

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, May 9th, 2024
6:00PM

Present: Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Michele Hanson, Bayport; Avis Peters, Baytown; Rachel Dana, West Lakeland; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD
Audience: Kristen Scobie, Michael Jost

Call to Order

Manager McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

Approval of Agenda

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing requested to add an item: Insurance, under “Other.” Manager Collins motioned to approve the agenda with the addition. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the draft April 11th, 2024 board meeting minutes, and Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the treasurer’s report. The remaining checking account balance on May 9th was \$203,341.80. First Bank CD’s were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from December was \$94,436.77. Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for May 9th, 2024. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bills to approve this month are three bills to the Washington Conservation District for Admin, Watershed Plan, and Technical Services totaling \$10,020.75. Manager McCarthy motioned to approve payment of bills for \$10,020.75 for May 9th, 2024. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment

None

Watershed Management Plan Update

None

Old Business

2023 Water Monitoring Report Draft Approval

The 2023 Water Monitoring Report from the WCD was presented to the board at the April meeting and the report is now being submitted for approval. Manager McCarthy motioned to

approve the 2023 Water Monitoring Report Draft. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

New Business

2025 Draft Budget

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing is requesting board approval to issue the MSCWMO 2025 Draft Budget to member communities for review. Manager Collins motioned to approve Administrator Oldenburg-Downing to issue the 2025 Draft Budget to member communities. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Miller Raingarden Planting

Jayne Miller, a resident and representative of Sunnyside Condos, is applying for the Landscaping for Habitat Grant to enhance an existing 1,000 square-foot raingarden (installed in 2012) at 6201 St. Croix Trail N, Stillwater, MN 55082. The project will include the addition of native perennial grasses and wildflowers to the garden for pollinator habitat. Project estimate is \$828.00 and the cost share requested is \$500.00.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve encumbrance of \$500.00 cost share for the installation of the Miller/Sunnyside 2 Raingarden Enhancement. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Swanson Pollinator Planting

Baytown Township resident Charley Swanson is applying for a 2024 Landscaping for Habitat grant to establish a native perennial foundation planting at 4425 Odegard Ave N with the addition of over 80 native grasses and wildflowers. The landowner received a \$500 native habitat restoration grant in 2023 for other areas of the property seeded to native prairie and low-input turf in October 2023. Project estimate is \$810.00 and the cost share requested is \$250.00.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve encumbrance of \$250.00 cost share for the installation of the Swanson Native Pocket Planting. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Carlson Erosion Mitigation

This is an information item. At the April board meeting a planting project on the Carlson property was presented and cost share was requested, however it was discussed that there was a drainage issue from the municipality that was impacting their property. The representative from West Lakeland Township, Manager Dana, took the item back to the township and the township engineer has reviewed the area and maintenance will be conducted to prevent further damage and issues with the property. The planting project will be put on hold until maintenance is completed.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

Mister Car Wash – INFORM

An application for project review was received on April 2nd, 2024 for the proposed Mister Car Wash located at 14100 60th St. N in Stillwater. The project involves creation of approximately

0.77 acres of new impervious for the parking lot, sidewalks, and building. Stormwater management is provided with an underground filtration system. Volume control is not provided because the site is in a high vulnerability DWSMA. The proposed system exceeds the 48-hour maximum drawdown standard and has not demonstrated compliance with the flexible treatment options for the annual TP removal estimate. MSCWMO staff requested the applicant revise and resubmit.

CDA Emergency Housing – ACTION

An application for project review for a proposed emergency housing services building at 6063 Panama Ave N in Stillwater was received April 18th, 2024. The project involves grading within the 40-foot bluffline setback to fill in an existing pond and creation of approximately 0.75 acres of new impervious for the parking lot, sidewalks, and building. Stormwater management is provided with an underground infiltration/detention system and a surface infiltration basin on the east side of the site.

Kristen Scobie from the Washington County Community Development Agency and Michael Jost from LHB were in attendance to answer any questions the board had about the project. Kristen explained to the board that the proposed project will serve unsheltered adults, stating there are already great County resources for families but not many for single adults. Kristen states the building will have around 30 dwellings and be staffed 24/7 and that there are resources available on site. Unlike other shelter models, individuals staying are able to stay for multiple days and are able to keep their belongings on site while they are away at work or elsewhere. When asked the timeline for the project, Kristen states the hope is to have the facility up and running by next fall.

MSCWMO staff recommend approval of the project with two conditions:

1. SWPPP is revised to include inspection requirements, stabilization methods/timeframes, and pollution prevention management measures.
2. Proposed construction (grading) occurs within 40' bluffline setback to fill in the existing pond. The area is to be routed to stormwater management facilities and stabilized with temporary erosion control blanket and vegetation. The setback area shall remain permanently vegetated and not allow for any future impervious areas.

Manager Peters motioned to approve the CDA Emergency Housing Project with the two conditions. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

None

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. Water monitoring and maintenance activities have begun and are ongoing. Spring erosion control reminders have been sent out to active projects. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing attended several meetings including a LSC Steering Team meeting and an EMWREP Funding Structure meeting.

1W1P Updates

Representative Appointments

Manager Zeller has been acting as the MSCWMO representative to the 1W1P meetings since former Manager Runk withdrew from the board. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing asks the board if they want to appoint a new representative. The item was tabled due to Manager Zeller not being in attendance.

LSC FY23 WBIF Work Plan Revision

LSC Agronomy Outreach Specialist position has been vacant since October 2023. Over the winter, LSC partners worked with University of Minnesota Extension to conduct two consecutive applicant searches to fill the vacant position. After reviewing applications received from University of Minnesota, the LSC WP A1 Subcommittee determined that none of the applicants met the minimum requirements of the job announcement. As such, the LSC WP A1 Subcommittee recommended changes outlined in the board packet.

Manager Peters motioned to approve the proposed LSC FY23 WBIF Work Plan Revision and Budget Amendment. Manager Dana seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Other

Insurance

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states he has received authorization to buy coverage after the board packet had already been sent out, he is requesting approval to sign to continue insurance coverage. Manager McCarthy motioned to authorize Administrator Oldenburg-Downing to sign and continue insurance coverage. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adjourn

Manager Peters motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:36.