



*Scott Watershed Management Organization*

*200 Fourth Avenue West*

*Shakopee, MN 55379-1220*

**MINUTES**

**Scott County WMO – Watershed Planning Commission**

**County Boardroom**

**April 22, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Brian Schmidt  
Mark Vierling  
Jim Schwinger  
Rita Weaver

**Staff Present:**

Paul Nelson  
Ryan Holzer  
Melissa Bokman  
Beverly Cox-Alexander

**Others Present:**

Tom Wolf  
Linda Loomis  
Melissa King

**Absent:**

Virgil Pint

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

- Specific details and video of the entire April 22, 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=6ehequt7bgc>

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Commissioner Schmidt; Second by Commissioner Weaver to approve the April 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **APPROVAL OF MARCH 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Commissioner Schmidt; Second by Commissioner Weaver to approve the March 25, 2019 minutes as written and presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **SCOTT SWCD:**

Paul Nelson provided SWCD highlights and updates

- Reports are available in the meeting packet for review
  - The WMO continues to receive a lot of applications for the TACS program
  - To a large extent the WMO has committed most of the funding available for the year

### **Scott WMO:**

Paul Nelson provided WMO updates

- May 21<sup>st</sup> WMO staff will be presenting Scott County Delivers prior to the board meeting at 9:00 am
  - Staff for various programs go through some of the data that is collected to track how programs are doing and how various outcomes are being achieved
  - The public and other departments are invited to attend
  - The commissioners are invited to be part of the panel during the presentation
- On Friday, April 19th mudslides occurred on County Road 6, East of Blakeley resulting in the closure of one lane
  - There is some declaration of flooding disaster in the state
  - Scott County cumulatively came up with enough damage across the County and is on FEMA's list of receiving some assistance
  - Over \$800,000 cumulative in damages between the cities and the counties

## **PRESENTATION**

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Overview, Linda Loomis, Administrator**

**Jesse Hartman, Chair**

## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District History

- Established in 1960
- Local sponsor to the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Minnesota River 9-foot channel
  - Responsible for disposal of material dredged from the river to maintain the navigation channel
- Managed by (5) managers
  - (1) each from Carver, Dakota and Scott Counties
  - (2) from Hennepin County

## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Characteristics

- Encompasses 80 square miles generally following the Minnesota River up to the bluff line, from the confluence with the Mississippi River upstream to the City of Carver
- Portions of five Counties:
  - Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Scott
- Portions of twelve cities:
  - Bloomington, Burnsville, Carver, Chanhassen, Chaska, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Savage, and Shakopee
- Portions of two townships in Scott County:
  - Jackson and Louisville
- The District includes many natural features unique to the Minnesota River
  - Calcareous Fens
  - Floodplain wetlands
  - Trout streams
  - Minnesota Valley National Refuge
  - Over 20,000 acres of regional park and open space
- Home to Black Dog Energy Generation Plant, Blue Lake & Seneca Waste Water Treatment Plants and Flying Cloud and Minneapolis / St. Paul International Airports

## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Managing Dredge Material

- Navigation Channel
  - 1892: Congress established a 4 foot channel on the Minnesota River up to mile 25.6
  - 1930: Congress charges the Army Corps of Engineers with dredging and maintaining a 9 foot navigation channel on the upper Mississippi from St. Louis to Minneapolis
  - 1958: Congress orders deepening of the 4 foot channel on the Minnesota to 9 feet up to mile 14.7 in Savage where the grain terminals are situated
  - The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District owns and operates a 20 acre dredge management site in Savage at River Mile Post 14.2

- The US Army Corps of Engineers places an average of 25,000 cubic yards of material on the District’s site every year
- In 2014, the LMRWD arranged with private barge terminal operators to place material dredged from slips on the Vernon Avenue dredge site to dewater.
  - Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material is placed on site every year

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Budget

Levy payable 2019	\$ 725,000.00
Appropriation from the State of MN for improvements to dredge site	\$ 240,000.00
Grants (WOMP & Watershed Based Funding)	\$ 187,542.00
Revenue from sale of dredge material rental placement of private dredge material	\$ 30,000.00
Fund balance	\$ 185,440.00
<b>2019 Total Budget</b>	<b>\$1,367,982.00</b>

<b>Apportioned Payable 2019 Levy</b>		
Carver County	\$48,442.33	6.6817%
Dakota County	\$76,001.75	10.4830%
Hennepin County	\$276,570.10	38.1476%
Scott County	\$323,985.83	44.6877%

<b>2019 Budgeted Expenses</b>	
9’ Channel	\$320,000.00
General Administration	\$250,000.00
Watershed Based Funding	\$187,542.00
Monitoring	\$ 84,700.00
Project & Plan Reviews	\$ 22,000.00
Education & Outreach	\$ 50,000.00
Watershed Management Plan	\$ 75,000.00
Capital Projects	\$378,740.00

Watershed Management Plan

- In 2018, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District completed a plan amendment
  - On September 25, 2018 it was approved by the MN Board of Water & Soil Resource
  - On October 24, 2018 it was adopted by the LMRWD Board
  - The plan will be in effect until 2028

## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2018 Activities and projects

- Completion of the Plan Amendment
- Completed sediment core study of flood plain lakes
- Completed bank stabilization project on Riley Creek below Flying Cloud Drive
- Launched website redesign
- Began work on dredge site improvements and gained authority to assess benefitted property owners
  - Developed No-Rise Evaluation
  - Prepared Threatened and Endangered Species Survey
  - Prepared Wetland Delineation
  - Hold public hearing to establish Dredge Management as a permanent capital project of the LMRWD

## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2019 Plans and Projects

- Develop and adopt rules to implement LMRWD standards
- Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams
- Bank stabilization of East Chaska Creek
- Downtown Shakopee BMP Retrofit Study (Watershed Based Funding dollars)
- Schroeder Acres Park
- Prior Lake Outlet channel Realignment (Watershed Based Funding dollars)
- Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Update Monitoring Plan
- Spring Creek Sub-Watershed Study
- Vernon Avenue Dredge Site Improvement Project

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Project Updates**

#### Updates from Melissa Bokman

- Received the final draft of the U of M survey that was started in 2017
  - The draft will be reviewed and the final results will be shared with the Commissioners at the May meeting
- Chloride Management Project
  - The Level II training was cancelled for this month due to low enrollment
  - The next Level II training will be scheduled for the fall

- The next set of workshops will be held starting in August
- Cedar Lake Treatment
  - A board member on the Cedar Lake Improvement District has been monitoring the water level temperatures
  - A new chemical will be used this year to treat Cedar Lake
  - Treatment for Cedar Lake is scheduled for Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> with the rest of the lakes possibly being treated that week as well

#### Updates from Ryan Holzer

- Phase III and Phase IV are still in the design phase
  - Phase IV has not been surveyed, still waiting for water levels to go down
- TACS program funds are depleted for 2019
  - Soil and Water has some funds available, but it is very specific to portions in the western part of the county
  - A TACS program waiting list will be started

#### Arsenic in rural wells

- In 2018, the results of monitoring 34 wells found 17% exceeded the drinking water standard for arsenic
- Staff have recently obtained data from the MN Department of Health from monitoring of new wells; together with WMO monitoring results show a cluster of high concentration of arsenic in rural wells in the center part of the county
- Staff will be mailing notices to that portion of the county encouraging people to test their wells and consider treatment
- WMO staff believe arsenic is naturally elevated in these areas and will continue to investigate if there is a common well depth / aquifer connection
- Staff have invited the MN Department of Health to attend the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting later this month to speak about arsenic

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Draft Corrective Action Plan

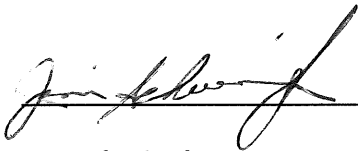
The Board of Water and Soil Resources is requiring the Scott WMO to submit a Corrective Action Plan that addresses a couple of non-compliant grant funded practices where landowners sold the property and new landowners removed the practices.

## Review and highlights of the Corrective Action Plan provided by Paul Nelson

- Internal Controls
  - Payment rounding – SWCD management will ensure its electronic project management database will show dollar values to the penny and staff will show exact costs on all application, cost estimate, voucher and certification forms
  - Seed mixes – The Conservation Financial Assistance Program Policy Manual will reference federal and state vegetation requirement documents for practices
  - Compliance with Practice and O & M Plans
- Procedures
  - Use of a compliance tracking form
  - Incorporation of and use of procedures that will be followed when the SWCD becomes aware of a project that is not being maintained in accordance with the provisions of their contract
- Policies
  - Implemented changes to minimize the potential for non-compliance by landowners that were adopted as part of the joint 2019 Conservation Financial Assistance Program Policy Manual (PPM)
    - Recording a Conservation Easement on a property title for contracts exceeding \$20,000.00
    - Changing the payment schedule to spread payments out over the term of the contract subject to the SWCD certifying that the seeding is being maintained in accordance with the signed O & M Plan, and noxious weeds are under control.
    - In addition, a section will be added to the 2020 PPM on enforcement that incorporates the new procedures described above.
- Repayment
  - The WMO is electing to utilize local funds to install replacement practices that exceed the size and type and soil and water protection benefit of the two non-conforming practices
- Training
  - New training will be implemented focusing on new internal controls, procedures and policies
  - Implementation of a Compliance Tracking Form

**ADJOURN MEETING**

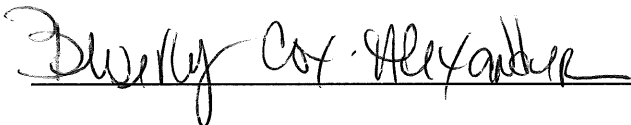
Motion by Commissioner Vierling and Second by Commissioner Weaver to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 PM. The motion carried unanimously.



**Jim Schwingler**  
Chair, Watershed Planning Commission

5.20.19

**Date**



**Beverly Cox-Alexander**  
Secretary