

Minutes
Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board Meeting
November 14, 2011

Present: Matt Flynn (Olmsted County), Tom Kaase (Fillmore County), Duane Bakke (Fillmore County), Mena Kaehler (Winona County), Jake Gillen (Rice), Dave Hansen (Dodge County), Judy Ohly (Olmsted County), Bruce Kubicek (Steele County), Tim Gabrielson (Mower County), David Harms (Wabasha County), and Justin Zmyewski (Houston County).

Others: Linda Dahl (SEMWRB), Mark Gamm (Dodge County), Mary Kells (MN Board of Water and Soil Resources), Shaina Keseley (MN Pollution Control Agency), Joe Magee (Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District), Natalie Siderius (Winona County), and Terry Lee (Olmsted County).

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Matt Flynn at 9:08 a.m.**

Item 1. Approve November 14, 2011 Agenda:

Linda Dahl requested that the Board add a proposed contract with the Cannon River Partnership to the agenda.

Motion by Jake Gillen and seconded by Mena Kaehler to approve the agenda with the additional item. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Approve Minutes of September 12, 2011 Board Meeting:

Motion by Bruce Kubicek and seconded by Tim Gabrielson to approve the September 12, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3. Approve September 2011 Budget vs. Actual:

Linda Dahl provided a summary of expenses thru September 30, 2011 and noted that all budget categories were within the funding and expenditure projections.

Motion to approve the September 2011 Budget vs. Actual made by Duane Bakke and seconded by Mena Kaehler. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4. Executive Director's Report:

Linda Dahl provided the Board with copies of her report. In addition to the information presented in the report, Dahl noted that most of the counties have completed their Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network work for 2011. She reported that Mower was dropping out of the SSTS Software project due to staffing changes. Several Board members sought additional information about the nitrate probability maps that have been prepared by Jim Lundy of the Minnesota Department of Health. The Board requested that Lundy be invited to a future meeting to present his mapping results.

Motion to approve the November 14, 2011 Executive Director's Report made by Jake Gillen and seconded by Dave Hansen. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. Set 2012 Meeting Dates:

Linda Dahl provided the Board with a list of proposed 2012 meeting dates for the Water Resources Board and for the Water Resources Advisory Committee. The proposed dates for the Board being January 9, March 5, May 14, July 9, August 13 (Executive Board only), September 10, and November 12. The proposed dates for the Advisory Committee being January 4, February 29, May 2, July 4, September 5, and November 7.

Motion to approve the proposed 2012 Meeting Dates made by Tim Gabrielson and seconded by Duane Bakke. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. Recommend Approve Sponsoring SE MN Civic Engagement Cohort (encl.)

Linda Dahl reviewed the key elements of the Program Outline for SE MN Civic Engagement Cohort information that was provided in the Board agenda packet. She described the project as providing civic engagement training for water resource professionals and stakeholders. There currently are 15 to 20 people who have expressed an interest in participating in the program. As recommended, the SEMWRB would be responsible for administering the grant and would be compensated for that work. The University of Minnesota Extension would provide the training under a contract with the Board. Shaina Keseley responded to questions about the goals and objectives of the program.

Motion to approve sponsoring the SE MN Civic Engagement Cohort made by Bruce Kubicek and seconded by Dave Hansen. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. Recommend Approve Grant Extension – Septic Database:

Linda Dahl requested that the Board approve an extension for the Septic Database grant. The Extension would allow staff to work on the project during the winter months when they have the most available time. Dahl noted that the extension has been preapproved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Commissioner Gillen noted that one of the impacts of the STS inventory in Rice County is that 79 drywells have been identified in the two townships inventoried and all have been determined to be an imminent public health threat. He estimates that there may be as many as 1,000 drywells in the county.

Motion to approve the Recommend Approve Grant Extension – Septic Database made by Duane Bakke and seconded by Tim Gabrielson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 8. Recommend Approve a Contract with Cannon River Partnership:

Linda Dahl requested that the Board approve a contract with the Cannon River Partnership to host the two wastewater facilitator positions. The contract was developed off of the existing contract between the board and the Partnership.

Motion to approve a Contract with Cannon River Partnership made by Dave Harms and seconded by Tim Gabrielson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 9. Recommend Approve the Lower Mississippi Basin SE MN Wastewater Initiative Grant.

Linda Dahl requested that the Board approve the Wastewater Initiative Grant contract. This grant utilizes \$94,149.25 to provide approximately nine months of continued small community facilitation. The funds for this grant came from the latest feedlot grant and were shifted to this grant while we seek long-term funding.

Motion to approve the Wastewater Initiative Grant made by Jake Gillen and seconded by Judy Ohly. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 10. Discussion of Appropriate Group to Lead Regional Silica Sand Mining Forum

Matt Flynn asked each of the members to update the Board on the status of silica sand mining in their respective counties. It was noted that Wabasha and Goodhue have moratoriums in place. Winona has three Conditional Use Permit requests pending and is considering a moratorium. Fillmore has two pending proposals and is requiring each to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Olmsted has one proposal that is in the permitting process. Dodge, Houston, Mower, and Rice have not received any silica sand mining proposals.

Dave Harms summarized the work that is underway in Wabasha County. The County is reviewing the potential impacts on roads, water, and air; assessing the benefit of an aggregate tax; and evaluating options for assuring adequate mine reclamation.

Board members agreed to collaborate in learning more about potential impacts of silica sand mining on water resources and directed Linda Dahl to arrange presentations on that topic. The Board also discussed an upcoming workshop being held by the Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Motion to approve Linda Dahl's attendance at the upcoming Wisconsin Farmers Union workshop on silica sand mining made by Mena Kaehler and seconded by Judy Ohly. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 11. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mena Kaehler and seconded by Jake Gillen to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Lee
County Water Plan Coordinator
Olmsted County

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson

Attested: _____ Date: _____