

NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF MANAGERS

November 15, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Castle Rock Townhall

NCRWMO Managers Present:

Frank Wergin	Waterford Township
Wayne Peterson	Greenvale Township
Dan Peine	Hampton Township
Tom Krauter	Randolph Township
Sandy Weber	Castle Rock Township
Tony Van De Steeg	Sciota Township
Nancy Sauber	Eureka Township
Todd Carlock	City of Randolph
Jeff Reed	Douglas Township

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Staff
Tom Wirtzfeld, Greenvale Twp Alternate
Greg Langer, Greenvale Twp Resident

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Peine, second by Sauber 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. There were no comments.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

4.2 Invoices for Payment

4.3 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

Motion by Sauber, second by Wergin to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

5. New Business

5.1 Accept Proposal for Legal Services

Request for legal services was publicly noticed. Campbell Knutson was the only proposal received. They have represented the NCRWMO for a number of years now and represent other watersheds. Only bill when services are requested.

Motion by Sauber, second by Van De Steeg to accept the proposal and enter into an agreement with Campbel Knutson for Legal Services through 2025. Motion carried.

5.2 Approve 2024 Budget and Dues

Administrator reviewed changes from previous budget. Most items remain similar to last year. Watershed Plan work was removed as the Plan is now complete. SWCD rate increased slightly to \$95 and is reflected in the budget. Budget closely reflects the next agenda item for workplan with SWCD. Revenue from member dues to increase by \$1,000. This results in individual member dues increases reflected in the table, approximately \$100 increase each.

Motion by Reed, second by Wergin to approve the 2024 budget and member dues. Motion carried.

5.3 Approve 2024 Workplan with SWCD

Items were reviewed during budget discussion. Total is a not-to-exceed amount. NCRWMO only pays what is billed by the SWCD.

Motion by Reed, second by Wergin to approve the 2024 workplan with the SWCD as presented. Motion carried.

5.4 Update on Irrigation Programs

Administrator provided a brief update on irrigation programs in Dakota County. Conversations around irrigation are no longer just about water quantity but also water quality. Some irrigators are using the Irrigation Management Assistant tool. However, SWCD and partners would like to see even more users. In a time when water use is being examined across the state, would be great to show that Dakota County irrigators are using tools to help make decisions.

Questions and discussion on nitrates in groundwater and relation to the recent EPA petition and response in SE Minnesota. Dakota County not included on the petition, but we do still have karst topography in our county. State response to EPA not likely to include Dakota County, but it is worth tracking progress. State agencies already working on nitrates in groundwater in Dakota County and Dakota County Groundwater unit is as well through the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE).

5.5 Update on Waterford Quarry Proposal

Wergin stated he must remain neutral as a township officer but was able to provide an update on progress and timeline. The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and scoping document are complete. Next step is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will take around 300 days. Anyone can request to be on distribution list for updates. All materials are also posted on Waterford Township website.

There was a comparison in size to the past application for a quarry in the same location by Kramer. This application is about half the acres. It was estimated back then that dewatering would be about 28 million gallons per day, and the drawdown of 10 feet would have a large impact area, and possibly cause 4 feet of subsidence in some areas.

Waterford currently has moratorium on mining. Reviewing model mining ordinance. Recommended that all members/townships review the model ordinance if they haven't already.

There was general direction from the Board that they would like to submit comments during the EIS process. Administrator will continue to track the process, will draft comments for NCRWMO Board to review, and call a special meeting if comment period and NCRWMO meetings do not align.

5.6 Information on Annual Member Reporting Forms

Administrator will be sending out a spreadsheet for all members to complete. This is important for tracking progress towards Watershed Plan goals. Since NCRWMO does not have land use authority, many questions relate to how many times a member has had to use certain ordinances, such as erosion and stormwater control. Please complete and send back in a timely manner.

5.7 Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule

- January 17, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- July 17, 2024
- November 20, 2024

Motion by Wergin, second by Sauber to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented.
Motion carried.

6. Agenda Items and Location for January 17, 2024 Meeting

Castle Rock volunteered to host, members like this location as it is central for everyone to get to.

7. Member Community Reports

Administrator and Carlock provided updates on the City of Randolph sewer project and wastewater treatment facility. Construction done for the season; Highway 86 has been temporarily paved for winter. The treatment facility is planned north of the city and will be treatment ponds, and the treated water will be land applied through irrigation spray field. Working through the MPCA permit process. Only failing septs are required to connect to the system. The project will be completed in phases, others will have opportunity to connect to the system but will not be required if septic is in working order and meeting maintenance requirements.

Administrator mentioned that Miesville Ravine Park is currently taking comments on the master plan for the park. Some members expressed frustration with county acquiring land for parks. They would like to see more land remain in private ownership. There was also frustration that current plans have the majority of Miesville Park remaining untouched and inaccessible. Administrator could provide an update on County Easement program at a future meeting, as this would tie into land remaining in private ownership discussion.

- 8. Adjournment - Motion** by Wergin, second by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.