



# Wright County Water Management

311C Brighton Avenue South - Buffalo, MN 55313 - (763) 682-1970

The Wright County Water Management Task Force meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Followed immediately by an AIS Taskforce Meeting at the USDA Service Center - Buffalo, Minnesota.

In Attendance: Bob Peterson, Mark McNamara, Paul Zabinski, Doug Triplett, Kerry Saxton, Jessica Wyatt, Charlene Brooks, Alicia O'Hare

Mark McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Note: A quorum was not present at this meeting.

Paul motioned to approve the minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by Doug. Motion passed unanimously.

## Task Force Meeting Agenda Items

### 1. Administration

6:00

#### a. Introductions

- i. Introductions were given by all for the benefit of the new Water Planner, Alicia O'Hare. Alicia gave her background to the Task Force. Also introduced was Jessica Wyatt, the Conservation Corps Members to the SWCD for the summer.

#### b. Member Terms

- i. Alicia could not find a record of terms for the current members. Those in attendance are unsure of their terms. Alicia will dig deeper into Joe's files and meeting minutes to determine current terms.

#### c. Vacant Seats

- i. Alicia noted that there are two vacancies on the Task Force. One is a citizen-at-large (agricultural) the other should be from the Mayor's Association.
- ii. Members did not recall a mayor's association representative. Perhaps Merton Auger represents both city administrator and mayor's association.
- iii. Alicia will reach out the Mayor's Association but it makes little sense to fill the vacancy until after the November election
- iv. Alicia will reach out to the Farm Bureau and CentraSota to request nominations for the citizen-at-large vacancy. An ad could be placed in the paper as well. Doug mentioned that Charles Krause from the Farm Bureau was previously approached.

#### d. Expense Reports

- i. Alicia reminded those in attendance to turn in first half expense reports. These are due July 7<sup>th</sup>. Doug, Paul and Bob turned in their expense reports.
- ii. Alicia noted that the current Task Force By-Laws were last updated in 2004. They include an incorrect amount of member compensation. Alicia will make some minor updates to the By-Laws and send them to the board for approval at the next meeting.

#### e. Budget



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- i. Alicia noted that the Task Force has an account of \$10,692.41 to be used for projects. Mark commented that pot does not get additional funds each year and used to be \$30,000-\$40,000. The Task Force made a request to find out how the money was spent in the past.

## 2. Current Projects

6:45

### a. Discovery Farm

- i. Alicia noted that she had taken 3 different surface runoff samples and several tile drainage samples.
- ii. Kerry brought up that several tile lines in the county seem to have manure. It is unclear if open inlets, root systems or something else are the conduit for the manure.
- iii. Kerry suggested it might be worthwhile to include a tour of the site in a meeting.

### b. Crow River

- i. Alicia talked about the changes in monitoring taking place at the WOMP station in Rockford. They are switching from automatic sampling to routine grab sample with extra grabs during storm events when possible.
- ii. Charlene explained that the data is used to determine the water quality entering the metro area. It is also summarized nicely on the MET Council webpage. <http://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Stream-Monitoring-Analysis/Mississippi-River-Tributary-Streams-Assessment.aspx>

### c. Limestone & Iron Filters

- i. The Martha Lake iron filter is being monitored by the U of M and Wright SWCD. It is showing significant removal of phosphorus but the design is not optimal.
- ii. There are plans for a limestone filter to be put in at Mink and Summer Lakes. Kerry says it should have enough elevation difference to get samples of the influent and effluent.
- iii. Another Limestone filter is in at Camp Lake but they have not been able to test how well it is functioning.
- iv. French Lake has money set aside for a filter.
- v. Bob asked about a structure near Lake Henry. Kerry said it is a DNR structure to drain the west side to help the ecology of the system. Alicia and Kerry will investigate further.

### d. One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

- i. Alicia noted that the 1W1P is in the strategy forming stage. Alicia and Kerry will comment on the current strategies.
- ii. Bob noted a concern about whether the new plan will actually allow for better enforcement. Charlene noted that is a goal to address during the entire planning



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process. Charlene and Bob both noted that this plan should have an emphasis on plain speak.

- e. Citizen Lake Monitoring
  - i. Alicia noted that the second round of citizen lake monitoring will take place on Monday.
  
- 3. Future/Potential Projects 7:15
  - a. Private Well Testing
    - i. Alicia expressed interest in getting a groundwater monitoring program in place for nitrate. She explained we can borrow a machine from MN Dept of Agriculture at no cost. The Task Force Agreed that the County Fair (July 27-31) would be a good venue.
  - b. Suggestions
    - i. Bob mentioned that trying to get more septic systems checked and into compliance. Alicia suggested maybe trying to do some voluntary programs or initiatives would be helpful. For example encouraging maintenance.
  
- 4. Other Business 7:30
  - a. Kerry spoke about ditch 31. The county commissioners approved the lowering of a culvert before approval came from the SWCD and MDNR. Legal action may be required. We are waiting for State or Federal Agencies to act first.
  
- 5. AIS Task Force 7:35
  - a. Boat Inspection Update
    - i. 2500 inspections have happened in the county so far this year, 500 at Lake Sylvia
  - b. Decontamination Update
    - i. 60 decontamination have been done so far. Surveys for both inspection and decontamination units are underutilized. More training could help solve this problem.
  - c. Budget
    - i. Large items in the budget include the purchase of a decontamination unit. Also the Lake John filter is likely to get funded costing a total of about \$500,000. There is still discussion on where the filter will actually go and who will maintain the filter. The Task Force agrees that the filter will likely be to the benefit of Lake Sylvia
    - ii. More staff time than originally expected is necessary because of the transition from Joe to CROW. Likely the entire \$400,000 budget will be used. Next year the AIS program may have to be scaled back.
    - iii. Motion by Doug to encourage \$20,000 spent on CROW staff time. Second by Bob. Motion unanimous.
  - d. Other Business



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- i. Mark inquired about necessary reporting for AIS. Charlene said MDNR requires us to renew resolution or renew our plan. No other reporting required
6. Members agreed the next meeting would take place September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
7. Adjourn 8:00
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 7:55