

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

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 (arrived at 8:20 a.m.); 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, Heather Lau of Barr Engineering, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen, Jamie Schurbon of Anoka Conservation District, Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District, and Colleen Werdien of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Holthus, to approve the February 15, 2024 agenda as presented.

Further discussion: Wozney requested to add Informational Items under New Business.

Musgrove noted that the JPA review will be moved to the March agenda. The changes were agreed upon by the Board.

Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Holthus, to approve the January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

Further discussion: Yager noted that there was a discussion of the available balance at the last meeting and stated that \$92,678.84 was the correct amount that should be reflected. The Board accepted the correction.

Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Yager presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2024. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$155,959.86; less permit account balance of (\$28,706.95), less Generation Plan reserves balance of (\$29,493.43); for a total balance of \$97,759.48.

Musgrove asked for clarification on a number included in the document. Yager replied that is a carryover from the previous month's balance of the 4M fund.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2024. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Yager presented the payment of bills for Anoka Conservation District in the amount of \$1,626.50 (4th quarter admin/coord. Services), Barr Engineering in the amount of \$3,624.50 (December 2023 #354), TimeSaver in the amount of \$943.32 (January 2024 secretarial services), Dennis Kuiken in the amount of \$816 (Reimb. Permit #2017-29, Norlex Turf), Duane Kuiken in the amount of \$92.92 (Reimb. Permit #2018-17, 1565 161st), JD Andover Holdings in the amount of \$4,137.86 (Reimb. Permit #2019-20, Peterson Farms), Anoka County in the amount of \$906.82 (Reimb. Permit #21-24, CSAH 58), and City of Andover in the amount of \$538.25 (Reimb. Permit #2022-18, Dalske Woodlands).

Musgrove referenced the Barr Engineering bill and believed that there was an adjustment to take effect in January of 2024. Yager noted that this would have been a December invoice and therefore that change would not be effective for that bill.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to authorize payment as presented and indicated above. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2023-21 ~ West Rum River Trail ~ Phase 1 ~ City of Anoka

Nelson reviewed the February 9, 2024 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue this item and extend the review period for 60-days until a revised submittal is provided for review. The City of Anoka indicated that there may be a need to obtain approvals before the March 21st meeting to show compliance for a Mn DNR grant submittal, if that is required the City would need to request a special meeting.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to continue Permit #2023-21, West Rum River Trail ~ Phase 1, City of Anoka, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated February 9, 2024 and extend the review period by 60 days. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2023-22 ~ Trunk Watermain Imp. ~ City of Ramsey

Linton reviewed the February 9, 2024 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the no-loss and wetland boundaries and types with conditions as documented in the draft WCA Notice of Decision.

Musgrove asked for details on the review steps that are involved in the process. Wozney explained the process that is followed for no-loss and wetland boundaries and type reviews.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to approve the no-loss and wetland boundaries and types with conditions as documented in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2023-22, Trunk Watermain Imp., City of Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated February 9, 2024. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2023-23 ~ Trunk Watermain Imp./Erosion Control ~ City of Ramsey

Linton reviewed the February 9, 2024 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.

Weaver arrived at 8:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Holthus, seconded by Musgrove, to approve Permit #2023-23, Trunk Watermain Imp./Erosion Control, City of Ramsey, subject to seven (7) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated February 9, 2024. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2023 Work Results from the Anoka Conservation District (ACD)

Schurbon reviewed the 2023 work results from ACD. He noted the potential to provide grant funds in order to partner with road improvements to enhance water treatment and improve water quality. He provided information on lake level monitoring, Trott Brook monitoring, Rum River and tributary monitoring, biomonitoring, and projects.

Weaver asked if there has been any progress in determining where the sand came from this past year. Schurbon commented that it was an accumulation from many places, both inside and outside of the LRRWMO. Kytonen commented that it would be difficult to determine the amount of material that traveled. Weaver acknowledged that there were very high water levels that moved a lot of material last year.

2024 Work Contract with ACD

Schurbon reviewed the proposed contract between the LRRWMO and ACD for 2024 which includes administrative services, water monitoring, outreach, website and projects. It was noted that the tasks and costs exactly match the LRRWMO 2024 with the exception of one item; biomonitoring of the Rum River with Anoka High School was budgeted for \$1,000 and the actual cost is \$1,250. He also provided additional details on the proposed grant funds and matching funds within the work contract.

Weaver asked if the \$18,000 in matching funds was included in the original budget. Schurbon replied that amount was in the approved 2024 budget.

Motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Holthus, to approve the 2024 Work Contract with ACD as proposed. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Informational Items

Schurbon stated that there is an open public comment period for amendments to the Rum River Comprehensive Management Plan which was created through the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). He stated that the amendment would add two activities to the plan including subwatershed studies and the projects identified from those studies. This is only for the Cambridge-Princeton management zone. He noted that those same activities are included in every other management zone with the exception of that area and therefore was an overlooked item.

Musgrove noted that comments must be submitted by March 1, 2024.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT ~ None

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT ~ None

OLD BUSINESS

Update to the “Resolution of Administration of the Wetland Conservation Act” (WCA)

Wozney stated that the Board did previously discuss this item and she has gathered the additional information as requested by the Board. She reviewed the two options before the Board for consideration.

Musgrove asked if there would be a provision that would allow someone to request to come before the Board if there was disagreement with the decision from the engineering contractor. Wozney provided additional details on the appeal process that would be available.

Musgrove asked the number of these requests that are a part of the permit process. Wozney commented that about 90 percent of the projects include a wetland delineation. She stated that changing to this process would assist applicants with moving through the process more quickly.

Weaver stated that transparency is a very important step of the public process. He expressed concern with the word “discourse” and believed that would better read as “input” or “comment”. Wozney commented that the Board can choose either option, but the other language needs to be updated to be more current. She stated that the grading and erosion control permit would still come before the Board for public comment, noting that she has never experienced a member of the public disagreeing with a wetland delineation recommendation.

The Board discussed the public process that is involved in the reviews by the cities as well.

Musgrove commented that while she likes the idea of moving the process along, she also likes the ability for the public to have input, acknowledging that the reports are technical. Weaver agreed that he would not want to delay the process but acknowledged that public knowledge would also help to move the process along.

Musgrove commented that if the option were chosen to designate the authority for WCA decisions to another person/entity (Barr Engineering), the LRRWMO could also create a policy related to public notice.

Wozney commented that ACD could include a tab on the website which would inform people of those pending actions. Musgrove suggested a potential addition to the draft resolution related to public awareness and feedback. She confirmed the consensus of the Board to support the second option with the additional policy statement.

Wozney explained how the process would work if that authority were provided to Barr Engineering. She explained how that would expedite the process for the applicant to move forward with their plan design.

Linton suggested that Wozney come back with the updated language as well as some examples for the Board to better understand how the change would expedite the process for applicants.

Musgrove stated that she would support approving the first resolution and then Wozney could track some examples for the Board to review and then make the decision on whether that authority should be delegated to the consultant.

Motion was made by Musgrove, seconded by Holthus, to adopt Resolution 2024-1 as discussed. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

No comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

JPA Review ~ Pages 13-18

This item will be considered at the March 21, 2024 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Time of adjournment: 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary