

Six Cities WMO Plan Update
November 17, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Blaine City Hall

Meeting Chair: Michelle Schneider

Minutes by: Michelle Schneider

Present: Jim Hafner, Wes Hovland, Jean Keely, Denise Leezer, Joe Rhein, Brad Schleeter, Judy Sventek, Mark Lobermeier, Jerry Bahls, Mike Howe, Jim Kosluchar, Kevin Hansen, Steve Gatlin, Donna Bahls, Peter Molinaro, Melissa Lewis, Jamie Schurbon, Michelle Schneider

Copies to: Kate Drewry, Becky Balk, Tim Kelly, Patricia Preiner, Beth Neuendorf

- I. The meeting to kickoff the update of the Six Cities Watershed Management Organization Plan started with introductions of all of the stakeholders and agency representatives at the table.
- II. **Land and Water Resources Inventory:** As part of the plan update, an inventory needs to be done of the available data including; existing stormwater systems, pond locations, functional value of wetlands, water quality data, current and future land use, groundwater, BMPs and locations, and areas of flooding and erosion. Michelle requested each member city and agency fill out a sheet indicating what kind of data they have available and who and how to contact the organization to obtain the data.
- III. **WMO Plan Update Requirements / Goals**
 - A. State & County Agencies
 1. BWSR: The WMO Plan Update needs to follow 8410 and the Joint Powers Agreement – looking at requirements for the board makeup and authorities. Special attention should be given to goals & policies, implementation and increased public involvement. The plan should address how the WMO will function in the future. The plan should fit in with adjoining Watershed District plans (Rice Creek just starting).
 2. MPCA: There should be a substantive discussion of the status of water resources including; monitoring, assessment, ongoing projects, impaired waters, TMDLs & plans to address, stormwater management , wetland, LID, etc. The WMO Plan should be a guiding document and not a reference manual. All MS4s will be receiving a waste load allocation resulting from the Lake Pepin TMDL and this will need to be included. The plan should include a full discussion of community MS4 and TMDLs activity.
 3. Met. Council: There needs to be an assessment of problems, action items, and capital improvement projects for each problem being addressed. The 1997 WMO Plan was lacking storm sewer information (direction, rate, volume) and SWPP requirements. Plan should collate all City hydraulic/hydrologic information. The plan needs to address Functional Values of Wetlands and quantifiable lake goals, non-degradation goals, and monitoring of impaired waters. The plan should provide clear directions to the local

communities. Lack of permitting at the WMO is okay, but be clear regarding local plan requirements. The WMO could handle the educational piece of the local MS4 requirements.

4. Dept. of Health: Recognize who and where are the public water suppliers in your jurisdictional area for Six Cities WMO. Recognize the public water suppliers that have a source water protection area within the Six Cities WMO area. Recognize that the City of Minneapolis and Saint Paul Regional Water have both recently completed source water protection plans for their surface water intakes. There should be lots of commonality in the management strategies of those plans and the WMO plan. Utilize MDH's storm water guidance for any reconstruction, redevelopment or new location of storm water infiltration basins. Even though there may be no rule requirement for the WMO to address groundwater, please consider groundwater in the plan development as many of the WMO's actions can impact groundwater. The Upper Mississippi Source Water Protection System documentation should be referenced.
5. Anoka Conservation District: Be sure to integrate the WMO Plan with all of the other water related plans in the WMO boundaries. Focus on what the WMO's role is with these other plans and take more of a partner approach.

B. Six Cities

1. Blaine: Blaine is just completing an update of their plan and has put a lot of effort into the update. The hope is that it will still meet the requirements of the WMO Plan following the update. There needs to be an awareness of TMDL and measurements made to address impaired waters. Roles and responsibilities should be established.
2. Columbia Heights: The WMO plan needs to meet the requirements and be usable as a resource and for education. They hope the WMO will have resource opportunities to help with monitoring.
3. Coon Rapids: Coon Rapids just completed a stormwater and wetland management plan. The WMO Plan should be complimentary and should have a monitoring plan, problem assessment and provide public information programs.
4. Fridley: The WMO Plan should help maintain and improve surface water quality, be usable, and identify roles and responsibilities now and in the future.
5. Hilltop: The WMO Plan needs to meet requirements, have educational goals and be a usable working document.
6. Spring Lake Park: The WMO Plan needs to meet statutory requirements. It should serve as a common resource for education, goals, be usable and not contradict or restrict individual cities.

IV. Assessment of Problems – Agency and City Input

A. Specific Lakes & Streams with Water Quality Problems

1. Pleasure Creek, Springbrook Creek, Sullivan Lake and Highland Lake are impaired waters. Consider how these impaired waters are linked to storm water.
2. Laddie Lake is not classified as impaired, but has a declining trend in water quality.
3. Develop a strategy for future assessment. Check the 303d list. Collaborative efforts are needed on the best way to be most effective at improving new impaired waters.

B. Erosion Issues

1. Most of the communities don't have much soil erosion, but there is some ditch erosion.
2. Fridley has issues with creek/ditch erosion due to its sandy soils. There is a lot of silt where the NE branch of Springbrook Creek flows under 85th Ave. between E. River Road and University Avenue. Also, the floating boardwalk at Springbrook Nature Center doesn't float anymore.

C. Water Quantity Management

1. Consider an agreement on peak flowrates that addresses duration of peak flows. Hydrology monitoring – consider a link to Mississippi River monitoring.
2. Volume control for treatment of TMDLs – big issue is the cost of retrofitting existing developed areas compared to implementing new projects.

D. Development / Redevelopment Issues

1. Blaine is still developing land – need to look at site plan monitoring.
2. The rest of the WMO has limited redevelopment. Looking at the redevelopment and future redevelopment, consider possible WMO standards for redevelopment.
3. Columbia Heights seeing a de-intensifying re-development trend.
4. Consider more volume control in re-development, balanced against cost of retrofit.

E. Shoreland Management

1. Homeowners involvement in shoreland management practices – educational component. Focus on LID, BMPs, etc.
2. Compare each city's requirements to see gaps /discrepancies
3. Melissa suggested working with Rice Creek & Coon Creek Watershed Districts for consistency.

F. Capital Improvement Projects

1. Projects are done within a community or between communities. There was a question as to the role the WMO plays. It was suggested to show a City-by-City CIP including each individual city's CIP in the WMO plan.
2. Fridley & Columbia Heights are looking at a possible study on trunk highway 47 – a turn back roadway project on University Avenue.

V. **Goals & Policies**

- A. Six Cities sees an increase of the WMO's role in monitoring & education. The JPA need to be amended before the plan can be approved.
- B. Funding Resources –the WMO can have a role in grant opportunities.
- C. Public Education
 1. The WMO can have a integrated/joint role in this. Each city is required to do public education as part of the MS4 program.
 2. Suggestions for public education – printed materials, articles for newsletters, newspaper articles, spotlight on each city's website, public access cable, tables at community events
 3. Resource specific Information – Metro Watershed Partners, Blue Thumb Program (Rice Creek)
 4. Melissa suggested partnering with Rice Creek and Coon Creek or hiring a Watershed Administrator to work on public education & involvement
- D. Restoration / Protection – Melissa suggested the PRAP program
- E. There needs to be a focus on Impaired Waters and Storm water and what everyone's roles are in this.
- F. Melissa stated that the WMO needed to have more public involvement and was not in compliance in this area. She said she believes the WMO needs a Citizen Advisory Committee in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103D. There was much discussion about the limited public interest in the WMO partly due to the lack of recreational waters in the WMO. Personally recruiting the public is one way to get them involved. Melissa suggested that the Open House be used to recruit members for a CAC. Melissa felt that CAC members could look at sections of the plan as it's developed.

VI. **Schedule**

- A. The schedule was left as is, with the exception that the January 15, 2009 WMO board meeting was added. The comments from the Open House would be compiled in time for the board meeting so they could be discussed and addressed in the WMO Plan update.
- B. BWSR, PCA & Met. Council would like to be involved throughout the process.

VII. Open House

- A. It was decided to hold the Open House at the Springbrook Nature Center on January 8, 2009 from 4:30-6:30pm.
- B. Public comment will be gathered through surveys, comment cards, and asking them to mark issues on large watershed maps.

VIII. Next Steps

- A. SEH will be contacting individuals at each organization to gather water related data.
- B. Plans will be underway for the Open House.

SEH believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Michelle Schneider at 651-490-2112.

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