**Minutes**

**Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board Meeting**

**March 13, 2017 Meeting**

Commissioners Present: Rodney Peterson (Dodge County), Duane Bakke (Fillmore County), Gary Peterson (Fillmore County), Brad Anderson (Goodhue County), James Brady (Steele County), Tim Gabrielson (Mower), Steve Jacob (Winona), Rich Hall (Wabasha County), Gregg Wright (Olmsted County). Others present: Linda Dahl (SEMWRB), Scott Golberg (Steele County), Terry Lee (Olmsted County), Katherine Logan (MPCA), Justin Watkins (MPCA), Sheila Craig (SEMWI)

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Brady at 9:00 a.m.

**Item 1.** Approve March 13, 2017 Agenda: Motion by Goodhue County, Brad Anderson to approve the agenda, seconded by Wabasha County, Rich Hall; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 2**. Approve Minutes of January 9, 2017 Board Meeting: Motion by Fillmore County, Duane Bakke to approve the January 9, 2017 Minutes, seconded by Winona County, Steve Jacob; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 3.** Approve December 2016 and January 2017 Budget vs Actual: As a follow-up to questions about Paid Time Off liability and “other post-employment benefits” that came up at the last meeting, Linda Dahl explained the responses from Olmsted County. These responses were also sent in an email in January. Motion by Dodge County, Rodney Peterson to approve the December 2016 and January 2017 Budget vs. Actual, seconded by Mower County, Tim Gabrielson; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4.** Recommend Approve Sub-recipient Agreements for Feedlot Funds: Linda Dahl explained that the feedlot grant ends on 8/31/17; the 2nd allocation amounts on the summary sheet were determined by project readiness, with a priority of keeping funds from the first agreement with the original county if they are encumbered. The recommended allocations were reviewed by staff. Motion by Fillmore County, Duane Bakke to approve the sub-recipient agreements for feedlot funds, seconded by Goodhue County, Brad Anderson; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5**. Recommend set Permanent and Mailing Addresses: The Board of Water and Soil Resources recommended that the Board officially establish the permanent address and mailing address for the organization. Motion by Mower County, Tim Gabrielson to set the permanent address as Olmsted County Environmental Services and the mailing address as Linda Dahl’s home, seconded by Goodhue County, Brad Anderson; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6**. Executive Director’s Report: Linda Dahl provided a written report for activities and handed out an additional sheet entitiled, *Summary of Small Feedlot Status in SE Minnesota.* The summary showed that there have been an estimated 1183 small feedlot fixes utilizing the 319 grant funding and other cost-share funds since 2001. County staff estimate that there are approximately 400 small feedlot fixes remaining.

In exploring the option of shared management with the SE SWCD JPB (option B selected at the last meeting for further exploration), Linda Dahl met with Olmsted County, Goodhue SWCD, and Olmsted SWCD staff to discuss the possibilities for shared administrative services. In the interim, as we continue to work out the details for this option, Goodhue SWCD suggested the possibility of having the SE MN JPB provide administrative assistance for a few of the SWCD JPB current grants, and will bring a proposal to the next SEMWRB meeting. Board members discussed the following issues related to administrative structure and needs:

* Concern was expressed by Commissioner Jacob about the Executive Director discussing administrative options without Board member (elected officials) involvement/attendance; this has been an issue in Winona County with Winona County issues. The Executive Director was previously directed by the Board to research administrative options and report back to the Board.
* How much FTE administration is needed between the TSA (technical service area SWCD 11-county JPB) and the SE MN Water Resources Board? How can it be consolidated or coordinated to provide some efficiencies?
* Commissioner Jacob expressed that leveraging 319 feedlot grant funding has been a key reason for his county to be a part of SEMWRB, and that if this funding dries up he is inclined to pull Winona County out of the SEMWRB Joint Powers Agreement. Dahl stressed that SEMWRB has other programs besides the feedlot grants and that County water planning staff have expressed a need for continuation of a regional entity to support county efforts.

**Item 7.** Recommend approval to develop proposal to fund regional communication system. One of the top three priorities that were identified last fall during the strategic planning effort was to establish a regional communication system, including a grant-funded staff position. Since the Board is still unsure of the administrative structure of the organization, concerns were expressed about the timeliness of moving forward with a new regional communication position at this time. No action was taken on this item.

**Item 8.** Recommend Appointing Committee for Hiring Process. Motion by Dodge County, Rodney Peterson to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair, James Brady and Brad Anderson, to work with Olmsted County to develop administrative options for the SE MN Water Resource Board, seconded by Fillmore County, Duane Bakke; motion passed unanimously.

**Item 9.** Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Goodhue County, Brad Anderson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dodge County, Rodney Peterson; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Golberg, Steele County Environmental Services Director

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_