**Minutes**

**Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board Meeting**

**May 14, 2012**

Present: Judy Ohly (Olmsted County), Marcia Ward and Mena Kaehler (Winona County), David Hansen (Dodge County), Richard Samuelson (Goodhue County), Jake Gillen (Rice County), Tim Gabrielson (Mower County), Bruce Kubicek, (Steele County), Justin Zmyewski (Houston County) and David Harms (Wabasha County).

Others: Linda Dahl (SEMWRB), Mark Gamm (Dodge County), Natalie Siderius (Winona County), Terry Lee (Olmsted County), and Shaina Keseley, Katherine Logan and Suzanne Hanson, MN Pollution Control Agency.

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Mena Kaehler at 9:05 a.m.**

Item 1: Approve May 14, 2012 Agenda:

Linda Dahl requested that Olmsted County Targeted Water Monitoring be added as Item #3.5.

**Motion by Jake Gillen and seconded by Bruce Kubicek to approve the agenda with the addition of Item #3.5. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 2: Approve Minutes of March 5, 2012 Board Meeting:

Linda Dahl noted there was a correction to the Minutes under Item #6, it should read $15,000 instead of 50%. **Motion by Tim Gabrielson and seconded by David Hanson to approve the March 5, 2012 minutes with the correction of Item #6 reading $15,000 instead of 50%. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 3: Approve March 31, 2012 Budget vs. Actual:

Linda Dahl provided a summary of expenses thru March 31, 2012 and noted that Line Item 6151, Health Insurance, is under-budgeted due to an additional family member being added; $6,996 is budgeted, actual will be $15,771. Other changes that have occurred are the addition of new grants:

BWSR CWP Grant Wastewater V $21,790

Civic Engagement Cohort $80,737

A new spreadsheet of all the grants was handed out to the Board. Board discussion ensued.Board consensus was to wait until later in the year to amend the budget to reflect changes. **Motion by Judy Ohly and seconded by Jake Gillen to approve the March 31, 2012** **Budget vs. Actual. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 3.5: Olmsted County Targeted Water Monitoring Agreement Amendment

Terry Lee explained to the Board that Olmsted County has additional costs to ensure that the samples are from the same wells as the 1990’s samples because Olmsted has gone from rural route addressing to street name and number. Now each well will have coordinates using GPS too. Board members asked if there have been any trends identified. Terry explained that there is not a clear trend for nitrates and that chloride and sulfates are trending up based on 20 years of data. Chlorides sources were identified as roughly 1/3 road salt, 1/3 softener salt, 1/3 potassium chloride fertilizer.

David Harms asked what are we going to do if a problem is identified. Lee explained that in the 50’s most wells were in the upper aquifers and were very polluted. The deeper aquifers did not become polluted because the Decorah shale protects the deeper aquifers. This led to Olmsted’s Decorah Ordinance. Lee estimates that $5 m. / year in Rochester is saved in reduced treatment costs because of the Decorah protecting the City’s water supply and $100/acre in agricultural areas is saved. As problems are identified public policy will have to develop to address the concerns. **Motion by Bruce Kubicek and seconded by David Hanson to approve Olmsted County’s request for an additional $3,160. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 4: 2011 Audit Engagement

Linda Dahl explained that Tom Cummings did the audit last year and is available this year for $2,950 (same as last year) and was thorough and timely to work with. **Motion by Marcia Ward and seconded by Tim Gabrielson to approve Tom Cummings for audit. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 5: Executive Director’s Report

Linda Dahl provided the Board with information about BWSR’s new budget request process called Biennial Budget Request (BBR). Dahl explained that grant requests will now need to be determined years in advance. Some top concerns identified were:

* Pharmaceutical collection which varies dramatically from County to County. SEMWRB role would focus on education and a media campaign.
* Wastewater Facilitation continuation for unsewered communities with the SE MN Wastewater Initiative reviewing and advising where best to work.
* Other Potential Projects

1. Farmer-led Councils will need a regional entity for technical and financial assistance as they develop in the region

2. Shoreland Buffer assistance on a regional basis.

Dahl identified the new website address as: <http://semnwrb.winonastatenews.com/>.

David Hanson made a request for Dahl to report on bottlenecks to implementation of County shoreland programs at the next meeting.

Item 6: Motion to Adjourn:

**Motion was made by Judy Ohly and seconded by Jake Gillen to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Siderius

Water Plan Coordinator

Winona County

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

Chairperson

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_