

NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF MANAGERS

April 12, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Castle Rock Townhall

NCRWMO Managers Present:

Jeff Reed	Douglas Township
Frank Wergin	Waterford Township
Greg Langer	Greenvale Township
Dan Peine	Hampton Township
Don Dinesen	Randolph Township
Nancy Sauber	Eureka Township
Sandy Weber	Castle Rock Township
Tony Van De Steeg	Sciota Township

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Staff
Jayne Hager Dee, Dakota County SWCD Board
Dee Churchill, Castle Rock Resident

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Gallagher mentioned that Dee McDaniels was unable to attend. Item 5.1 Floodplains and Shoreland presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Motion by Langer, second by Peine to approve the agenda with removal of item 5.1. 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 February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

4.2 Invoices for Payment

4.3 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

Motion by Wergin, second by Van De Steeg to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Presentation on Floodplain and Shoreland in Dakota County – Rescheduled

5.2 Minnesota Watersheds Correspondence/Membership Decision

Mangers discussed the correspondence sent to them by Minnesota Watersheds. Gallagher explained that the organization used to be Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts but has recently reorganized. Their policy information was included in the packet. Dues start low but would increase. Mangers prefer money to go to local projects. Do not see value in membership as NCRWMO is connected with partners already.

Motion by Reed, second by Peine to not join Minnesota Watersheds. Motion carried.

5.3 NCRWMO Watershed Plan Update

The 4th Generation Plan was presented to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Central Region Committee on April 6th. The committee recommended approval and the full BWSR Board will meet later in April. Gallagher went through the presentation that was provided for the committee. There were some questions at the committee meeting, but they were all supportive of the Plan. Hager Dee is on the BWSR Board and Central Region Committee, she echoed the support of the Plan. BWSR will be paying attention to tracking of Plan implementation. She also mentioned that BWSR Board has an annual tour, and this year Dakota SWCD and Vermillion Watershed are the hosts. Tour is in August, more details to come.

5.4 SWCD Programs Updates

Every year the SWCD reviews their cost-share policy. SWCD Board approved higher rates for cover crops and harvestable covers programs due to increasing costs to implement these practices (i.e. seed costs, equipment, etc). There was a question about existing contracts, current policy does not say existing contract will increase. There is discussion on policy at BWSR about changing policy, which is a primary source SWCD uses to fund cover crops. This may change what the local SWCD policy looks like in future years, such as no minimum or maximum amount of years. Harvestable covers program rates also increased. They are set \$10 below the cover crop rates because there is the potential for income from sale of harvestable covers. Both practices are important for reaching many different watershed and SWCD goals

5.5 CRWJPO 2022 Annual Report

NCRWMO is a member of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (CRWJPO) which has members from the six counties and SWCDs, plus Belle Creek Watershed District and us. The annual report is a high-level overview of what that group has been working on. Work with the full Cannon Watershed is important because NCRWMO is limited in how much it can do to protect Lake Byllesby when it is a reservoir on the Cannon River.

6. Agenda Items and Location for July 19, 2023 Tour and Meeting

Gallagher will look into visiting one of the ACRE shallow groundwater monitoring wells. The township nearest the tour location will be asked to host. Randolph was considered but need to look into construction schedule for 88.

7. Member Community Reports

There was one input meeting for the model mining ordinance and the next meeting is April 27th, where the model ordinance will be presented. There was a question about solar in shoreland, no one was aware of the project.

8. Adjournment - Motion by Sauber, second by Wergin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.