

Minutes
Elk River Watershed Association Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
July 21, 2008
USDA Service Center, Foley, MN

Attendance: Gerry Maciej, Leander Schlosser, Phil Votruba, Mark Basiletti, Leonard Popp, Joe Wollak, John Riebel, Joe Jordan, Tiffany Determan

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am by Joe Jordan, Vice Chair.

1. Review & Approval of Agenda

The following deletions, additions and corrections were recommended. Removal of item 6.2 New Contract, #3192-B26, Richard Robak. Item 12 should be corrected to be item 11. Add item 12.1 follow up on Brian Kaschmitter's Ag BMP Test Plot, 12.2 follow up on issuing incentive payments for pasture incentive practices, 12.3 Update on the weed ID Booklet. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve the agenda with the above changes. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

2. Review & Approval of the May 19, 2008 meeting minutes

Leander Scholsser made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008 ERWS meeting. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Mark and Tiffany arrived at 9:05 and items 1.2 and 6.1 were discussed prior. Upon arrival Mark added two additional items to the agenda. Item 13.0 request for endorsement stamp purchase and 14 request for joining MN Waters. No motions were made. All were in favor; the items were added to the agenda.

3. Fund Balance Report

Mark distributed the fund balance report and reviewed it. He noted the larger than normal monetary amount from the County was due to the request to cover the Watershed Coordinator position. Mark also covered the balance by category. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve the fund balance report as distributed. Leonard Popp seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

4. 319 Grant Budget Adjustments

Mark distributed the 319 budget adjustment summary report and reviewed it. Mark stated that he, Gerry, and Tiffany met in June to discuss the current 319 budget. He pointed out that the current budget was designed three years ago. Mark went over the proposed changes and stated that the MPCA will allow the movement of up to 10% of the total budget without the need for a contract amendment. He calculated the proposed amount changes based on the total budget and by line item and both were under 10%. Mark also stated that the largest sum of money was taken from the AgBMP line item and moved into BMP financial assistance. Money was also added to the Education item along with the addition of a new line item in education that includes staff time. Joe Jordan questioned if the adjustments would need to be approved by Phil Votruba. Mark stated that they would. Joe Wollak pointed out that most changes were to the education section. Mark reassured the board that the ERWSA was not going to cut back on any planned BMPs but that there was enough money to move some around. Gerry stated that in the AgBMP section, money was added to the cost share portion because all money had been encumbered with the projects that are already in process. The money added to the cost share portion will allow for test plots next year. He also stated that the ERWSA should slow down on the promotion of wetland projects until a new grant is obtained. John Riebel mad a motion to approve the adjustments to the 319 budget. Lee Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5. 319 grant work plan changes: time frame

Mark advised the board that the 319 work plan currently runs through October 31st, 2009; however, the grant period runs through August 31st 2010. Mark remarked that the work plan should be extended to

run the length of the grant, thus the work plan should extend thru August 2010. Gerry explained that the extension would add another field season to the grant work and would give additional time for wetland plantings to be finished. Lee Schlosser made a motion to approve the extension of the work plan. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

6. 319 Grant

6.1 New Contract, #3192-B20, Kevin Hackett, Ag BMP Test Plot, \$150.00

Gerry passed around a copy of the plans for Kevin Hackett. Kevin will be evaluating 2 rates of poultry manure and one rate of beef manure. Leander Schlosser made a motion to approve contract 3192-B20 in the amount of \$150 for test plot incentive. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

6.3 New Contract, # 3192-S06, Eugene and Barbara Graff, Shoreline Revegetation, \$ 1,500

Mark explained that this project is a Shoreland Revegetation project to take place on Big Elk Lake. He stated that the total project cost was \$6,790 because of the earth work needed to make the project work. Gerry asked if this shoreland project was connected to any others. Mark answered that there several other restored shorelines adjacent. John Riebel made a motion to approve contract 3192-S06 in the amount of \$1,500 for shoreline Revegetation. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

6.4 Monitoring objective, increase encumbered amount from \$4,500 to \$ 6,800

Mark stated that \$2,300 should be added to the monitoring objective for the purchase of calibration fluids for the YSI Sonde. Tiffany has been using the Benton SWCD's YSI unit during the collection of fecal Coliform samples. Mark stated that the YSI is used to collect several parameters while sampling including; pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and conductivity. Lee Schlosser made a motion to approve the increase in encumbered money to the monitoring objective. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

6.5 Urban and Residential BMPs: request from Sherburne SWCD to purchase a weed torch, \$ 230

Mark stated that Sherburne SWCD would like to purchase a weed torch so that they can cut down on the amount of chemicals that are used to control weeds. He explained that the weed torch does not kill weeds with the flame but with heat. He further explained that the torch would not be rented out and it would be used in situations where the SWCD plays a role in maintenance. Lee Schlosser asked what account the money would be coming from. Mark stated that it was matching funds which have to be used. John Riebel made a motion to approve the purchase of the weed torch for \$230. Lee Schlosser seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

6.6 Approve 2nd quarter invoices for SWCD staff time and expenses: Sherburne SWCD: \$4,331.74 Benton SWCD: \$4,862.92

Mark explained that the Sherburne invoices were for staff time. Gerry indicated that the Benton amount included items like YSI calibration fluid, soil test materials and soil borings. Joe Wollak made a motion to approve the 2nd quarter invoices. John Riebel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

7. Total Maximum Daily Load project contract. (Board approved signing contract at the April meeting).

Mark remarked that the TMDL contract was complete and arrived at the Sherburne SWCD office Friday, July 18th. He reminded the board that in April they approved the signing of the contract. Mark said that

the start date indicated on the contract is July 28th, 2008. Since the signing of the contract had already been approved, no motion was needed.

8. ERWSA Annual Report

Gerry distributed the 2007 ERWSA Annual report. Tiffany briefly went over the items included in the report. Gerry stated that the annual report would be presented to the Benton County board on March 5th and that the report would be distributed to a number of entities associated with the ERWSA.

9. 2009 funding requests to Benton and Sherburne Counties.

Gerry stated that he typically requests \$2,000 from the Benton County. The ERWSA would be requesting quite a bit more due to the hiring of the Watershed Coordinator. He stated that there would be a small surplus in 2008 because of the later than expected signing of the TMDL contract. However, in 2009 there would be a \$9,000 deficit. Last year, both Sherburne and Benton Counties had agreed to increase their typical funding by 3%. Gerry remarked that funding will not be deficit if both Counties give the agreed upon amount. Gerry also stated that along the way grants would be applied for as to help out with funding for the ERWS.

10. ERWA Joint Powers Agreement. All members have signed the amended agreement.

Gerry reminded everybody that the agreement had been signed by everyone.

11. Total Maximum Daily Load project presentation: Tiffany

This item was discussed after item number 14, for minutes see last item on minutes.

12. Follow-up and additions from ERWSA meeting May 19, 2008

12.1 5.1 Update on New Contract, 3192-B24, Brian Kaschmitter 1 Ag BMP Test Plot (\$150)

At the May 19th board meeting there were questions regarding extreme rate application differences (23,000 vs. 7,400) utilized in the test plot. In response to the question, Mike McMillin stated that Brian Kaschmitter spread the manure before he had the manure results back. The estimated results were a lot lower than expected so he put an extra coat on the one half. He stated that even with the 2nd coat he was 36 pounds short of N. The reason why is because he was doing strip till on that field and he loses a lot of the N when it is not incorporated.

12.2 5.2 319 Grant status if contract requests 3192-B25, 3192-B18 and 3192-B19 are approved

Lee Schlosser questioned whether or not the funding requests explained at the May 19th meeting worked out the way they were explained at the last meeting. Gerry stated that they did and that checks will not be issued until the money has been received from the MPCA. This could put a delay in payment to landowners but would not be a big deal.

12.3 5.6 Update on Weed ID Booklet

Minutes from May 19th listed the Updated on the Weed ID Booklet as 5.5. It should have been 5.6. Also, several board members did not have the Weed ID Booklet yet. Gerry distributed the booklets.

13. Request for endorsement stamp purchase

Mark explained that he would like to purchase a stamp to endorse checks for administrative purposes. Lee Schlosser made a motion to approve the purchase of an endorsement stamp for \$14.58 Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was passed.

14. Request for joining MN Waters

Mark stated that he would like the ERWSA to join MN Waters so that the association would be eligible to apply and receive a grant for \$5,000. The grant would support additional shoreline habitat and could be used to piggy back on 319 funds. He stated that the grant is sponsored by Michelob Golden Draft Light and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mark was not able to obtain membership cost information in regards to joining as an association. The board members all agreed to put this item on hold so that Mark could get information on membership pricing. This item will be added to the August 18th meeting. Lee Schlosser made the motion to put this table this item until August 18th. Joe Wollak seconded the motion. All were in favor. Their motion was passed.

11. Total Maximum Daily Load project presentation: Tiffany

Tiffany distributed "Cheat Sheets" and explained to the board that they could be used to easily find out which entities are involved in the TMDL process and what tasks each is responsible for. Tiffany then went over the TMDL power point presentation which explained the basics of TMDLs and the process that the ERWSA will use to complete the TMDLs. Rebecca Kluckhon, Wenck Inc., was present to assist Tiffany in answering questions.

Lee Schlosser made a motion to adjourn. Leonard Popp seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Babich, Sherburne SWCD