

1. Call to Order

Chair Jeff Reed called meeting to order at 7:00pm, with the following Roll Call:

Member	Present	Absent	Voting Manager
Douglas Township	X		Chair, Jeff Reed
Greenvale Township	X		Vice Chair, Wayne Peterson
Waterford Township	X		Secretary/Treasurer, Frank Wergin
Eureka Township	X		Melanie Storlie
Hampton Township	X		Dan Peine
Randolph Township	X		Tom Krauter
Sciota Township	X		Jill Trescott
City of Miesville		X	
City of New Trier		X	
City of Randolph		X	
Castle Rock Township		X	
	7	4	Quorum is 7 of 12 Members

Others Present: NCRWMO Administrator Victoria Ranua, Eureka Alternative Brian Storlie, Greenvale Alternate Tom Wirtzfeld, Peggy Curtis (Castle Rock), Jayne Hager Dee (Northfield), Brian Haskin (Castle Rock), Pam Krauter (Randolph), Gregory Langer (Greenvale)

2. Audience

No members of the public came to address the board.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Wergin to remove from the consent agenda items relating to Invoices for Payment and Year-To-Date Financial Summaries and place those under New Business and to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Peine. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes of November 20, 2024 Meeting

A motion by Wergin to approve the consent agenda. Second by Krauter. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation

5.1 MPCA Cannon River Watershed Water Quality Assessment Update (Kristen Dietermann)

Kristen Dieterman from the MPCA presented the recent water quality data gathered for the Cannon River Watershed wide assessment. She focused her presentation on the surface water resources within the North Cannon River WMO. Trout Book, Pine Creek, Chub Creek, Chub Lake, Mud Creek, and Dutch Creek sampling shows continued impairment. The additional sampling efforts support adding *e. coli* bacteria parameter concern in several water bodies. The audience asked various questions about: spring feeding of streams, groundwater, why Pine Creek's is designated as a cold water stream when it is dry most of the time, and the impact data centers have on the water resources.

6. New Business

a. Year to Date Financial Summary

Administrator Ranua indicated she was not able to finalize the 2024 financial summary before the board packet went out as the bank statement had not arrived by mail. Chair Reed asked if there was anything to highlight. Ranua noted that for 2024, the City of Miesville had not paid their dues. Further, the City of Miesville had questioned their invoice for the 2025 dues and requirement for involvement in the WMO. Reed was concerned about this. The neighboring Vermillion River watershed had a similar situation occur when a LGU didn't want to participate. As a result of that issue, the County stepped in and altered how the watershed governmental unit operated, and now everyone there contributes much more as it is a direct tax assessment on every parcel. Reed will have a conversation with the Miesville Clerk. Ranua indicated she had provided a detailed response to the Miesville dues inquiry and encouraged them to

attend this meeting as well as having offered to speak at a Council Meeting. Reed indicated he would be willing to go to as well.

b. Invoices for Payment

Wergin made a motion to approve the dues payment to the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Second by Krauter. Motion passed unanimously.

6.1 Assignment of Duties

A motion by Trescott to re-appoint Chair Jeff Reed, Vice-Chair Wayne Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer Frank Wergin to WMO officer positions. Second by Piene. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 Communication Strategies for reaching farmers and landowners

No formal action needed. Board and audience members re-enforced that electronic means of communication were not the most effective way to reach landowners and producers. The Board recognized the expense associated with mailings. They noted that the County does send out several mailings to residents. They would like to explore possibly partnering with the County to ensure access to information about the WMO and SWCD initiatives. They did indicate that utilizing township and city government posting boards as a place to share information, as well as sending it to township and city official contacts that are using email may be effective.

6.3 Outreach, Soil Health Finance Event (Randolph)

No formal action needed. The U of M and the SWCD are hosting a farmer-led Soil Health Finance Event in Randolph on February 27. Request to spread the word on the event.

6.4 Invitation, County Parks (Miesville Open House)

No formal action needed. Dakota County Parks is hosting an open house for Miesville Park in Cannon Falls on February 6. During the MPCA presentation on water quality, there were several questions related to the impaired status of Trout Brook as well as groundwater impacts. Trout Brooks runs through the park. The Open House may be an opportunity to directly learn about County efforts that may concern the stream.

6.5 Watershed Plan Implementation Tracking, In Progress

Administrator Ranua reported that preliminary analysis of approved SWCD projects (those paid out in 2023 and 2024), indicates that the WMO is on track for its watershed plan goals for farmable agricultural practices. The data does not include UDSA or MPCA (nutrient management plans) information, though it has been requested.

6.6 Waterford Quarry Proposal Update

Manager Wergin indicated no updates on the environmental review under development. He indicated that there are township efforts to revise a 2001 Mining Ordinance.

7. Member Community Updates

Randolph Township: Manager Krauter indicated that the 121-acre Wickland property, which contains a prairie restoration with a Dakota County Parks easement, will be open to the public in 2025.

Waterford Township: Manager Wergin shared that the township passed an ordinance banning data and technology centers.

8. Agenda Items for and location for April 16, 2025 Meeting

Waterford Manager Wergin will share the land use ordinance that the township passed prohibiting data and technology centers as well as the proposed revival of their 2001 mining ordinance.

Managers wanted to bring in appropriate government officials to discuss water appropriation permits (DNR) and water discharge permits (MPCA).

Douglas Township will host the April meeting.

9. Adjournment

A motion by Wergin to adjourn meeting. Second by Trescott. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Victoria Ranua
Administrator

Approved by Board on:

April 16, 2025