

**SIX CITIES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of May 20, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Gatlin (Coon Rapids), Wes Hovland (Blaine), Kevin Hansen (Columbia Heights), Donna Bahls (Fridley), Peter Molinaro (Hilltop), and Joe Rhein (Spring lake Park).

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Marshall – Lawson, Marshall, McDonald & Galowitz, Jim Kosluchar – Fridley Director of Public Works, and Jim Hafner – Blaine Stormwater Manager.

ABSENT MEMBER: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gatlin at 1:35 PM.

2. RECEIVE TREASURER’S REPORT:

a. Bills:

Lawson, Marshall, McDonald & Galowitz (April 15, 2010 mtg; review info packet)	\$ 855.00
Lawson, Marshall, McDonald & Galowitz (April 2010 JPA/Plan review).....	\$ 665.00
SEH: General – Jan 21, 2010 & April 15, 2010 WMO Mtg	\$ 975.00
SHE: WMO Plan Update	\$1,134.14
Timesaver (April 15, 2010 mtg minutes)	\$ 157.50
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,786.64</u>

MOTION by Rhein, seconded by Hovland to pay bills. Approved unanimously.

Chairman Gatlin stated that he had received an e-mail from Anoka County in regard to the annual support given by the WMO, which contributes towards the transportation costs for the Children’s Water Festival. He advised that the funds would come from the budget for public education.

MOTION by Hanson, seconded by Chairman Gatlin to approve a \$300 contribution to Anoka County for the Children’s Water Festival, to be used for the purpose of transportation costs. Approved unanimously.

3. AMENDED JPA CONSIDERATION:

Attorney Marshall summarized the changes made to the JPA agreement, explaining that language had been borrowed from MN State Statute 103B211, which gives the WMO powers similar to a WMD. He stated that if the Board supported the amended document he would then have Melissa Lewis review the document to meet the preferences of BWSR.

Hafner updated the Board on the presentation made to the Blaine City Council and following discussion regarding the possibility of opting out of the WMO. He advised that Melissa Lewis contacted him to obtain additional information on the discussion and explained that she suggested adding a clause into the

JPA which would give a city the option to opt out of the WMO. He stated that the Blaine City Council is reviewing the options at this time but has not yet made the decision to opt out.

Attorney Marshall stated that he believed that approach to make sense and suggested that the Board discuss their opinions and thoughts regarding the JPA. Discussion ensued regarding the impact that opting out would have on other member cities as well as the reason behind the discussion in the City of Blaine.

Hovland explained that although the financial aspect of the issue is a driving force behind the decision, it is not the only factor that the City is considering.

Hafner advised that the administrative costs had been reviewed as well as the difference between a WMO and WMD and the benefits that would be received from each organization.

Bahls stated that her goal for the changes in the JPA was to allow for individual cities to choose whether or not to levy. She commented on the method of funding for the city of Fridley and how the increase in the budget for the Board would effect and change the method of funding.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the option to opt out of the WMO should be written into the JPA, and what impact would occur should a city choose to leave the WMO.

Attorney Marshall stated that the language had been included to the proposed JPA which would create a special taxing district that would allow levies. He advised that the maximum authorization would be given to the WMO with this document.

Bahls explained that the City of Fridley would like to levy in 2011, which would require the parcel numbers to be given to Anoka County prior to July 1, 2010, and questioned if the Board believed that the JPA would be approved and information would be ready by that date.

Attorney Marshall stated that he believed that goal to be ambitious, as at this point the Board is unsure that the City of Blaine is even going to sign the JPA. He did believe that the JPA could be completed by 2011, with levy ability in 2012.

Hafner advised that he would take the proposed JPA back to the Blaine City Council for their input and would return that decision to the Board. He stated that one of the main concerns in the increase in the budget for the Board and the inability to levy for the required funding, as Blaine does not want to hold a special levy or use funds from another source.

Kosluchar stated that the City of Fridley has had similar discussions because of the increase in the Board approved budget. He believed that the certification could be completed in time to levy in 2011, as the city of Fridley has no other option but to levy outside of the general budget. He questioned if the budget of the Board could be lowered until the time when the ability to levy through the WMO occurs.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board approved budget and the ability to levy. It was determined that the Board must first obtain the decision from the city of Blaine in regard to the JPA, as that decision will have an effect on the JPA and budget.

Attorney Marshall advised that he would review the document with Melissa Lewis and the discussion could be continued at the June 16, 2010 meeting.

Hafner confirmed that he would also review the proposed JPA with the Blaine City Council.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Bahls, seconded by Chairman Gatlin, to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at Blaine City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Gatlin, Chairman

Drafted by: Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.