

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

AUGUST 19, 2021

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; Jeff Weaver, Anoka; and Todd Haas, Andover.

Voting members absent were: None.

Also present were: Deputy Treasurer Brenda Springer, Ramsey Civil Engineer IV Leonard Linton, Anoka Engineering Technician Ben Nelson, Bob Obermeyer of Barr Engineering, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen, Greg Williams of Barr Engineering, Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District, and Colleen Werdien of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the August 19, 2021 agenda as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve the July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Springer presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2021. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$222,449.24; less permit account balance of (\$45,925.49); less 2018 4th Generation Plan Reserve balance of (\$57,562.50), for a total balance of \$118,961.25.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Musgrove, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Springer presented the payment of bills for TimeSaver in the amount of \$754.54 (July professional services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$9,902.78 (engineering services), and City of Anoka in the amount of \$1,200 (financial services August 2021-January 2022).

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

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2021-12 ~ Williams Woods ~ Ramsey

Linton reviewed the August 13, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue the stormwater management portion of the project until the submittal is revised to comply with the LRRWMO's stormwater management requirements. He also reviewed the August 16, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the wetland boundaries and types as revised and the WCA de minimis exemption for the 40 square feet of proposed permanent wetland impacts as described in the draft WCA Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to continue Permit #2021-12, Williams Woods, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 13, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve the wetland boundaries and types as revised and the WCA de minimis exemption for the proposed 40 square feet of permanent wetland impacts as described in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2021-12, Williams Woods, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 16, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2021-14 ~ CSAH 116 ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the August 13, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project subject to five conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Linton noted that conditions one and two must be completed before issuance of the permit.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve Permit #2021-14, CSAH 116, Ramsey, subject to five (5) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 13, 2021.

Further discussion: Weaver asked what would be expected in length of time for the applicant to meet the first two conditions.

Haas provided additional details on that process and confirmed it would be handled administratively by Barr Engineering.

Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2021-15 ~ Becker Property ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the August 16, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue the review as Barr Engineering will provide a recommendation following the expiration of the comment period and technical evaluation panel site review.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Musgrove, to continue Permit #2021-15, Becker Property, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 16, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2021-16 ~ Armstrong Boulevard ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the August 16, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue the review as Barr Engineering will provide a recommendation following the expiration of the comment period and technical evaluation panel site review.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Musgrove, to continue Permit #2021-16, Armstrong Boulevard, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 16, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT ~ None

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT ~ None

OLD BUSINESS ~ None

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Haas reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

Musgrove asked if the Board should still continue to address questions to Schurbon or if they should now address their questions to Wozney. Wozney confirmed that questions should now be directed to her.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Fourth Generation Plan

Williams stated that the 60-day review draft was distributed in late May, reporting that comments were received back at the end of July. He noted that a draft response to comments were included in the packet for the Board to review. He reviewed the different entities that submitted comments.

Musgrove suggested reviewing the draft responses marked in red, marked with the number three.

Williams reviewed the comments marked in red (3), providing additional explanation and the draft responses to confirm consensus from the Board.

It was suggested that a checklist could be developed for the cities to follow and submit to the LRRWMO for tracking purposes. The Board also suggested combining two items in order to track the project and goal progress into one checklist and report. It was agreed that the budget within the plan is an estimated ten-year projection and will be adjusted based on actual expenses and funding that may be received.

Williams noted that staff will work to identify some specific potential projects that could be listed in the plan as that comment was received from multiple agencies. He suggested adding an appendix to the plan that lists the accomplishments of the last plan. He referenced the comment received about the LRRWMO's limited budget and the suggestion for additional information related to property values and assessment. The Board did not support providing that additional information.

Musgrove stated that the LRRWMO assesses its member cities and does not directly tax residents in that format. She believed that would be better addressed through the assessment to the cities and the JPA.

Weaver agreed that statement seems similar to a levy line item.

Haas stated that the assessment to the cities is based on area and population.

Williams stated that he did not believe the comment was meant to alter how the LRRWMO completes its assessment, but more a comparison of what is paid against other similar entities. He noted that he would follow up with BWSR to have additional discussion on that comment and response.

Linton asked if any examples of projects could be provided where the LRRWMO could further improve water quality if there were additional dollars.

Haas noted that the majority of those projects have been completed in Anoka and those projects were funded by the city, not by use of LRRWMO dollars. He noted that the cities fund their own projects.

Williams continued to review the comments received, provide additional explanation, and review the draft responses. He provided additional details on the biennial assessment of the plan that is required in order to provide more consistent and real time feedback. He noted that if progress is not being made, the WMO could reassess and refocus.

Musgrove noted that there are several areas of the plan in which goals would be tracked and wanted to ensure there were not duplicative efforts.

Williams provided additional details on what that could look like in order to show progress towards measured goals, such as a spreadsheet where the implementation of projects is tracked related to a specific goal such as sedimentation reduction. He explained that the idea is to be cumulatively tracking the projects over a ten-year period in order to show projects that were implemented during that time and the measured progress. He stated that other goals that are not necessarily measurement based could be reported in a narrative manner.

Weaver asked if there should be a baseline and how this would impact individual permits and how those projects contribute towards the goals.

Williams stated that essentially individual permitted projects do not count towards pollution reduction goals. He noted that pollution reduction projects would be tracked and provided examples. He noted that there is a different goal related to the permit program and therefore that would be tracked in a different way. He stated that BWSR suggested that the document for tracking be developed now, but the decision would be whether the Board wanted to develop that document now or closer to the biennium review. He stated that while a template could be developed at this time for the quantitative resource goals while he would not suggest drafting documents for the organization/administrative goals at this time. He noted that he would follow up with BWSR on that item. He reviewed a few of the level two comments and the draft responses with the Board. It was determined that Rogers Lake will be removed from the priority water body list.

Williams reviewed the next steps. It was determined that the public hearing will be held at the regular September Board meeting.

Update on Rum River 1W1P

Haas stated that he sent out the draft plan to the Board to review and any comments should be provided prior to September 13, 2021.

Linton commented that the last technical advisory meeting was held the previous week and now the work lies with the policy board and consultants. He noted that the process would still likely take another year to complete.

Haas stated that at some time there will be a JPA drafted once the plan is approved by BWSR.

Update on Pontoon Float

Haas stated that this will most likely need to be canceled due to low water levels.

Weaver provided comments on the walk of the shoreline he did with ACD staff related to the additional vegetation in the water.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary