

NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF MANAGERS

January 17, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Castle Rock Townhall

NCRWMO Managers Present:

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

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher, Dakota County SWCD Staff
Jayne Hager Dee, Dakota County SWCD Board
Greg Langer, Greenvale Resident
Mark Henry, Castle Rock Resident

1. Call to Order

Administrator Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Election of Officers

Current officers are Weber as Chair, Peterson as Vice Chair, and Wergin as Treasurer/Secretary.

Open nominations for Chair. **Motion** by Peine, second by Reed to slate officers as they currently serve and cast a white ballot. Motion carried.

4. 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 comments were made.

5. Consent Agenda

Sauber noted a grammatical correction in the minutes. Wergin noted that the final bank statement from 2023 was recently received and showed an interest earning of \$10.73. Year-end will be updated to reflect this income.

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

6. New Business

6.1 Approve 2023 Annual Report

The Annual Report is a required document to be submitted to the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) and distributed to members. Upon approval the Administrator will send a final draft to all members for posting. Administrator reviewed the report and key changes from previous years. The Watershed Management Plan was completed in 2023 therefore the entire

table on goals and progress towards goals is new. Budget items will be updated with the \$10.73 change in year-end income from interest. A few comments were made to continue to track progress on a cumulative basis as years go by. A member would also like to see budget graph switched to show revenue first then expenses.

Motion by Reed, second by Wergin to approve the 2023 Annual Report. Motion carried.

6.2 Review Annual Member Reporting Form

An annual member reporting form has been an activity in the previous Watershed Management Plan and is still an activity in the update Plan. While NCRWMO has no rules or regulations, this form can help identify any gaps the NCRWMO could assist with through model ordinances, educational materials, or workload support. Administrator walked through the categories in the form.

Members had questions on SSTS and who is responsible authority between the County and the Township/City. Varies across the watershed, some have the county send out pump reminders, but unaware if they are still authority or not. Question about what is considered enforcement, and if sending letters is sufficient. Questions about who has turned authority back to the County and what that looks like, though members have heard County does not want to take on authority. Reminder that County does have authority of SSTS in shoreland areas. Administrator advised members to put comments in the form so they could be aggregated and NCRWMO could consider work on this item in the future.

Discussion on Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves and if a tolerable loss is needed prior to township approving or if it is on a complaint basis. Not very clear, SWCD can assist with calculating loss if there is a complaint but maybe NCRWMO would like to advocate for use of conservation plans prior to approving Metro Ag Preserves. Members advised to place comments in forms.

6.3 Review Impaired Waters List

Kristen Dieterman presented virtually on the process for impaired waters and new impairments. Of note in the NCRWMO is the addition of a tributary to Trout Brook. Trout Brook already impaired for nitrates, but a new tributary was added. All impairments in Minnesota can be viewed online, as well as the monitoring data.

6.4 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Discussion

Funding is from the State Clean Water Fund and has been shifting over the last few years from competitive to watershed based, meaning activities are already in watershed plans and entities don't need to compete. The North Cannon River planning area will receive almost \$400,000 in 2024. No decisions needed yet, but if members have project ideas related to water quality let the Administrator know. NCRWMO must participate in a convene process with partners to determine projects. In the past the Administrator has been delegated to serve on the convene group.

Motion by Peine, second by Wergin to delegate voting to the Administrator for the WBIF convene process. Motion carried.

7. Agenda Items and Location for April 17, 2024 Meeting

Castle Rock Township will host meeting. Email Administrator if topics arise.

8. Member Community Reports

Next meeting for Waterford quarry proposal will be in March. Email the Waterford clerk to be on the distribution list. Further discussion on SSTS and enforcement. City of Randolph turned SSTS authority over to the County. City of Randolph sewer project continues, soil borings complete for ponds, and construction will resume in the spring.

9. Adjournment - Motion by Wergin, second by Carlock to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.