

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

JULY 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Todd Haas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Voting members present were: Debra Musgrove, Ramsey; Elizabeth Barnett, Anoka; and Todd Haas, Andover.

Voting members absent were: None.

Also present were: Deputy Treasurer Brenda Smith, Ramsey Civil Engineer IV Leonard Linton, Ramsey City Engineer Bruce Westby, Bob Obermeyer of Barr Engineering, Anoka Engineering Technician Ben Nelson, John Enstrom of Enstrom Organic Dirt, Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Coordinator Emily Johnson, Steve Leighton of Anoka Conservation District, and Anoka Conservation District Manager Chris Lord.

APPROVE AGENDA

Haas requested to add an item to the agenda, Collaborative Outreach Coordinator Position with ACD as Item K1.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the July 18, 2019 agenda as amended. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

Barb McKusick, Ramsey resident, referenced Ditch 66 and stated that they have been working with the City and County on the coffer dams installed when the sewer was brought through. She stated some of those have since been pounded down to allow water to flow through. She stated there is a coffer dam near her property and the water remains stagnant rather than having a free-flowing creek. She stated that there have been problems with cattails and beavers and asked if the center section could be pounded down.

Linton stated that Ramsey went through a permitting process to clean the ditch and install the sewer, which involved the DNR and BWSR. He explained that part of the approval process included installation of the coffer dams and they must remain in perpetuity. He explained that if those are removed, the water would drain out from the wetland.

Ms. McKusick stated that there are other sections that are pounded down. Linton explained that in order to pound those down, it would require heavy equipment. He stated that the approved plans require the coffer dams to remain in place. He stated that there is some variation in the construction of the different coffer dams.

Westby stated that perhaps Ramsey staff could review the coffer dam locations in the winter when the water is frozen. He stated that he has spoken with Barb's husband in the past on this issue.

Ms. McKusick asked if the issue could be revisited now that the building landscape has changed. She noted that Mr. Bower's backyard is saturated.

Haas stated that is a common theme this year with the high amount of rain that has been received. He stated that the elevations of the dams could be verified. He explained that is a DNR protected wetland and therefore the agreement with the dam must remain in place.

APPROVE MINUTES

June 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the June 20, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2019. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$223,442.19; less permit account balance of (\$42,566.33); less 2018 4th Generation Plan Reserve of (\$108,472), for a total balance of \$72,403.36.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Smith presented the payment of bills for TimeSaver in the amount of \$930.77 (June professional services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$4,547.50 (professional services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$1,269.30 (professional services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$925 (4th Generation Plan), and Deluxe in the amount of \$240.63 (checks and deposit slips).

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to authorize payment as presented and indicated above. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Excess of Permit Escrow Invoices

Haas noted that the permit escrow invoices would not be necessary for inclusion and the date billed can just be listed. He noted that if anyone would like to see a copy of the invoice, they can request that through Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2019-02 ~ West Armstrong Retail ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project subject to seven conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve Permit #2019-02, West Armstrong Retail, Ramsey, subject to seven (7) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-06 ~ Green Valley Greenhouse Site Imp. ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the wetland boundaries and types as documented in the draft Notice of Decision, with the condition that no additional comments are received before July 22, 2019.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the wetland boundaries and types as documented in the Notice of Decision for Permit #2019-06, Green Valley Greenhouse Site Imp., Ramsey, with the condition that no additional comments are received before July 22, 2019, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Haas noted the second memorandum dated July 12, 2019 in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the permit subject to the eight conditions noted in the memorandum.

Obermeyer noted that this is a big project with 33 acres that will be completed in phases. He stated that as the buildings move forward in the future, the low floor elevations should be kept in mind.

Linton stated that the stormwater elements will all be constructed now but noted that the building additions will be constructed as the business requires. He stated that the City will review the building permits as those come in to ensure that the building requirements are met.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to approve Permit #2019-06, Green Valley Greenhouse Site Imp., Ramsey, subject to the eight (8) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-08 ~ Delta ModTech ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering stated that the additional information has been received and Barr will submit a Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Application and provide the required 15 business day comment period. A wetland boundary and type decision recommendation will be provided for the August Board packet.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to table the wetland delineation activity for Permit #2019-08, Delta ModTech, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Haas noted the second memorandum dated July 12, 2019 Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the permit subject to the ten conditions noted in the memorandum.

Obermeyer noted that the applicant could begin grading but must stay at least 50 feet from the proposed wetland delineated boundary at this time.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve Permit #2019-08, Delta ModTech, Ramsey, subject to ten (10) conditions, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-09 ~ Surface Water Resource Management Plan Update ~ Anoka

Obermeyer stated that he reviewed the Surface Water Resource Management Plan update and provided a review letter dated June 24, 2019 in which he provided comments to the City of Anoka. He stated that he would be happy to meet with Anoka and its consultant to further discuss if necessary. He noted that in order for him to recommend that the LRRWMO recommend approval, his comments must be addressed.

Nelson stated that he will work on the comments and will attempt to bring those back at the August or September meeting. He noted that this is a part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to table Permit #2019-09, Surface Water Resource Management Plan Update, Anoka, and accept the letter from Barr Engineering to the City of Anoka dated June 24, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-10 ~ Rum River Delineation Report ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO table the wetland boundaries and types.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to table the wetland boundaries and types for Permit #2019-10, Rum River Delineation Report, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NOTE: Permit #2019-10 was approved with conditions later in the meeting.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-11 ~ Elk River Delineation Report ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project subject to six conditions detailed in the memorandum. He noted the second memorandum from Barr Engineering dated July 12, 2019, in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the proposed project meeting the WCA utility exemption activity as documented in the draft Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve Permit #2019-11, Elk River Line Block Valve, Ramsey, subject to six (6) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the project meeting the WCA utility exemption activity as documented in the Notice of Decision for Permit #2019-11, Elk River Line Block Valve, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2019-12 ~ River Walk Village ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering states that they will review the information to determine if the application is complete and then submit a Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Application to provide the required 15 business day comment period. A recommendation for the WCA decision should be provided to the Board for the August packet.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to table Permit #2019-12, River Walk Village, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

Nelson presented the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Anoka.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Anoka, as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Linton presented the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Ramsey.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to approve the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Ramsey, as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Haas presented the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Andover.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Barnett, to approve the Year 2019 Second Quarter Report for the City of Andover, as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ACD 2019 SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Collaborative Outreach Coordinator Position with ACD

Haas noted that additional information was provided via email prior to the meeting.

Emily Johnson thanked the Board for allowing her to be present again today. She summarized the memorandum that was provided to the Board which specifies the historical value the LRRWMO has placed on outreach and what ACD has added as a partner.

Chris Lord stated that having an Outreach Coordinator is a new opportunity to leverage additional grant funds that the ACD has not yet been able to dedicate time to doing. He stated that the attempt would be that ACD would be able to take the funds from the partners assisting in funding this position to leverage additional grant funds that could be used to increase outreach activities.

Johnson provided background information on the meetings she has had with member city staff to identify priorities of each city that she could focus her work on and highlighted the activities that she has done thus far to accomplish those items.

Haas stated that additional information was provided regarding interaction that Johnson had with residents at both Anoka Riverfest and Andover Fun Fest.

Johnson stated that at both events she brought the LRRWMO brochure, CAC flyer, and watershed resident survey. She provided a copy of the midyear report for the entire work plan and briefly reviewed that with the Board. She stated that the goal would be to again ask for a fourth quarter contribution for her position.

Haas noted that he has heard many positive comments about the outreach that this position has assisted with. He explained that the 4th Generation Plan will include more outreach activity requirements.

Lord explained that each person in the watershed contributes, whether positively or negatively and if there is no attempt at outreach, the other positive efforts may be for not. He stated that having a coordinated outreach effort collaboratively could have a huge impact.

Haas stated that it would be nice to get the position through the end of the year. He noted that it would be so much easier to have funding in the future provided from the County Board for future years rather than attempting to collect funds from so many agencies each year.

Lord stated that he is meeting with the County Finance Committee today. He recognized that it is the taxpayers paying either way, but noted that when partners contribute, they do feel ownership. He noted that this funding request would be for the fourth quarter of 2020. He recognized that he will have additional time to explore long-term funding options.

Musgrove thanked Johnson for the information she shared. She asked the number of people that would need to be employed to accomplish these items, as this does not appear to be a one-person job. She stated that a lot of information expected to do for outreach from the LRRWMO could be gained through entities such as the DNR. She believed that awareness in water quality has increased over the past 15 years. She stated that she is hesitant to support the funding request.

Johnson stated that she is working with the outreach employees at other agencies to help coordinate and spread her messages, which includes the message of the LRRWMO.

Lord recognized that there are a lot of people working on different outreach in different locations, but this position helps to coordinate those efforts to provide a broader outreach. He stated that the idea is collaboration and coordination and not expansion.

Johnson confirmed that outreach materials developed outside of the LRRWMO are being brought in to share within the LRRWMO to help citizens in this area as well.

Linton referenced the midyear report and noted that the LRRWMO is not identified as a workshop or presentation location. He stated that perhaps if there is a local event that could be included in the MS4 permits.

Johnson confirmed that the map will be used to identify gaps and locations for future workshops.

Barnett stated that the city's comprehensive plans focus on outreach and asked if that could be accomplished without this position. She stated that her concern would be that if outreach is included in the plan, that should be able to be accomplished.

Haas stated that he would support the funding request for the fourth quarter of 2020 but believes that additional effort should be put into developing long-term funding from the County.

Lord stated that the County is focused on transportation and public safety and do not prioritize water as control for that element has been given to the cities. He stated that perhaps if the cities and watersheds go with him to the County to request the funding, that could be more effective. He stated that could be discussed more at the next outreach meeting.

Haas noted that Andover did approve the fourth quarter funding request.

Nelson noted that Anoka has also committed.

Barnett agreed that she would support the 2020 fourth quarter funding request but would be hesitant about long-term funding. She noted that great resources may be created, and workshops may be hosted but she asked the impact of those elements. She noted that for events, like Riverfest, she would wonder how many people simply took brochures and how many people had meaningful conversations.

Johnson provided additional details on the interaction through workshops and events. She noted that for events she does not count people that simply take brochures and only counts people that she talks to for at least 30 seconds. She stated that for the groundwater video there have been 2,500 views in one month.

Barnett stated that she would also like to see figures on the grant funds that were brought into the LRRWMO area through this position.

Musgrove stated that while she is hesitant, she would agree to the 2020 fourth quarter funding. She noted that she would like to have additional discussion on future funding requests.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the fourth quarter 2020 funding request in the amount of \$1,947.78 for the Collaborative Outreach Coordinator position with ACD. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Musgrove left the meeting.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Haas reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Fourth Generation Plan ~ Compilation of Comments

Haas noted that the public meeting was advertised and there were no members of the public in attendance. He stated that contacts are still being collected for the CAC.

Enstrom stated that he would possibly be interested in participating on the CAC.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

LRRWMO Permit #2019-10 ~ Rum River Delineation Report ~ Ramsey (Continued)

Staple reviewed the July 12, 2019 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the wetland boundaries and types as detailed in the draft Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Haas, to approve the wetland boundaries and types as detailed in the Notice of Decision for Permit #2019-10, Rum River Delineation Report, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2019. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (Continued)

Consider Records Retention Policy and Quote

Haas noted that this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Schedule River Float

Nelson noted that the boards still have not been put on the dam.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Haas, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary