MINUTES

Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission

County Boardroom

March 25, 2019

Members Present:           Staff Present:                  Others Present:
Brian Schmidt             Paul Nelson                    Troy Kuphal
Mark Vierling             Ryan Holzer                    Tom Wolf
Jim Schwinger             Melissa Bokman                  Charlie Howley
                                Beverly Cox-Alexander

Absent:
Virgil Pint
Rita Weaver

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schwinger called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

- Specific details and video of the entire March 25, 2019 Scott County WMO Watershed Planning Commission Meeting is available for viewing on the Scott County Website.
- The video link can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOWCe9ZwxZ0
APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the March 25 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Schmidt; Second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

SCOTT SWCD:

Troy Kuphal provided SWCD highlights and updates

- Technical Assistance and Cost Share Requests
  - Continuing to maintain 200 active request for Conservation Assistance
  - 250 Cover Crop workshop flyers were sent to Scott County Producers for March 14th event
  - Monthly cover crop e-newsletter sent
  - Winter Soil Health Team Meeting was held on February 28th

- Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP)
  - Workshops scheduled at the Spring Lake Town Hall
  - March 13th – Plant Native Prairie
  - April 18th – Raingardens
  - June 11th – Native Shorelines

- The annual SCWEP Partner Meeting was held to review 2018 activities and plan for 2019
  - Chloride outreach will be a main focus for SCWEP in 2019

- Inventory and Assessment / Planning
  - The first round of PTMAp application to Cleary Lake Watershed was conducted

- Water Quality Monitoring
  - Complete the first round of sampling for an 8-week Credit River Chloride analysis
    - Working with Paul Nelson and Melissa Bokman
  - Complete Scott County Hwy Picha Creek macroinvertebrate draft report

- Buffer Law
  - Compliance tracking plan was established dividing the county into (3) areas
  - Developed a plan to track annual buffer compliance checks with guidance from BWSR staff
• Tree Program (SWCD)
  o 8,125 trees sold in February for a total of 17,450 trees sold YTD

• Cooperative Weed Management (CWM) Program
  o Grant agreement received from MDA

• WMO TACS Program Action by SWCD Board (February – March 2019)
  o New Applications
    ▪ (5) new applications
  o Amendments
    ▪ (3) new amendments
  o Payments
    ▪ (14) payments
  o Contract Cancellations
    ▪ (2) cancellations

Scott WMO:

Paul Nelson provided WMO updates
• Flooding Updates
  o Parts of Jordan trailer park were evacuated (Approx. 145 trailers) due to ice jams on Sand Creek
  o MN River is still on the rise and a number of bridges are closed
    ▪ Hwy 19 in Blakeley
    ▪ Blakely Bridge
    ▪ Jordan Bridge
    ▪ Hwy 41

• TAC Advisory Committee meeting scheduled in April
  o Discuss some of the phosphorus nutrient concentrations in McMahan Lake that went up in 2018
    ▪ The water quality standards still meet but how long do we wait until plans are revised?
  o In the past, the WMO has had a couple of Native Grass practices where land had been sold to a new owner and they removed the native grass practices
    ▪ These have gone to the Board of Water and Soil Resources
      ▪ (2) were grant funded and the WMO has been issued a letter of corrective action
      ▪ The funds will need to be repaid or a project of similar value will need to be implemented
      ▪ Troy Kuphal and Paul Nelson are working on a response and a corrective action plan to prevent this from happening in the future

• New Targeted Watershed Grant
  o Some things were found with our partners that were in files they shouldn’t have been in and the WMO needs to correct them under the current grant
  o Paul Nelson announced beginning in April he will be moving to a part-time basis

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates
Updates from Melissa Bokman

- New proposals were received for our curlyleaf pondweed management program
  - PLM was the selected vendor.
- Five Chloride workshops will be offered this year
  - The first workshop will be held on April 18th
    - This is a Level II professional level training for leadership in public works
  - A workshop will also be offered in August, September, October and November

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- One Riparian buffer is still being worked on
  - The goal is to have it planted this spring
  - The project is on the border of Scott County and Le Sueur County
- Our CIP Contracts are approved and (1) site was previously surveyed
  - Working on design
  - Bidding is anticipated in the summer with construction to follow
- At our second CIP site the survey is still pending due to high water levels
  - Contract is with Inter-Fluve
  - Survey should be completed in April
- Hopeful (2) construction projects will be ready to bid by summer
- Cost Share Program Funds are running low
  - This is a testament to our partners and how successful they are at finding projects with grants
  - Local general funds are largely consumed and will face a shortage of funds at some point
  - The cost share program has been very successful
    - May need to have a waiting list for land owners for future dollars
    - Use as leverage for an additional grant
- Parks Department requested the WMO complete an assessment of some property in Blakeley
  - The assessment occurred in November
  - The WMO is currently in the process of providing a report (currently in draft stage) and will be completed within the next month
  - The Parks Department has requested the WMO attend the Parks Commission meeting where the report will be unveiled
    - This is conservation opportunities where the WMO identifies erosion that may impact / effect how they want to plan for the Park
Updates from Paul Nelson

- The WMO is working on a study to see if they can find methodology to identify abandoned wells
  - The pilot area is City of Prior Lake drinking water supply management area (DWSMA)
  - A staff member has gone through aerial photos to identify old properties with historical wells
  - A staff member is also going through city records of when various areas were put on city sewer and water and could have switched over
  - The next step is to complete a mailing to target our cost share program for well sealing
- Various engineering studies looking at long term things to do to improve the way that flow is managed as it exits Thole Lake and goes through the township into Shakopee
- Looking at the potential feasibility of an outlet at McMahon Lake
- Briefly looking at Storm Water Utilities

City of Jordan Local Water Plan

- The WMO completed its review of the City of Jordan Local Water Plan with a letter dated August 14, 2018.
- The City responded on February 28, 2019 with a response letter and updated draft of the SWMP.
- Staff reviewed that the requested changes were made in the City’s LWMP and feels the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 473.157 and 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0160 and 8410.0170 and contains the requirements for local plans.

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to recommend to the County Board to approve the City of Jordan Local Water Plan as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Diversifying Agriculture with Perennial Crops Resilient Communities Project Final Report

- The final report from the Resilient Communities Project: Diversifying Agricultural Land with Perennial Crops is provided in the 03/25/19 Watershed Meeting Packet and can be found by the following link: [https://www.scottcountymn.gov/AgendaCenter/Scott-Watershed-Planning-Commission-11/?#03252019-743](https://www.scottcountymn.gov/AgendaCenter/Scott-Watershed-Planning-Commission-11/?#03252019-743)
The report was completed by students in the ESPM 5245: Sustainable Land Use Planning and Policy class at the University of Minnesota.

NEW BUSINESS

Sand Bag Filling Machine

- The Emergency Management Team proposed the idea of obtaining a sandbag filling machine for the county
- The Board approved the purchase of a Sand Bag Filling Machine under emergency justification
- The sand bag filling machine is on order at a cost of less than $25K

Sand Creek Water Quality Trends

Paul Nelson reviewed analyses and provided highlights

- Based on the analysis Total Suspended Solids, concentrations are decreasing/improving as are Total Phosphorus concentrations; however, chloride concentrations are increasing
- Total Suspended Solids concentration decreases are likely due to the WMO’s joint efforts with the SWCD and land owners to implement practices along with the growth in rural residential land use increasing perennial vegetation
- Total Phosphorus concentration decreases are likely from these factors, in combination with phosphorus removal processes being added to the Waste Water Treatment Plants that discharge to Sand Creek
- Chloride concentration increases could be from increased waste water discharge over time, increased use of salt for de-icing, and/or agricultural chemical use

2018 in Review

Paul Nelson provided a review of 2018 end of year actual revenue and expenses

- Revenue: $55,000.00 under budget
- Expenses: $140,000.00 under budget as amended in September 2108
- A detailed review of the WMO 2018 End of Year Actual Revenue and Expenses report can be found at: https://www.scottcountymn.gov/AgendaCenter/Scott-Watershed-Planning-Commission-11/?#03252019-743

2018 Annual Report

Paul Nelson provided a review of the Draft 2018 Annual Report and Newsletter
• A detailed review of the Draft 2018 Annual Report and Newsletter can be found at: https://www.scottcountymn.gov/AgendaCenter/Scott-Watershed-Planning-Commission-11/?#03252019-743

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to recommend to the County Board for consideration to release the 2018 Annual Report as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2019 Budget Amendment

Paul Nelson provided a review of the 2019 Budget Amendment

• A budget amendment is completed in the spring of each year once financials are completely tabulated for the previous year in order to roll over the cost of items budgeted the previous year but not completed.
  o In this amendment (2) items will be rolled over:
    ▪ The cost of the City of Jordan Flood Mitigation Study
    ▪ Work completed by Great River Greening but not invoiced until after 2018 books were closed.

• Other recommended changes:
  o Purchase of a Sand Bag Filling Machine
    ▪ Approved by the County Board at their March 19, 2019 meeting

• A detailed review of the 2019 Budget Amendment can be found at: https://www.scottcountymn.gov/AgendaCenter/Scott-Watershed-Planning-Commission-11/?#03252019-743

Motion by Commissioner Vierling; Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve 2019 Budget Amendment as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Vierling and Second by Commissioner Schmidt to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 PM. The motion carried unanimously.
Jim Schwingler
Chair, Watershed Planning Commission

Date

Beverly Cox-Alexander
Secretary