

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
Special Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2019

Chair West called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: John West, Dan Denno, Tim Harrington, Matt Downing, Sandy Flaherty, Dan Breyen

Absent: Lan Tornes, David Olsrud, Jerry Tveit, Jessica Rieland

Audience: Chuck Schwartz and Amber Converse, MSA
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District
Radja Lohse, Community member

3. Adopt Agenda **Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Groundwater Educational Video under agenda item 10. Other and to move agenda item 8. Comp Plan Review to after agenda item 4. Approve Minutes. Motion carried.**

4. Approve Minutes **Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve the January 8, 2019 minutes as written. Motion carried.**

8. Comprehensive Plan (Plan)
A. Review and discuss agency responses and revision to Plan
1. Anoka County
2. Met Council
3. BWSR
4. ACD

Mr. Schwartz presented a compilation of 60-day Plan review comments from the above entities for review. Comments:

- #2 need to be clearer cut numbers for pollution reduction for new development. Mr. Schurbon believes it should be left as is since it is not a problem. BWSR's comment was "*Appendix "D" URRWMO Regulations and Operations*" contains a table of policies that appear to be from the 2007 plan that relate to regulations and another table of policies from the 2007 plan that relate to URRWMO operations. Both contain good information but it is not clear how they apply to the new plan. Provide some further clarification on this appendix and how it is used for implementation of the 2019 WMO plan.
- #9 consensus was Option #1
- #19 Talks about NOAA Atlas 14 – reference more clearly in plan. Revise Goal A and update and revise Option #2.
- #20 consensus was Option #1
- #21 consensus was Option #2
- #22 State Buffer Law must be mentioned. Wetland Buffer Law to state must stay with State guidelines. The Wetland Standards are not in the appendices. Nothing will be changed in the Plan if the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) believes differently.
- #24 consensus was Option #1
- #30 consensus was Option #2 with member cities being encouraged to adopt, but not required.

- #37 consensus was Option #2
- #41 consensus was Option #1
- #42 consensus was Option #B1 – Mr. Schurbon will develop a ranking of bodies of water which can be amended later.
- #45 consensus was Option #B1
- #46 consensus was Option #A1 and #B1
- #48 MSA will write text to address comments including number of phosphorus, sediment, goals for pollution removal and bank stabilization
- #56 consensus was Option #B1
- #58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 67, 70, 76, 77 - consensus was Option #1

Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Downing seconded to amend the URRWMO Draft Watershed Management Plan as discussed and decided. Motion carried.

MSA was asked what additional fees might be anticipated for completing the Plan. Mr. Schwartz expects another \$6,000-\$7,000 to finish. Mr. Schwartz will provide Chair West with the original contracted amount from MSA and what amounts have been billed to date.

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Financial report

Ms. Flaherty reported a deposit of \$15,222.81 and checks paid totaling \$3,823.02, bringing the ending balance for February 2019 to \$11,399.79.

B. Budget Billings Update

East Bethel has paid in full for the entire year 2019 billing and Ham Lake made its first half payment.

Mr. Denno moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business

A. 2019 budget Final budget approval

Chair West moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve the 2019 final budget. Motion carried. Ms. Gessner will mail a copy of the final 2019 budget to board members and member cities.

B. 2020 Budget

The Board reviewed a draft 2020 budget showing the grand total as the same as the watershed plan for 2020.

The steps for budgeting are:

1. Review this draft budget, discuss and edit.
2. Vote to submit it to the member cities for ratification. Recording Secretary sends draft budget to communities with instructions to consider it and respond within 60 days.
3. Cities have 60-days to ratify. Failure to respond constitutes approval.
4. March URRWMO meeting – consider final approval. Recording Secretary sends

final budget to communities.

Chair West moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve the 2020 Draft Budget with a roll call vote -Ms. Flaherty yes, Mr. Downing yes, Mr. Denno no, Chair West yes, Mr. Breyen no, Mr. Harrington yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Downing moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to direct Ms. Gessner to send the 2020 Draft Budget to member communities for review and ratification. Motion carried with Mr. Denno abstaining.

C. Watershed Coordinator role proposals

ACD submitted a proposal for providing Watershed Coordinator services for one year for \$13,360.00. This is an annual contract that is not to exceed \$13,360.00. **Mr. Downing moved and Mr. Denno seconded to approve Jamie Schurbon of Anoka Conservation District as the Watershed Coordinator for a one-year period for \$13,360.00. Motion carried.** Mr. Schurbon will start the duties immediately.

D. Consider participation in One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Here's what's new regarding 1W1P participation:

- 18 entities are now committed 1W1P participants including: Anoka Conservation District, Lower Rum River WMO, Sherburne SWCD, Sherburne County, Isanti SWCD, Isanti County, Mille Lacs SWCD, Mille Lacs County, Kanabec SWCD, Kanabec County, Crow Wing SWCD, Crow Wing County, Aitkin SWCD, Aitkin County, Benton SWCD, Benton County, Morrison SWCD and Morrison County.
- How future Watershed Based Funding will work is not entirely set, it's becoming clearer that adopting 1W1P will be required to access Watershed Based Funding. It's presumed that entities that care enough to adopt the 1W1P will participate in its creation.

The State has recently awarded a planning grant to the entities in the Rum River watershed for creation of a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). This would be an overarching plan that covers regional issues and coordinates the local plans. The URRWMO should consider participation.

1W1P:

- This is an umbrella plan under which all the WMO's, WD's and counties in a region operate.
- Makes Watershed Based Funding available to non-metro areas. Their "pot" of money will be separate from the metro money.
- Identifies regional priorities and lets local agencies continue to focus on local issues.
- Does not dictate what the URRWMO must do but should inform your decisions.

- Does not create a new layer of government. It is implemented cooperatively by the existing watershed organizations.
- Prioritizes how new watershed-based funding (aka fund the plan) will be allocated. Watershed Based Funding is available in the metro now and becomes available in other areas as 1W1Ps are completed. Once the Rum River 1W1P is completed, the URRWMO would have access to metro, Rum River watershed, or both pots of Watershed Based Funding – BWSR has not yet developed policy.
- Paid by a grant from BWSR, except that each watershed organization's participation is not paid.

Participating in 1W1P would involve:

- Appointing one URRWMO board member to the 1W1P Policy Committee. The Policy Committee has approval authority on 1W1P content. Participating gives you a vote. Appointing an alternate is also recommended.
- Your Policy Committee member will attend approximately 18-24 meetings over 18 months from February 2019 to December 2020.
- Having your Watershed Coordinator staff participate in approximately 24 staff-level Steering Committee meetings for 1W1P. They would convey updates to the URRWMO Board and likely discuss issues in greater depth with the URRWMO board member who is appointed to serve on the 1W1P Policy Committee.

The URRWMO is not a mandatory participant in 1W1P according to State policy. Non-metro entities covering large portions of the watershed are mandatory.

To formally participate in 1W1P the URRWMO must pass a motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). All participants must sign it. You cannot be represented on the Policy Committee, and have a vote in the process, without this.

Anoka County is not participating; speculated reasons include:

- They have little water resources programming, so 1W1P affects them little.
- The county's constituents and resources will be represented by the ACD and the two WMOs.

Mr. Downing moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve joining 1W1P, to appoint Matt Downing and Lan Tornes as representatives with John West as an alternate representative to the 1W1P Policy Committee, and to direct Chair West to sign the agreement. Motion carried. A final memorandum of agreement for participating in 1W1P was provided and signed by Chair West.

E. Annual Activity Report template

Mr. Schurbon was directed to submit the revised template to member communities for feedback and to bring those comments back to the URRWMO.

7. New Business

A. Consider 2019 Water Monitoring and Management Work Contract with ACD
ACD provided a draft 2019 work contract for consideration. It included:

- Watershed Coordinator Role.
- Public Outreach and Education - Includes an annual newsletter, presentation to a stakeholder group and website

- Water Condition Monitoring - Includes lake levels, Lake George water quality, and reference wetland monitoring.

Mr. Schurbon compared ACD's proposal to both the URRWMO draft watershed plan and its 2019 budget. The amounts ACD would charge are less than BOTH the watershed Plan and the 2019 budget submitted to cities. However, there is a potential problem. The budget splits costs into:

- Admin expenses split equally amongst cities
- Other expenses split by unique formula that considers land area and tax base.

The proportionality of admin and other expenses has changed. So, if the URRWMO were to recalculate the amount each community owes, it would change from the budget, and that would likely be a big problem. The URRWMO may wish to invoice communities according to the budget and inform them that funds may be spent in a manner that differs from the budget.

Mr. Downing moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to approve the 2019 Water Monitoring and Management Work Contract with ACD for \$26,815.00. Motion carried.

B. Consider spring meeting with shareholders to discuss Lake George study and possible project options

Mr. Schurbon will invite Lake George Lake Association members to a future meeting to start building a working relationship.

C. Review of Nowthen Comprehensive Plan

Review was tabled until the URRWMO Plan is finalized.

D. Consider membership in MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)

The cost for joining is \$500 in 2019. It was noted that this is not a good fit for the URRWMO since there are no employees to attend training and benefits from this association are received without membership.

9. Mail

None

10. Other

Animated Groundwater Video - Anoka County Water Resources Outreach Collaborative

A request for funds for a groundwater animated video was received. This video can be used for educational viewing. If the URRWMO provides funding it can be used in URRWMO outreach and on the URRWMO website. **Mr. Downing moved and**

Mr. Denno seconded to contribute \$250.00 for use of the Animated Groundwater Video by Anoka County WROC. Motion carried. Monies from the MCIT insurance dividend and savings on the 2019 Water Monitoring and Management Work Contract with ACD will be used.

11. Invoice
Approval

A. MSA Invoices #23 for \$4,107.57

Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Denno seconded to approve MSA Invoice #23 for \$4,107.57. Motion carried with Mr. Downing voting no.

B. Recording Secretary February invoice for \$175

Mr. Harrington moved and Mr. Downing seconded to approve the February recording secretary invoice for \$175. Motion carried.

Mr. Denno moved and Mr. Downing seconded to direct Dan Breyen to secure his signature on the URRWMO checking account. Motion carried.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Motion carried.

Gail Gessner
Submitted on 3/11/19