



Wright County Water Management

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

MINUTES

Joint AIS Task Force and Water Management Task Force
November 17, 2016 6pm

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:05. Paul Zabinski led the meeting

In Attendance

Paul Zabinski, Doug Triplett, Bob Peterson, Gloria Grant-Wynnmer, Brian Hagan, Alicia O'Hare, Jefferson Bishop, Diane Sander (via phone), Mark Daleiden (arrived at 6:30)

Approvals

AIS Task Force

Agenda

Motion by Doug to approve AIS agenda 2nd by Gloria
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes-October 13th Emergency Meeting

Motion by Gloria to approve meeting minutes 2nd by Bob
Motion passed unanimously

Water Management Task Force

Agenda

Motion by Doug to approve agenda 2nd by Bob
Motion passed unanimously

Minutes-September 22nd Meeting

Motion by Brian to approve minutes 2nd by Bob
Motion passed unanimously

AIS Task Force

Administration

Alicia informed the board that she had filled the Citizen-Ag position. He could not attend due to harvest requirements. Alicia has also reached out the Mayor's Association and is on their December agenda. Hopefully that spot will be filled by the first 2017 meeting. Finally the school liaison position on the AIS Task Force and Alicia asked for ideas on the best way to contact educators county-wide

Alicia has requested the assistance of two more advisory members. Brian Johnson from the Sheriff's Department and Jefferson Bishop from Anchor Dock. These members are on the mailing list so they



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know what topics are being discussed and they see meeting minutes. Alicia may request their presence at some meetings depending on subject matter or email/call them on a specific issue.

The AIS Task Force doesn't technically exist, this may cause problems if AIS Task Force decisions are ever challenged. Diane gave a short summary of how other counties function. McLeod the Water Management Task Force also addresses AIS. Meeker they are separate and represent different districts of the county. Sibley the AIS Task Force is all county staff. Brain asked why there were additional members. Alicia said it was to represent special interest groups for AIS. Bob pointed out that the additional fishing representative could be represented by himself as the sportsman representative. Alicia stated that 3 of the 4 additional representatives are of interest groups already on the Water Management Task Force. The exception being the school liaison. The group agreed that may be these additional member should be advisors rather than voting members.

Final Summary 2016

The Lake Sylvia treatment project is now complete. Alicia noted that the SWCD gave more than the Task Force recommendation because the DNR did not give the full amount expected. The final amount give to the Greater Lake Sylvia Association was just over \$13,000. The barrier was also purchased by the county and has been stored at the Public Works building. Alicia noted that the DNR was eager to get the barrier out of the water. This may be because it will be more difficult as it gets colder but also they seemed eager to reopen the access. The U of M will do a survey of the treatment area in the spring to determine the success of the treatment.

Overall there were 14,335 inspections in Wright County. Jefferson stated that this number is low because a survey was not always taken. Alicia also noted that 99 surveys indicated the presence of a species but this number should be taken with a grain of salt since the question was not always filled out. There were 408 decontaminations done in Wright County. Bob asked what percentage were refused from a lake. Alicia and Jefferson explained that we don't know this information because it isn't asked on the survey. Jefferson, Charlene, Alicia and other staff had a meeting about changes we would make to the DNR survey. Brian asked if other counties were making the same suggestions. Mark D. suggested that we draft a letter to the legislators. Brian agreed but we should focus on someone on a natural resource committee. Alicia will draft a letter based on our comments for Task Force Members to sign, additional counties will be asked if they would also like to sign a letter and it will be sent to legislators.

Planning for 2017

Scheduling inspections can be a mess. When a choice needs to be made we need an underlying principle. Alicia suggested a couple of possibilities protect uninfested lakes, inspect boats leaving infested lakes, high traffic etc. Gloria mentioned it would be good to have visibility on all lakes in the county. Alicia mentioned the challenge with that will be porta-potties. Paul suggested that high traffic lakes make sense. Mark D. mentioned that inspectors are a great education opportunity. Paul said little lakes can guard their own, but they never knew when the DNR Training is held. Alicia will try to provide



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dates to lake associations. Mark suggested that inspectors might be able to go back and forth between nearby accesses. Jefferson commented that it is a possibility but how close is close? Brian asked is education the main goal of the program? Alicia said education is beneficial offered suggestion that inspectors could have pictures of worst case scenario. Paul suggested that some lakes should have some hours. Brain suggested that if a lake puts money into the inspections they should get priority otherwise high traffic. Gloria suggested that we protect uninfested lakes. Mark asked what lakes have the highest quality and no or few AIS. Jefferson said that Sugar is probably the highest quality lake but does have curly leaf and Eurasian watermilfoil. Priorities agreed that we should had a standard set of lakes that are covered most and all other lakes covered at some point during season to the best of our ability.

Treatment Priorities

Last year we would allow each lake to receive up to \$5,000 per species to treat with the introduction of SSW that could be \$15,000 per lake. This is like the “hair cut” method, not actual control. Paul said that this is untrue. French Lake has reduced Eurasian watermilfoil by targeted treatment. Alicia said that is great but not all lake associations do it that way. Mark D. suggested that we need a more detail budget of what was spent in order to make a decision. Agreement that treatment budget should not be reduced if possible.

Budget

Alicia was unable to provide a detailed budget of what was spent. She showed what was allocated to each category last year and offered possibilities for 2017

| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State AIS Funding: | \$ 239,772.00 | \$ 239,772.00 |
| Carry-Over | \$ 163,600.76 | \$ 82,175.70 |
| Total AIS Funds | \$ 403,372.76 | \$ 321,947.70 |
| Education: | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| Weed Treatment: | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Decontamination: Staff | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Decontamination: Unit | \$ 25,000.00 | |
| Inspection: | \$ 130,000.00 | \$ 130,000.00 |
| For off-duty officer | | |
| Projects: Lake Sylvia | \$ 50,000.00 | |
| Crow Oversight: | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Reserve: | | |
| Total: | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 255,000.00 |



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Mark D said without knowing how much was actually spent it was hard to determine how the money should be allocated.

Alicia will be on maternity leave in April so CROW should take over the inspection program. Alicia and Dan will partner on managing the treatment aspect of AIS.

AIS Management Plan

Alicia outlined the Management Plan as accomplishments and actions. Brian suggested using press releases to note accomplishments.

Alicia would like to talk in more detail about the AIS management plan. Mark D. suggested another meeting on December 15th at 6pm to talk about the plan. The rest of the Task Force agreed. Alicia will send out some information prior to take.

Water Management Task Force

Meeting Dates

Alicia suggested that we meet in November rather than January to address more AIS issues. The Task Force agreed. Alicia will update the By Laws and send it to SWCD Board for approval.

Expense Reports

Alicia reminded member that 2nd have expense reports are due. With another meeting there will be additions.

PTMApp

Alicia showed what PTMApp is doing to identify BMP location in the Sugar Lake watershed and how we need to narrow down options. Task Force agree that we can leave that to SWCD staff.

One Watershed, One Plan

Alicia reminded the Task Force of the purpose of 1W1P, to get the number of water management plans from over 300 down to 80. Alicia provided examples of Priority Concerns and Strategies and Actions in the plan.

Governance

Governance of 1W1p is currently being dicussed. Mark D asked if part of the point of 1W1P was just to get grants? Diane said yes but there still is the issue of how the grants are given out within the watershed. The Task Force has no opinion on the governance of 1W1P



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Current Projects

Discovery Farm

Discovery Farm no updates on the 2016 water year. Likely done for the year unless freeze/melt cycles

Crow River

MET Council wants more visits to the site Crow River site. So far no talk of increase in funds. Mark D. asked why both CROW and SWCD are sampling? Diane noted that they sample before confluence of North and South Forks and Alicia samples after.

Limestone & Iron Filters

Martha- U of M grant is ending so they are pulling their equipment. Could do some simple grab samples in the meantime and keep it maintained. Potential funding: MDA, or LCCMR are best bets.

Mink-Somers-Still waiting on Army Corps,
French-Survey done this year
Dean-I haven't pushed this forward yet.

Future Meetings/Site Visits

Everyone is okay with sticking with the 3rd Thursday at 6pm

Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:30. Next meeting will be December 15th at 6pm. This meeting is in addition to regular meetings.