

**Wright County Water Management
Water Management Task Force Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2013**

Minutes of the Wright County Water Management Task Force held at the USDA Service Center, Buffalo, Minnesota on September 19, 2013.

Members present: Mark McNamara Bob Peterson Merton Auger

Doug Triplett Gloria Wynnemer Paul Zabinski

Staff: Joe Jacobs, Water Resource Specialist

Dan Nadeau, Water Technician, attended toward end of meeting

Guest: Curt Forst, Howard Lake Association President and COLA Board

Meeting was called to order by Doug Triplett at 7:05 pm. Task force minutes from June 20th, 2013 were deferred until the next meeting. Noted quorum is present.

Curt Forst, guest, presented questions. Question on the enforcement of ditch setbacks and planting in ditches. Discussion. Noted that the township board should enforce ditch setbacks so it was suggested the issue be presented to the township board at regular or annual meeting. No planting should occur within 33 feet of center of the road. Triplett noted the quarterly meeting of Wright townships is in early October and the issue could also be presented there. **Question on field tiles draining directly into lakes** resulting in plumes of silt deposited in lakes after a rain. Noted 9 to 12 tiles flow into Howard Lake and lake turnover is slow. Discussion. Field tiles issues are tough with few answers. Some success with filtering runoff before it goes into the lake with sand/iron filter or a coil at the tile inlet. **Concern public perception of county departments do not use best management practices on road work.** Workers seem to disregard water quality when working next to lake, no silt barriers. Perception is that there is no concern for water quality.

Manure setback violation amendment draft was reviewed. Agreed it would address the issue of enforcement and make the job of the feedlot officer easier. The ladder of action and fines had been discussed in prior meetings with enthusiasm. Newspaper communication important. Jacobs will review with task force members not in attendance and move forward.

Jacobs presented a slide show on the **Lake Protection Project for Lake Sylvia**, funded by a 2011 challenge grant, identifying areas to address for erosion. A shoreland integrity index is assigned to photographed intervals along the shore. Goal to have 25 – 30% of lakeshore natural, undeveloped. McNamara motioned to support Jacobs presenting the water integrity index to the Board of Commissioners, Board of Adjustment and Planning. Peterson seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Jacobs presented the **2014 Clean Water Fund requests**. There are four applications: Ditch 10 variable rate fertilizer program request for \$40,000; Ann Lake carp barrier for \$140,000; City of Howard Lake, Buffalo and Annandale storm water retrofit for \$100,000; and nutrient assessment dollars for impaired lakes for \$17,000. Total application request is for \$297,000. Discussion resulted. In January or February 2014 grant awards will be announced.

Task force members asked to complete survey to determine priorities on the Mississippi River – St. Cloud watershed. Jacobs will email the questionnaire to members.

Next meeting will be Thursday, January 16, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm, motioned by McNamara, seconded by Zabinski, all in favor.

GW