

MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

November 17, 2005

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm

Bell Tower Plaza

118 Lake Ave. N.

Spicer, MN 56288

PRESENT: Gordy Behm, Joe Flanders, Robert Hodapp, Robert Zenner, Ruth Schaefer, Tom Fischer-BWSR; Kurt Deter-Attorney, Ann Latham-Adm Asst, Maggie Leach-MPCA, Skip Wright-DNR; Gene Kubesh, Tom Bonde of Spicer; Dave Lais, Willard Hofstad & Graden West of New London.

An open house was held at the Bell Tower Plaza from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in honor of the newly formed Watershed District. Special thanks to: Berni Schwaegerl and Ann Latham for planning the event. Ruth and Don Hoiseth hosted and provided food and refreshments. An estimated 20-30 people attended. County commissioners Dennis Peterson and Dean Schuck attended along with members of: SWCD, MPCA and BWSR; local township boards and city government officials. Many interested citizens within the watershed district were able to meet the entire board, staff and see the new office.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Hodapp at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the 10-20-05 minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurers Report-Gordy Behm-see attached report

Beginning balance - \$10,060.14

Checks written for \$1,392.50

Ending balance - \$ 24,294.60

A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gary Broman of the MFCR Partnership. A letter was read by Chairman R. Hodapp from G. Broman of the Partnership, stating the financial status of the group. See attached letter. Discussion of the monitoring situation and lack of funding available took place. T. Fischer-BWSR, stated that challenge grants were previously available; however, money is no longer available. A. Latham, spoke with J. Bredberg-Kandiyohi County, who "asked that a letter be sent to him requesting that the County funds for the Partnership be directed to the Watershed District". R. Hodapp requested that 2 individuals meet with G. Broman and obtain more information. G. Behm and R. Schaefer volunteered to meet and report back to the Board.

2. Skip Wright of the DNR gave a presentation on water monitoring performed within the Watershed District. There are 6 continuous stream gauge monitors located throughout the Watershed District (New London dam, CR #2 and the Mill Pond at Olde Mill Inn). The New London dam is considered a "safety hazard" by the DNR and the Corp of Engineers, according to S. Wright and T. Bonde. The MPCA and DNR provide cooperative stream gauging measurements. Eight to twelve measurements are obtained every year.

S. Wright reviewed the "Stream Hydrology as a Result of Urbanization" report by Schueler in 1992 and published by the MPCA in 2000. This type of study was conducted in the Spicer area showing the pre vs post development environmental concerns.

Areas of concern within the Watershed District discussed were: Nest Lake which turns green in late summer, not because of the flow entering the lake, but due to the problems of internal loading and curly leaf pondweed. Internal loading occurs in Monongalia and Diamond Lake as well.

T. Bonde expressed concern about the CR# 2 gauge station not being read on a year around basis. S. Wright stated the cost of winterizing the station and the man hours needed to obtain the data. Both agreed on the importance on maintaining the stations and obtaining as many readings as possible. R. Hodapp asked if water monitoring data could be obtained by trained volunteers. S. Wright stated that stream monitoring would be difficult for a volunteer.

M. Leach, reported that the MPCA, stated that "impaired waters" will be their highest priority in 2006. The agency is working towards a funding source that would emphasize a more "protection strategy" of treatment of a water body, rather than treatment after it becomes impaired.

3. RFP for the Watershed District Comprehensive Plan. Four Engineering/Planning firms submitted proposals. Interested agencies are: Barr Engineering Co., Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc., Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) and Wenck Associates, Inc.

Discussion of the Watershed Comprehensive Plan:

K. Deter stated that the Board could interview some or all four applicants. He will also provide guidelines on questioning and interviewing.

R. Zenner asked if the applicants had enough information to give us an estimation of the cost of writing a plan. The Board is hoping for an estimate of cost of the process. Three of the four applicants have written comprehensive plans for watershed districts previously so an estimate could be provided.

A. Latham was concerned that all four proposals contained a payment policy statement of "payment on demand or within 30 days". Most of the Board members felt that payment could be negotiated. A. Latham also asked if grant money was available for writing the plan.

T. Fischer stated that BWSR previously provided some challenge grants, however; no money is available for 2006.

Page 3

The agreed upon time table for the interviews will be 20 minutes of interviewing and 10 minutes for Board discussion. The four groups will take 2 hours; the interviews will start at 5:00 pm with the regular Board meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

4. Bylaws-K. Deter read the revised bylaws noting the previously requested revisions. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the revised Bylaws as stated. The motion passed.

5. Minnesota Association of Watershed District (MAWD) Meeting. All Board members will be attending the "New Managers Orientation" seminar on Thursday December 1st. A. Latham stated that she would like to attend this seminar, which includes managers and administrative staff. Discussion on the importance of the information being presented took place. A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the registration fee and mileage reimbursement for A. Latham to attend the Thursday portion of the conference. The motion passed.

The two delegates for the business meeting will be R. Hodapp and R. Schaefer with G. Behm as the alternate. A proxy vote would need to take place if our Watershed District did not have two delegates present during voting.

6. Monitoring Grant. R. Schaefer reported that the application for a grant through the Rivers Council was completed and sent in by the requested deadline. The Rivers Council will announce the recipients in early December. The Board will be updated at that time.

7. Office update- A. Latham. See attached.

As no further business was introduced, a motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary