

Minutes
Elk River Watershed Association Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2008
Palmer Township Hall

Attendance: Gerry Maciej, Leander Schlosser, Phil Votruba, Terry Polsfuss, Mark Basiletti, Leonard Popp, Joe Wollak, John Riebel, Brian Kaschmitter, Gina Hugo

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am by Terry Polsfuss, Chair.

1. Review & Approval of Agenda

Mark added agenda items under the 319 grant; including, *cost share for Larry Meyer' Shoreline buffer* and *request for payment for Palmer Water Quality Data Summit workshop*. Other additions from Mark were *TMDL report* and *report on watershed staff hiring process* – both added to the end of the agenda. John Riebel made a motion to approve the agenda with the above additions. Leander Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

2. Review & Approval of the January 28, 2008 minutes

Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 ERWS meeting. Leonard Popp seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

3. Fund Balance Report

Mark distributed the fund balance report and reviewed it. The 319 allocation from MPCA was received last week, putting the current balance at \$4,709.97. Mark also covered the balance by category. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve the fund balance report as distributed. Leander Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4. 319 Grant

4.1 Encumber funds for monitoring: \$4,500.00

Mark and Gerry decided to focus monitoring for 2008 on fecal coliform. There are two years of mass balance study data and high fecal coliform numbers were found last year when tested every other week. In 2008 it is planned to test for fecal coliform every week as more data is needed to determine if there is an impairment for fecal coliform. Leander Schlosser made a motion to encumber \$4,500 out of 319 Monitoring for fecal coliform testing. Bryan Kaschmitter seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Gerry proposed that a certain amount of funds be moved from Ag BMP category of 319 to the Sherburne SWCD in-kind for monitoring category. Gerry informed the association that Sherburne has put in a significant amount more time than was estimated on 319 monitoring data analysis and reasoned that since there is little activity in the Ag BMP category some funds from there could go to reimburse Sherburne for staff time. Joe Wollak made a motion to move \$2,000 from Ag BMP Benton SWCD staff grant to Monitoring Sherburne SWCD staff grant; leaving it open to move more at a later time if deemed necessary. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.2 Disburse 2nd half 2007 reimbursements to the SWCDs.

Mark explained that since the MPCA allocation has now been received they were asking for approval to disperse previously approved expenditures of \$1,590.00 to Sherburne SWCD and \$3,614.97 to Benton SWCD. John Riebel made a motion to approve disbursement of \$1,590.00 to Sherburne SWCD and \$3,614.97 to Benton SWCD. Leonard Popp seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.3 New Contract – Jeff Rahm, 3192-B15

Jeff would like to do two AgBMP test plots using poultry manure on alfalfa grass. The plots will compare recommended rates versus slightly over application rates. The total contract is for \$300.00. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve Jeff Rahm's application 3192-B15 for the amount of \$300.00. Leonard Popp seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.4 Chandler manure spreader maintenance and scheduling

Gerry informed the association that Foley Farm Supply is no longer interested in storing, scheduling or maintaining the spreader as they have had recent staff cutbacks. Terry Lewandowski will be taking over these roles. Gerry also mentioned they are considering installing new, better built motors in the spreader to try to avoid untimely breakdowns that have happened in the past. Terry expressed a concern that the spreader is not being used much in Sherburne County and wondered if it could be promoted to the poultry producers. Mark agreed to discuss it with Bill and the NRCS staff.

4.5 New Contract – Larry Meyer, Shoreline Buffer 3192-S04, \$1,591.00

The project is in the south side of Big Elk Lake and is about 875 square feet. John Riebel made a motion to approve the contract 3192-S04 for the amount of \$1,591.00. Discussion was had on including aquatics on the project, the staff will consider adding an aquatic plot on Big Elk Lake. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.6 Request to Pay Copy Cats \$201.92 for copies made for the Water Quality Data Summit held on February 21, 2008. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve the payment of \$201.92 to Copy Cats. Bryan Kaschmitter seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4.7 Mileage & meeting per diem for Leonard Popp.

Gerry asked the association to consider paying a meeting per diem and mileage to Leonard Popp for attending the Water Quality Data Summit, which was co-sponsored by the ERWSA and very relevant to the work being done by ERWSA. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve mileage and per diem to Leonard Popp for the February 21 Data Summit. Leander Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5. Request to Transfer Watershed Coordinator Funds to Sherburne SWCD

This was tabled at the last meeting because there didn't seem to be a need to have the money there that soon. Sherburne SWCD is now requesting to have \$18,571 transferred to their account for the watershed coordinator position as someone will be hired in the near future. The \$18,571 would be transferred in two amounts, \$9,285.50 in March 2008 and \$9,285.50 in August 2008. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve the transfers of \$9,285.50 in March 2008 and \$9,285.50 in August 2008. Leander Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

6. Request for reimbursement, Sherburne SWCD, 2008 Public Meeting Notice

Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve payment of \$31.05 to Sherburne SWCD for the cost of putting out the 2008 public meeting notice. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

7. Consider list of vendors for automatic payment approval when funds are encumbered

Mark listed the vendor recommended for the automatic payment list. They included: MCIT Insurance, Water Laboratories, Brigg's Lake Chain Association, Instrumental Research, Inc., Sherburne County Citizen, and MVTL labs. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve the vendors listed by Mark for the automatic payment list. Leander Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

8. TMDL Update

Mark reported on the TMDL process. In the TMDL workplan the computer modeling will be done by the consulting company, Wenck.

The ERWS staff working with MPCA will collect water samples, set up sampling sites, gather data, and coordinate stake holder meetings for each of the 3 phases involved in the TMDL process. Mark and Gerry met last week with Wenck and MPCA to work on the workplan. They are close to having a draft complete. Wenck is working on the budget. Mark commented that it is quite involved as there are three individual streams each feeding separate water bodies all with different impairments. IT is likely that we will have a contract by mid-April as everything is on track as far as scheduling. Sherburne SWCD will act as the fiscal agent. Gerry commented that his first impressions of working with Wenck were very positive they seem to understand and are considerate to the fact that we are working under a budget and cost is a factor.

9. Watershed Coordinator Hiring Process

Mark commented on hiring process; a job opening was posted in the St. Cloud Times and on their web site, which was very expensive, around \$400. It was also forwarded by email to MASCDE, and put on the U of M career website and the St. Cloud State University website. The first round of interviews is planned for the weeks of March 17th and 24th. The top 3 to 5 will be invited to the April 7th Sherburne SWCD board meeting. The ERSWA members are invited to attend if they would like to ask the candidates questions. Lee suggested starting the regular board meeting earlier as it could get quite long. Mark agreed to discuss it with Wendy.

Joe Wollak made a motion to adjourn. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Gina Hugo, Sherburne SWCD