

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization  
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N  
Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Avis Peters, Baytown; Rachel Dana, West Lakeland; Dave Millard, Lakeland; Carly Johnson, Oak Park Heights; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Angie Hong, EMWREP

**Call to Order**

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the agenda. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve the draft September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 board meeting minutes, Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**

Manager Olfelt-Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance on October 10<sup>th</sup> was \$127,542.53. First Bank CD's were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from September was \$96,360.21. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bills to approve this month are five bills to the Washington Conservation District for admin, watershed plan update, technical services, EMWREP, and water monitoring totaling \$16,338.70. Manager Zeller motioned to approve payment of bills for \$16,338.70 for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Public Comment**

None

**Watershed Management Plan Update**

**St. Croix Riverway Resident Survey**

Angie Hong from EMWREP presented results from the St. Croix Riverway Resident Survey. In June 2024, MSCWMO worked with staff from the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) to conduct a mailed survey of 476 riverway landowners in Bayport, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point, and West Lakeland. The goal of the survey was to assess landowners' experiences, ideas and opinions related to shoreline and bluffland issues and to identify opportunities for collaboration to reduce erosion, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, and protect/improve water quality.

79 people completed the mailed survey (17% response rate). The highest percentage of responses were from Lakeland Shores (29%) and St. Mary's Point (27%).

Ms. Hong noted that the mailing list was acquired using county parcel data of properties along the river, but some of those properties don't actually include river shoreline as indicated in the open response section of the survey. Most respondents have lived on their property for ten or more years. She highlighted a major takeaway from the survey being that 70% of respondents say they are or might be interested in working with MSCWMO to improve riverway habitat and reduce bluff erosion.

Respondents from Bayport note issues with boat speed and wake on the river causing erosion issues. The board noted that this is primarily due to lack of enforcement and discussed potential solutions. Manager Johnson stated that Oak Park Heights previously sent a letter to the DNR regarding the wake and suggests that the MSCWMO communities write a joint letter. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing noted some lack of enforcement may be due to issues regarding which ordinance is being violated as different law enforcement entities are present on the river. Manager Zeller stated he will call the sheriff's office for clarification.

Additional highlights from the survey that Ms. Hong emphasized include responses showing that wildlife, clear water, and avoiding algae blooms are the most important aspects for shoreline owners. Primary problems observed by respondents are terrestrial invasive species such as buckthorn and algae blooms in the summer. Ms. Hong noted some services desired by respondents such as site visits and landscape design templates are already available through the Washington Conservation District. She also noted many respondents asking about cost share grants and acknowledges that the WMO does not have the same budget as the surrounding Watershed Districts for larger cost share grants, but that the Lower St. Croix Partnership may offer some opportunities for MSCWMO.

Regarding landscape design templates, Manager Zeller asked about riprap design templates. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states that those have been made and one had just been sent out to a Lakeland Shores resident. The design a cross section of vegetated riprap. Manager Zeller asked if that qualifies for a cost share grant, Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated that for the MSCWMO yes it does but hopes that additional funds will be available through the Lower St. Croix Partnership. Manager Olfelt-Nelson mentioned a needed education component for shoreland owners regarding pulling vegetation from beaches and the impact of that.

Manager Millard stated that he recently attended a meeting in Polk County, Wisconsin and found that there is an award available for lakeshore owners who use best practices and seems to be working well to incentivize land owners to maintain vegetated buffers and other practices on their properties.

Manager Johnson asked if future surveys should ask for age data from respondents to help understand a target demographic, noting that younger individuals may be less likely to check their mail frequently versus individuals from older generations who seem to check it every day.

Manager Zeller asked what the next step is. Ms. Hong stated the next step will be for her and Administrator Oldenburg-Downing to have a meeting and come up with an outreach plan for the upcoming year.

## **Old Business**

### **EMWREP Funding Structure**

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated that at the last meeting the board made a decision regarding EMWREP funding structure for 2026 but no motion was made regarding 2025. He presented the membership structure and funding contributions again and noted for the board that a development since last meeting is that Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) has opted to not contract with EMWREP for 2025-2027. The board discussed the reasoning for CLFLWD opting out. Manager Zeller stated he will follow up with the Washington County Commissioner regarding shared services.

The board packet includes two separate contracts between MSCWMO and EMWREP, the first for 2025 services and the second for 2026-2027 services. The 2026-2027 agreement is just for reference, the agreement had already been approved.

Manager Zeller motions to approve the 2025 agreement, Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **New Business**

### **2025 Meeting and Submittal Dates**

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the 2025 Meeting and Submittal Dates to the board for approval. The schedule has board meetings continuing to take place on the second Thursday of the month.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the 2025 Meeting and Submittal Dates, Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

### **2024 Preliminary Permit Fee Overage Review**

The WMO conducts permit reviews for projects that trigger our requirements. A fee is charged to the applicant for this review that is set annually by the Board and is representative of the typical cost of such reviews.

At the September 12th regular meeting, the Board directed staff to conduct a preliminary review of fee overages ahead of the typical annual review. That review has been completed through the August billing cycle and identified two items of note. Over half of the 2024 expenditures were for services provided that do not generate a fee. One after the fact review in the City of Bayport far exceeded the fee, and should be closed out for the year.

Manager Zeller motioned to authorize Administrator Oldenburg-Downing to prepare and send an invoice for overage fees incurred on the 395 Lake review to the City of Bayport for \$1,486.75. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **Grant and Cost Share Applications**

### **Deziel Native Planting Reimbursement**

Bayport resident Sarah Deziel applied for the Landscaping for Habitat Grant to install native herbaceous perennials and shrubs in a native planting on her property. The planting was approximately 350 sq ft in size and install 119 native flowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs. The total cost for the native plants is \$344.81.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve final payment of \$250.00 cost share for the installation of the Deziel Native Planting Project. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

### **Carlson Erosion Mitigation**

West Lakeland Township resident Pamela Carlson received a \$250 Landscaping for Habitat Grant in April to enhance the outlet of a municipal stormwater pipe emptying into the backyard using native vegetation (for erosion prevention) in conjunction with woodland buffer planting adjacent to the outlet for habitat enhancement. The Carlson's purchased and installed 21 native perennial wildflowers and shrubs. The total cost for the native plants was \$306.04.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve final payment of \$250.00 cost share for installation of the Carlson Erosion Prevention and Buffer Enhancement. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

## **Plan Reviews/Submittals**

### **Bayport Elementary School – INFORM**

Submittal items were received on August 21st, 2024 for proposed Bayport Elementary School within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Bayport. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves disturbance of approximately 11.6 acres and 4.2 acres of new/reconstructed impervious surfaces. The project site is within a high vulnerability drinking water source management area (DWSMA), however outside of the emergency response area (ERA) and so the applicant completed a higher level of engineering review to determine if infiltration is appropriate for the site. On October 3rd the City of Bayport approved the higher level of engineering review and deemed it appropriate to utilize infiltration on site. The designers are currently revising the design to incorporate appropriate infiltration practices.

### **Outdoor Truck Storage – INFORM**

A submittal for conversion of a junkyard to an outdoor truck storage lot at 2910 Quant Ave N in West Lakeland Township was received on September 4th. The proposed project involved removing buildings, expanding the gravel surface, and topdressing the existing gravel surface. The proposed new impervious surface of 5632 sf is below the 6000 sf threshold triggering compliance with permanent stormwater management however the site is partially within the Lower St. Croix Riverway which has a lower threshold of 500 sf of new impervious triggering permanent stormwater management. MSCWMO staff requested that the applicant submit a plan for stormwater management of the new impervious or reduce the new impervious within the St. Croix Riverway to stay below 500 sf and 6000 sf total for the site.

### **Mister Car Wash – INFORM**

A previously approved plan for the Mister Car Wash project proposed SAFL Baffles for pretreatment throughout the site but has run into issues with Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DoLI) approving the use of SAFL Baffles citing that they do not meet plumbing code. The designers reached out for suggestions of other acceptable alternative products for pretreatment that meet MSCWMO pretreatment standards. The designers have proposed the alternative product to DoLI.

### **Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports**

Two erosion control inspection reports are included in the board packet. The first report discussed received a C grade, meaning the site was not in compliance and maintenance or supplemental practices are required. The inspector noted a culvert that was not indicated on the plan and a turbid discharge onto the neighboring property from this culvert. Manager Zeller requested Administrator Oldenburg-Downing to follow up with the developer's engineer.

The second erosion control inspection report was for the Baylon Residence. The previous inspection report from the project showed disturbance outside the original project limits and within 50' of the bluffline. This report indicates that irrigation lines in this area had been capped and six native shrubs and some little bluestem had been planted on the sloped area near the bluffline to better hold soils in place. The inspection gave the site a grade of "A" indicating the site is in full compliance and well maintained.

### **Staff Report**

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. Work is ongoing on the 10-Year Management Plan Update. Program areas such as water monitoring and BMP maintenance are wrapping up for the season. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing mentioned due to ongoing warmer temperatures, project submittals and reviews are continuing.

### **1W1P Updates**

#### **Representative Appointments**

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing stated the only update he has is that the annual advisory committee meeting took place and he requested shoreline stabilization projects along the river be eligible for funding as they were previously not eligible. He stated that he is hopeful that MSCWMO will be able to apply for some of those funds and use them in the coming years.

### **Other**

Manager Zeller asked if there had been any progress regarding accessibility at the Lakeland Beach project. Manager Millard stated he had a conversation with Brett Stolpestad from the WCD and thinks they've found a good solution, he will work on getting an estimate for cost.

### **Adjourn**

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55.