



Regular Meeting for **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 6:30 pm**

Meeting location: Oak Grove City Hall. 19900 Nightingale St NW Oak Grove, MN

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mr. West called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Tim Harrington, John West, Patrick Sullivan, Ryan Sequin, Matt Downing, Radja Lohse,

Absent: Dan Denno, Joel Greenberg, Lan Tornes

Audience: Jamie Schurbon (ACD), Katie Kalland (recording secretary), Colleen Werdien (ACD supervisor)

2. Adopt Agenda

Mr. Breyen made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Harrington seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes for May 4, 2021

Mr. Lohse made a motion to approve the Minutes for May 4, 2021. Mr. Sullivan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. West states that there are no updates with the absence of a treasurer.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Bethel reviews of URRWMO-required ordinances

Mr. Schurbon discusses Bethel's ordinances. Mr. Sequin and Mr. Sullivan said they would speak with the Bethel city council. Mr. West suggests sending the city a letter. Mr. Sequin mentioned the city is starting the process of adopting new ordinances. Mr. Schurbon to follow up with Mr. Sequin via email regarding a letter to Bethel.

b. Ham Lake local water plan

Mr. Schurbon states the revisions of the local water plan have addressed the URRWMO's previous comments. Mr. Schurbon recommends to approve the local water plan. **Mr. Downing made a motion to approve Ham Lake's local water plan dated May 2021. Mr. Harrington seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. URRWMO joint powers agreement

Mr. Schurbon states the agreement is over 30 years old and could use some updating. He noted that the Sunrise River WMO is recommending updates to its communities. That JPA is nearly identical to the URRWMO JPA. Mr. Schurbon presented the SRWMO-

recommended edits that would also apply to the URRWMO's JPA. A marked up version of the URRWMO JPA with the edits was provided.

Mr. West had a concern of cities being able to pull out of the agreement. Mr. Schurbon states cities can pull out of the agreement at any time.

Mr. Schurbon discusses some potential revisions: alternate board members, statutory references, bylaws, doing annual audits, financial process, and others.

Discussion ensued about annual budgeting processes which require all communities to ratify a draft budget before it is adopted. The failure of any community to respond results in no budget and paralysis. Mr. Downing states he likes the idea of addressing the situation where a community fails to act. Mr. West agreed and requested a guide line on the failure to act process. Mr. Schurbon suggested that the JPA could be amended to state that failure to respond to a budget ratification request within 60 days constitutes approval.

The JPA's language requiring annual financial audits was discussed. It was noted that the JPA requires annual financial audits while state statutes require an audit every 5 years based on the URRWMO being below a certain budgetary threshold. Mr. Sullivan voiced support for annual audits. Mr. West noted that with few financial transactions, annual audits may be excessive. After discussion, there was support for the JPA being amended to be consistent with state statute.

Mr. Schurbon was directed to mark up the URRWMO JPA to reflect the board's discussion. That document and a draft cover letter to communities will be presented at the next URWRMO meeting for further discussion.

d. Rum Riverbank stabilizations update

Mr. Schurbon discusses the grants that are moving forward. The URRWMO provided matching funds for those grants and the associated projects are a priority in the URRWMO Plan. Anoka Conservation District is working under 3 grants totaling over 1.7 million dollars (including county, WMO, and homeowner match). Numerous riverbank stabilization projects are completed, underway, or upcoming. The Anoka Conservation District staff will continue to keep the board updated.

e. Lake George shoreline stabilizations update

Mr. Schurbon states 35 properties on Lake George with active shoreline erosion were approached, 24 homeowners met with Mr. Schurbon and 8 were chosen for grants. Spring time construction is planned.

f. Rum River 1W1P update

Mr. Downing informed the board of a policy committee meeting Thursday September 23rd, when policy committee comments on the draft 1W1P will be discussed. Mr. Downing encourages everyone to read the 1W1P. Mr. Downing mentioned things are on track to finish up in 6-12 months. Mr. Schurbon states the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is interested in participating.

6. New Business

a. Accept resignation of Sandy Flaherty, elect new Treasurer

Mr. Breyen made a motion to approve the resignation of Sandy Flaherty. Mr. Lohse seconded. Motion made unanimously.

Mr. West notes that Ms. Flaherty did a great job and was a very helpful treasurer. Mr. West describes the responsibilities of the Treasurer. Mr. Sullivan nominated himself to become to

new treasurer. Mr. West asked for other nominations three times. None were heard. **Mr. Breyen made a motion to approve Mr. Sullivan as the treasurer. Mr. Harrington seconded. Motion made unanimously.**

b. Discuss county ditch jurisdiction

Mr. Schurbon stated that the URRWMO Plan calls for the organization to hold a discussion in 2021 about reassigning jurisdictions of county ditches. Currently the county highway department has jurisdiction. Mr. Breyen states he has concerns with funding. No action taken at this time.

c. LiDAR update contribution request

Mr. Schurbon states the county has requested \$2,500 to update airplane-collected elevation data. Mr. Schurbon stated the data is very beneficial for watershed management, however doesn't believe the URRWMO is financially well positioned to contribute. Mr. West agrees; noting that the 2022 budget has already been made. Mr. Sullivan agrees the information is very beneficial and would like to try and make it work. **Mr. Breyen made a motion not to approve contributing funds to the LiDAR. Mr. Lohse seconded. Nays: Mr. Sullivan. Ayes: All other members present. Mr. Downing made a motion to have Mr. Schurbon send a letter to cities encouraging them to contribute funds to the LiDAR. Mr. Sullivan seconded. Motion made unanimously.**

d. Lake George pontoon tour opportunity

Jay Edwardson of the Lake George Conservation Club has offered host a pontoon ride. Mr. West states it would be a good idea but wouldn't be a requirement. Mr. Schurbon mentioned that this would be an informal social gathering, however, will post it like a meeting on the website and send the information to the cities for their community calendars to ensure the greatest transparency. Mr. Schurbon will work to coordinate the tour details.

7. Mail

Mr. West discusses the approved insurance binder this year. Mr. West states it's essentially the same as previous years.

8. Other

9. Invoice(s)

- a. Recording Secretary services for 5-4-2021 meeting \$175

Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the Recording Secretary invoice dated 5-4-21. Mr. Lohse seconded. Motion made unanimously.

- b. Anoka Conservation District payment 2 of 3 2021 \$12,373.50

Mr. West suggests waiting for the treasurer to be a check signer. **Mr. Downing made a motion to approve the payment of \$12,373.50 however, not issue the check until the Mr. Sullivan is an official check signer and is up to speed with the financials. Mr. Sullivan seconded. Motion made unanimously.**

10. Adjourn 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Breyen made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Harrington seconded. Motion made unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by: Katie Kalland, Recording Secretary

Upcoming meetings: November 9, January 4, 2022