

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

JULY 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Debra Musgrove 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 Valerie Holthus, Andover.

Voting members absent were: None.

Also present were: Deputy Treasurer Lori Yager, Ramsey Civil Engineer IV Leonard Linton, Anoka Engineering Technician Ben Nelson, Janna Kieffer of Barr Engineering, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen, and Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Musgrove requested to add an item to Other Business, Response to Resident Question Related to Lake Itasca.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Weaver, to approve the July 20, 2023 agenda as amended. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

June 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to approve the June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Yager presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2023. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$81,614.21; less permit account balance of (\$37,102); less Generation Plan reserves of (\$29,493.43), for a total balance of \$15,018.78.

Musgrove asked for clarification on the City payments received and Yager provided clarification. Musgrove asked about the payment to ACD for the Water Resources Coordinator and Yager noted that is the second quarter billing. Musgrove commented that she believed that position was vacant and therefore would better be described as Administrative. Wozney clarified that the title they came up with for the administrative services was Water Resources Coordinator and the vacant position at ACD is the education position.

Musgrove noted that there appears to be permits that are still being worked on that show a debt. Yager provided clarification on payments received for specific permits. Musgrove commented that she does not believe that the WMO should continue doing work on permits if there is an unpaid balance. Yager noted that she has communicated with several of the permittees and provided additional details. Musgrove asked for clarification on two permits showing for Trott Brook. Linton noted that typically a wetland permit is pulled prior to the grading permit. Musgrove noted that perhaps in their next budgeting discussions they consider raising the permit fee to ensure proper funds to review permits. Linton provided additional background information on the typical process that he follows.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2023. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Yager presented the payment of bills for Anoka Conservation District in the amount of \$2,229 (Second Quarter Admin Services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$4,872 (5-20 through 6-16-23), RTY Consulting in the amount of \$2,346 (Second Quarter Accounting Services, and TimeSaver in the amount of \$798.19 (June 2023 Secretarial Services).

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

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2022-09R ~ Legacy at Peterson Farms ~ Andover

Kytonen reviewed the July 12, 2023 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue action as the applicant is still addressing both the City's and the LRRWMO's comments and is making further revisions to the project layout.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Weaver, to continue Permit #2022-09R, Legacy at Peterson Farms, Andover, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2023. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2023-08 ~ Soderholm Building Addition ~ Ramsey

Linton reviewed the July 12, 2023 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue action on this request until all requested information has been received.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to continue Permit #2023-08, Soderholm Building Addition, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2023. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2023-09 ~ Home2 Suites ~ Ramsey

Linton reviewed the July 14, 2023 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project subject to nine conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Weaver commented that he did not see the memo in his packet. Linton stated that the revised packet had additional information.

Musgrove commented that she did not believe that the additional information was publicly posted. Wozney commented that the agenda is the only thing required to be publicly posted. Linton commented that he trusts that TimeSaver posts the required information for the meetings. Wozney asked Barr Engineering for additional input. Kieffer commented that she was unsure of the timing of that memorandum compared to the others and could look into that.

Musgrove was still unsure if the item should be tabled to the next meeting or could still be considered today. Linton commented that historically there have been instances where supplemental information was provided after the agenda was posted and the item was still considered for action at the meeting.

Weaver commented that the memorandum is important because the Board depends on that information to make its decision. Linton commented that the supplemental information was provided to staff and the Board prior to the meeting. Weaver asked if postponing this to the next meeting would have an impact on the timing for the project.

Nelson commented that years ago, the quarterly reports were not included in the packet and action was still taken on those reports.

Kieffer stated that the packet was sent out to the Board and staff through email on Thursday the 13th and included a note that the memorandum for this permit was not included but would follow prior to the meeting. She stated that a second email was sent out from TimeSaver on Friday the 14th with the additional memorandum. Wozney confirmed that she also received the emails as noted. She stated that she was out of the office last week and therefore the person acting in her place did not update the revised packet when it was sent on Friday. She did not believe that the Board could state that the applicant sent their information in late.

Musgrove commented that she would lean towards approving this item and then ensure that the only requirement for posting is the agenda. Weaver asked if this could be approved subject to legal opinion on public posting requirements and incomplete posting of the packet. Linton commented that he was unsure that type of motion would be allowed. He recommended that either action be taken today, or it be continued. He noted that the applicant could choose to request a special meeting if the latter action is chosen.

Wozney commented that it is clear on the permits when things are due and therefore, she does not believe this was an error of the applicant. Weaver commented that he believes there is too much uncertainty on whether action could be taken today.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to table Permit #2023-09, Home2 Suites, Ramsey, to the next meeting or to a special meeting that may be called. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2023-10 ~ Bunker Lake Industrial Park Building #5 ~ Ramsey

Linton reviewed the July 12, 2023 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project subject to 10 conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to approve Permit #2023-10, Bunker Lake Industrial Park Building #5, Ramsey, subject to ten (10) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated July 12, 2023. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

2023 Second Quarter Report

Nelson presented the Year 2023 Second Quarter Report for the City of Anoka.

Kytonen presented the Year 2023 Second Quarter Report for the City of Andover.

Linton presented the Year 2023 Second Quarter Report for the City of Ramsey.

Weaver asked how much dewatering is occurring related to these permits within The COR. Linton replied that it would depend on the project. Weaver asked if there is documentation that shows regional areas and volumes showing the dewatering throughout those areas. He stated that he would find that information interesting. Linton stated that the DNR issues the dewatering permit. Wozney stated that she does receive those permits and could forward those to the Board if there is interest.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Weaver, to approve the Year 2023 Second Quarter Report for the City of Anoka, City of Andover, and City of Ramsey, as presented, and to authorize release of unused escrow for Permit #2021-23. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT

2023 Second Quarter Report

Wozney provided an overview of the ACD Second Quarter Report.

Kytonen noted a recent posting about blue-green algae which is very unsafe for people and animals recreating and asked if there is any news about other water bodies. Wozney commented that she was not aware of that and asked if signs were posted. Kytonen confirmed that both Andover and Coon Rapids posted signs at the public access locations.

Weaver asked if any residents along the Rum River have approached the cities about bank erosion. He noted that in Anoka there are areas filled in with fine sand that make areas unusable. Holthus commented that in Andover there are also areas filled with sand. Weaver asked where the sand came from.

Wozney stated that she spoke with ACD staff and unfortunately there is not a clear answer on where it came from. Linton commented that once you get outside of the metro area, the regulations are not the same.

Weaver asked if anyone has considered flying up the Rum River to find out where the sand came from as there was extensive damage caused. He believed that this issue is critically important because it will be a large amount of money to remove the sand, which is not natural to the river. Wozney commented that it would be primarily bank sloughing from the high water events. She stated that there are other ACD staff that would have more insight.

Weaver noted that the cost to fix the riverbed will exceed \$1,000,000.

Kytonen used the example of a property he visited that had a significant tree come down, which caused riverbank issues. He noted that is then multiplied by the number of homes along the river that experienced similar issues and bank sloughing.

Weaver encouraged Wozney to follow up with ACD staff and BWSR on this topic.

Nelson left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoom Retention Policy

Wozney reviewed the memorandum she provided in the Board packet and the three scenarios the Board could consider.

Weaver noted that an opinion was provided by the Anoka City Clerk, but she recommended that the opinion of the Anoka and Andover legal counsel be followed.

Linton noted that the previous audio recordings were not saved and were recorded over.

Holthus stated that she would recommend holding the Zoom recording for the one-to-three-month period. She stated that there are approved meeting minutes that should be suffice.

Wozney stated that she would recommend either option two or three. She stated that a motion could be made today.

Musgrove stated that she would support the lesser time frame, deleting recordings after three months.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to save the Zoom audio recording of the meetings for at least three months, and continue to maintain written meeting minutes per the LRRWMO policy. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Wozney reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

OTHER BUSINESS

JPA Review ~ Pages 1-4

Musgrove commented that there has been some discussion on this thus far and noted that it would be helpful to have an updated redline version for review. She suggested that the item be postponed to the next meeting when they would have an updated version to review.

Wozney asked if those items were approved or just discussion. Musgrove provided some examples of changes they had discussed in past meetings. She stated that it would be helpful to have the redline version showing the discussion items they have mentioned previously in order to continue to review. Wozney commented that she had been challenged in finding software that would easily allow modification of this document but would figure something out for the next meeting.

Response to Resident Question Related to Lake Itasca

Wozney stated that she met with the Hardins along with Ramsey Councilmember Riley and identified the specific information the Hardins were looking for. She commented that there is not an outlet and no inlets other than stormwater. She was unsure that the question would be answered as to where the water went. She recognized that there are issues with precipitations due to recent drought conditions. She stated that ACD is going before the County Board to request funding for a groundwater specialist to join in 2024.

Weaver commented that he and Musgrove also visited with the Hardins.

Holthus commented that there are many other bodies of water in similar condition.

Wozney commented on the link between lower water levels and different vegetation such as hybrid cattails, which then have an impact on hydrology.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Time of adjournment: 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary