

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FEBRUARY 18, 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to elect Todd Haas as Chairperson, Debra Musgrove as Vice Chairperson and Jeff Weaver as Treasurer for 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

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, Greg Williams (call in) of Barr Engineering, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen (call in), and Jamie Schurbon and Colleen Werdien of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Weaver requested to add an item to the agenda item M3, Mississippi River Changes in Dynamics/DNR Update. Musgrove requested to add agenda item M4, Update on Meeting times and Website.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve the February 18, 2021 agenda as amended. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

January 21, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve the January 21, 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 January 31, 2021. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$262,431.12; less permit account balance of (\$38,836.04); less 2018 4th Generation Plan Reserve balance of (\$73,807.50), for a total balance of \$149,787.58.

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

Payment of Bills

Springer presented the payment of bills for TimeSaver in the amount of \$849.08 (January professional services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$4,925.45 (engineering), Kennedy and Graven, Chartered in the amount of \$738 (legal services through December 31, 2020), Anoka Conservation District in the amount of \$10,342.50 (2021 Monitoring and Management Work Plan), LMCIT in the amount of \$2,407 (agreement date January 31, 2021 through January 31, 2022), Jamie Humnick in the amount of \$875 (#20-12, Jamie Humnick Property), Contractors Capital in the amount of \$122 (#19-26 Anoka Senior Living), and City of Anoka in the amount of \$368.50 (#20-03 4th Avenue Pond Expansion).

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

Discuss Administrative Assistance Options

Chairman Haas discussed the idea of having a Water Resource Coordinator position to assist the Board since later this year, Chairman Haas will most likely will be retiring from the City of Andover and will be not be serving on the Board any longer.

Chairman Haas has indicated that he has for the past years managing the agendas, working with the consulting engineers/wetland specialist, working with watershed attorney, managing grant funds and other items with ACD, attending various meetings on behalf of the WMO (Water Resource Outreach Committee and Rum River 1W1P Policy Committee), coordinated various items with BWSR, and other items as directed by the Board. Since there are no City staff representatives that are willing to take over these duties, it has been suggested that a part-time Water Resource Coordinator position be created similar to what is being done in the Upper Rum River WMO.

After some discussion, the LRRWMO Board requested Chairman Haas provide the hours that he spent over the past couple years so the Board has an idea of how much time is needed to manage the day-to-day duties and what impact this will have to the budget from year to year.

Consider Matching Funds for WBTF Grant

Schurbon presented his memorandum describing projects within the Rum River watershed and those relative to the LRRWMO. It was noted that Musgrove had represented the LRRWMO on the convene group that reviewed and approved these projects. Schurbon requested to release funds to the ACD for the WBTF grant.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to release \$13,053 to the ACD for upcoming grant work as described in the memorandum from Schurbon dated February 5, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2020-04 ~ Greg Bauer Wetland Delineation ~ Ramsey

Haas reviewed the February 12, 2021 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the wetland boundaries and types as described in the draft WCA Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Weaver, to approve the wetland boundaries and types as described in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2020-04, Greg Bauer Wetland Delineation, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated February 12, 2021. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT ~ None

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT ~ None

OLD BUSINESS

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Update

Musgrove had nothing new to report.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Haas reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Fourth Generation Plan

Williams briefly introduced an updated draft of the LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan, including updates to the measurable goals and implementation table, and solicited comments in the Plan from meeting attendees.

Haas noted that the City of Andover had minor comments that were previously provided.

Musgrove noted a typographical error on Page ES, first sentence, the last word. Williams indicated the word 'greate' would be correct to indicate 'greater.'

Musgrove referenced Page 2-2, Table 2-1, Precipitation Data, noting the column totals for 1981-2010 and 2010-2019 are switched. She asked if this would change the narrative of trends to higher versus lower. Williams stated the totals may be in error and will be reviewed.

Musgrove referenced Page 2-4 and requested removal of the reference to DNR climate change and instead reference the University of Minnesota and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as noted in the narrative for additional climate trend data.

Musgrove referenced Page 2-7 and asked if there was any updated data from 2016 and its source. Williams acknowledged the current 2016 data will be source checked.

Musgrove referenced Page 2-13 and requested the removal of the sentence in paragraph 2.5.2 indicating: 'Most bedrock units in the watershed were deposited during the Paleozoic era marine environments about 450 to 530 million years ago,' as it was not needed for the context of the paragraph. Williams agreed that removing this sentence would not take away from the meaning of the paragraph on aquifer formations.

Williams noted that Managers had previously considered providing the Plan to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board Conservationist Dan Fabian for informal review prior to the 60-day formal review.

It was the consensus of the Board that Williams provide the draft Plan to Board Conservationist Fabian with a deadline for review of March 12, 2021.

Update on Permit Application/Process

Haas noted that all member cities have received the updated permit application form and it is also posted and available on the ACD website.

Rum River 1W1P ~ Approve Content and Structure of the JPA

Haas provided an update on the 1W1P JPA.

Weaver suggested the JPA be sent to the attorneys of the member cities for review and possible recommendations for modification.

It was the consensus of the Board that this item should be tabled to the March 18, 2021 meeting to allow the attorneys of member cities time for review and possible recommendations for modifications.

Mississippi River Changes in Dynamics/DNR Update

Weaver described the changes he has noticed with the Mississippi River having more weed growth during the summer and open water during the winter, which may be because of warm water discharge, which is regulated by state and federal agencies. He referenced the information he received from Jess Richards, DNR Assistant Commissioner, and the PCA relating to open water on the Mississippi River, which used to have a similar freeze/thaw cycle as the Rum River. The information details the DNR analysis of the complex factors that influence ice conditions on the Mississippi River, including discharge regulated by MPCA issued NPDES Permits, and conclusion it may be caused by the trend of warmer winter low temperatures resulting from climate change.

Informational; no action required.

Update on Meeting Times and Website

Musgrove described several items that should be updated on the LRRWMO's website that is hosted by the Anoka Conservation District.

Schurbon indicated he would follow up on this request and make the requested updates.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Time of adjournment: 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary