



*Scott Watershed Management Organization*

*200 Fourth Avenue West*

*Shakopee, MN 55379-1220*

**MINUTES**

**Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission**

**Video Conference via WebEx**

**May 18, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Rita Weaver  
Virgil Pint  
Pam Caselius  
Mark Vierling  
Brian Schmidt  
Kevin Shea

**Staff Present:**

Vanessa Strong  
Ryan Holzer  
Melissa Bokman  
Troy Kuphal

**Others Present:**

Bruce Loney  
Tom Wolf

**Absent:**

Joe Thill

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

- Specific details and video of the entire May 18, 2020 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=Fi06Z0hGi0g>

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Commissioner Pint; second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the May 18, 2020 Meeting Agenda as amended below. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Amended Agenda**

**VI. New Business Item**

**d.) Love Shoreline Protection Application – Action Item**

**Motion Carried**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES APRIL 27, 2020:**

**Motion by Commissioner Vierling; and Second by Commissioner Schmidt to approve the April 27, 2020 minutes as written and presented.**

**Motion Carried:**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**SCOTT SWCD**

updates from Troy Kuphal

- Details of the April 27, 2020 SWCD report are available in the Watershed Planning Commission meeting packet
- (90) additional Technical Assistance and Cost Share Request since January indicate the volume of work is not slowing down

*Commissioner pint requested clarification on cover crop incentive*

*Troy Kuphal and Ryan Holzer reviewed the incentive program*

*Single year = \$30.00 / Acre and \$2,000.00 maximum*

*(3) year = \$40.00/Acre and \$12,000.00 maximum*

*Commissioner Pint requested the project fact sheet indicate the years of commitment*

**SCOTT WMO**

Updates from Vanessa Strong

- The WMO and SWCD are very busy right now; operations as well as projects have not slowed down
- Staff is busy monitoring water resources as well as getting programs up and running
- Staff is working on CIP project maintenance
- Staff is working on projecting the budget for the rest of 2020 and looking at ways to help streamline the budget

- The County is forecasting a budget loss of approximately \$1.8 million going into 2021
- As a division the planning and natural resource area are all working together to try to help provide some of the best recommendations to move forward with as little budget as necessary
- Either in June or July the Watershed Planning Commission should see some proposed budget options
- Staff are working on watershed-based funding.
- The Lower Minnesota River South work group had its first convene meeting a few weeks ago and we are working on criteria deadline and how key projects will be identified and prioritized moving forward
- SWMO natural resource staff are continuing to telework
- Currently the SWMO does not foresee appointment meetings

*Commissioner Kevin Shea inquired if the SWMO staff are still performing field work and meeting clients at sites while maintaining social distance.*

*Vanessa Strong clarified site visits are performed while adhering to the approved operations plan. The SWMO is limiting Individual residence in-person site meetings as much as possible and only meeting as necessary.*

*Commissioner Chair Weaver commented she would be interested in an update as it relates to the Lower Minnesota River South work group on how key projects will be prioritized*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Project Updates**

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- Ryan Holzer shared a photo and information from a site visit conducted last week as it relates to a project that was completed in 2016 and erosion is taking place.
  - Underlying issues is from groundwater seeping through the bluff
  - Stabilization at the toe is thought to not be the primary cause of erosion
  - There was a limited budget with this project and the landowner was not interested in pursuing additional options in 2017
  - Erosion is approximately 100' from the landowners dwelling
  - A buffer is needed to offset as the top edge of the bluff is vertical
  - A buffer offset is suggested with a distance of 3:1 slope from the bluff face
  - As erosion is growing at a rapid rate the landowner is concerned and looking to explore additional options
  - WMO staff suggest installing coir logs along with shrub and vegetation plantings
  - There is approximately \$3,700.00 in EPA funds that could be used for this project

*Commissioner Weaver inquired on the elevation drop from the backyard*

*Ryan Holzer advised the elevation drop is about 40 feet*

*Commissioner Shea inquired as to the performance of coir logs*

*Commissioner Pint inquired as to the use of the EPA funds should the landowner not move forward with the project*

*Ryan Holzer advised the funds would be used for cover crops or other BMP projects*

- The Phase IV project is complete
  - Project ended slightly over budget by \$2,600.00

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Working on coordinating the CAMP program
  - Program has been delayed due to COVID-19 Shelter In Place
  - Met Council is dropping off CAMP supplies on Tuesday
    - Camp kits will go out to volunteers on Friday for Thole, Cedar and McMahan Lake
  - Waiting for Met Council to provide an update on when the program will start and when to obtain supplies
  - Contract is in place
- Lake pre-treatment surveys have started
  - Surveyed McMahan Lake and found lots of Curley Leaf with some 5-6' tall
    - Treatment will occur on Tuesday
  - Some boats are violating the "No Wake" order
    - there is a sign at the public access noting "No Wake" restriction on the lake.
  - O'Dowd pre-treatment survey is schedule for Tuesday
  - Thole pre-treatment survey is planned for Thursday
  - Cedar Lake has been treated and post treatment survey will be completed last week of May

*Commissioner Caselius reported hearing positive reports of the treatment on Cedar Lake yet. Reports hearing are positive. So far so good.*

- Some property damage (ruts) were caused last year during the McMahan dewatering (from staging the pump and filter)
  - The County Highway crew helped with the repairs and the landowner is satisfied
- A May 12<sup>th</sup> lake reading on McMahan Lake indicates the lake is 1.5 feet above the ordinary highwater level
  - Melissa Bokman advised another reading will be completed in a week

*Commissioner Shea commented the Lake is up about 4"*

*Commissioner Vierling commented he sent Curley Leaf findings into Melissa*

*Commissioner Weaver commented plan A is a reduction grant to repair the outlet on McMahan Lake, what is Plan B?*

*Melissa Bokman and Vanessa Strong provided updates on McMahan Lake*

- Due to Covid-19 it may be unlikely we receive grant dollars this year
- Melissa is planning on creating a zoom meeting with landowners to talk about next steps

- *Last year the lake was pumped for 30 days resulting in lowering the lake by 14 inches*
- *The WMO would propose to complete another draw down should we not receive grant dollars*
- *Cost of pumping last year was approximately \$40,000.00*
- *Projected cost for a draw down this year: \$20,000.00*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nine Elements 319 Work Plan**

Updates from Vanessa Strong

- The WMO is working on a work plan for our Nine Elements 319 grant
- The 319 grant is another program where they are changing how it is being implemented
- The EPA approved the Nine Elements Plan
- The EPA determines water quality improvements and meeting standards
- The SWMO plan is the first in the state to be approved and was approved in February by the EPA
- It allows us to qualify for the Nine Element Plan funding through MPCA and gives us more points to receive funding in the grant program
- For our first round of funding this year our focus needs to be in the following areas
  - Area 1 - Picha Creek
  - Area 2 – Cedar & Middle Branch of Sand Creek
  - Proposing Area 5 - Porter Creek & head waters of that area
- 4- year grant cycles
  - \$280,000.00 covers 40% of project costs
  - Would be one of our primary sources of funding moving forward
  - Does not technically cover feasibilities, but it does cover a lot of project costs
- Very excited about the program.

### **CAMP and AIS Overview**

Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Citizen-Assisted Lake Monitoring Program
- Aquatic Invasive Species
  - Curlyleaf Treatments
  - Watercraft Inspections
  - Adopt-A-Dock (Monitoring for Zebra Mussels)

- Melissa Bokman provided a detailed and thorough review of what is involved with the CAMP program along with an Aquatic Invasive Species program overview
  - Details are provided in the Watershed Planning Commission Packet

## **Project Maintenance**

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- Riparian Buffer at Ridges at Sand Creek
  - One site is experiencing erosion along the streambank that damaged some of the riparian buffer
    - Hole number 5 looks great
    - Hole # 13 some erosion occurred within the buffer
      - Working with Ridges on fixing the erosion
    - Once erosion is fixed the buffer can be replanted
- CIP Phase I Site
  - During ice jams in the Spring of 2019, a log in the SE corner of Log Jam D broke
  - The rest of the structure is intact
  - After consultation with Inter-Fluve, they recommended placing rock around this area so that the structure is further protected
- Quarry Creek
  - Three areas need some maintenance completed
    - Area 1 = culvert that sits in front of the sheet pile structure needs to be cleaned out
    - Area 2 = where a tile line is covered up and is forcing overland flow of water and erosion near a grade control structure
    - Area 3 = where there is either a damaged tile or a seep on the backside of a grade control structure that is causing sloughing of the backside slope

The Public Works department has indicated they will help with the Quarry Creek and CIP Phase I site repairs. The Riparian Buffer repair at Ridges at Sand Creek is a simple fix that can be made by one individual in a short amount of time.

## **John and Marcia Love Shoreline Protection Application**

Updates from Ryan Holzer

- The total estimated cost share for the project is \$1,484.00 from the WMO. This represents 70% of the total cost of the project with the landowner contributing \$636.00
- The WMO funds would come from the EPA grant

**Motion by Commissioner Pint; and Second by Commissioner Vierling to approve the John and Marcia Love Shoreline TACS Application as presented with the condition approval is contingent on approval by the SWCD Screening Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Carried:                      Ayes: 6                      Nays: 0**

**Commissioner Pam – 2 shoreline projects where residents have brought in boulders**

*Commissioner Caselius commented she lives on Cedar Lake and is aware of (2) shoreline projects where residence have brought in boulders. Does the Watershed Planning Commission get involved in for funding assistance for this type of work?*

*Ryan Holzer advised we would be notified if the proposal requires a permit through our planning and zoning ordinance. Currently if a landowner proposes land disturbance greater than 10 cubic yards, in shoreland areas, they should apply for a land use permit through Scott County. If the work is below the OHW they should apply for a permit through the DNR as well.*

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**Motion by Commissioner Vierling and Second by Commissioner Shea to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 PM. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion Carried:                      Ayes: 6                      Nays: 0**



9/14/20

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**Rita Weaver**  
Chair, Watershed Planning Commission

**Date**



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**Beverly Cox-Alexander**  
Secretary