances. Consultant will provide a model ordinance that local governmental units may choose to adopt or not adopt. A summary on this ordinance project and an overview of the EIS process could be provided at the next NCRWMO meeting.

7. Member Community Reports

No reports.

8. Adjournment - Motion by Sauber, second by VanDeSteege to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.