

**SIX CITIES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION MEETING
Minutes of December 16, 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 - alternate).

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Marshall – Lawson, Marshall, McDonald & Galowitz, Mark Lobermeier – SEH, Jim Kosluchar – Fridley Director of Public Works, Jim Hafner – Blaine Stormwater Manager, Melissa Lewis – BWSR, Tim Kelly – Coon Creek Watershed Management Organization, and Doug Snyder – Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

ABSENT MEMBER: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2010 REGULAR MEETING:

MOTION by Bahls, seconded by Rhein, to approve the minutes of October 14, 2010. Approved unanimously.

3. RECEIVE TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. Bills:

Lawson, Marshall, McDonald & Galowitz (General – conf w/Engineer).....	\$ 95.00
SEH: General – Sept 14, 2010 WMO Mtg.....	\$ 912.47
TimeSaver (10/14/10 mtg minutes)	\$ 126.25

TOTAL: \$ 1,133.72

MOTION by Molinaro, seconded by Bahls to pay bills. Approved unanimously.

4. RECORDING SECRETARY SERVICE AGREEMENT:

Chairman Gatlin reviewed the Recording Secretary Service Agreement proposal from TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc. for 2011. It is proposed that the rates be held constant with the 2010 rates.

MOTION by Hovland, seconded by Gatlin, to approve the 2011 Recording Secretary Service Agreement with TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc. as presented. Approved unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION – CITY OFFICIAL'S FEEDBACK RE: FUTURE DIRECTION FOR WMO:

Chairman Gatlin reviewed that this agenda item is intended for discussion regarding the future direction of the Six Cities Watershed Management Organization (SCWMO) and feedback received from officials of the member cities following the September 14, 2010 SCWMO workshop.

Chairman Gatlin stated following the September 14th workshop, the Coon Rapids City Council directed that he conduct additional research in terms of long term costs. Based on projections on levy and large capital improvement projects anticipated for Coon Rapids, the numbers become close in 2013, and in 2015 it actually becomes more expensive for Coon Rapids to be a member of the SCWMO than to become a member of Coon Creek Watershed District. The City Council discussed this in length, as well

as the level of service. Chairman Gatlin informed the Board that the Coon Rapids City Council has taken formal action to request Coon Creek Watershed District to amend the current boundaries to include Coon Rapids. The resolution was forwarded to Coon Creek Watershed District last week. With the withdrawal of Blaine and Coon Rapids, the maximum membership of this organization would be the four cities.

Chairman Gatlin requested input from the member cities as to the feedback from the city officials on the future of the organization.

Hansen stated the feedback from the Columbia Heights City Council had been to remain in the organization and function as the Five Cities WMO. The general discussion was that if any other city withdrew it would need to be revisited, but he does not foresee a decision to sustain membership with four member cities.

Molinaro stated the Hilltop City Council had indicated a desire to remain as a member of the Five Cities WMO.

Rhein stated the Spring Lake Park City Council adopted a motion at the December 6, 2010 City Council meeting to remain a member of the WMO, whether the membership consist of six or five cities. There was not discussion on the direction if the membership were to be less than five cities.

Bahl stated the Fridley City Council had requested the Board representatives for Fridley hold discussions with the surrounding watershed districts; however, these meetings have not yet been scheduled. She stated there was not discussion by the City Council on a membership of four cities, but it becomes less viable as the organization gets smaller and smaller.

Hovland commented that as the membership numbers decrease the administrative costs of the WMO will likely remain about the same to be divided among four cities rather than the current six cities.

Bahl noted that costs have been split by property value with a large portion allocated to Coon Rapids.

Rhein questioned whether BWSR will consider allowing the WMO to remain intact as the Four Cities WMO. Lewis relied that BWSR does not have the authority to expand a watershed over an existing WMO. It is possible for the WMO to remain intact if the organization were to revise the JPA with the opt out clause, with two of the member cities immediately opting out. However, the comment regarding the administrative expenses should be noted and the funding formula in the JPA would need to be looked at, as well as a significant change to the Third Generation Plan.

Lobermeier indicated that a quick review of the elements of the Capital Equipment Program (CIP) for the potential four member cities took the overall value of the CIP from approximately \$2.3 million to approximately \$1 million. The majority of the capital intensive items included in the CIP will move with Blaine and Coon Rapids once they opt out of the WMO. In addition there were significant cost reductions due to the public ditches section of the CIP moving with Blaine and Coon Rapids as well. Based on the draft plan of allocated WMO costs, the cost to the remaining four member cities would be slightly reduced. Lobermeier reviewed the areas of cost reductions identified in the draft allocation of member city costs with membership reduced to the cities of Fridley, Columbia Heights, Spring Lake Park, and Hilltop.

6. DISCUSSION – STATUS OF PLAN/JPA:

Chairman Gatlin requested discussion on whether the WMO intends to complete the Third Generation Plan and amend the Plan once the organization restructures with a reduced membership, or hold on proceeding with the Plan until the Board finishes discussing the future of the organization. He noted that the preference previously discussed was not to proceed with the Plan until the future of the organization is determined.

Lewis advised that the expectation of BWSR is that the Board will make a decision regarding the future of the WMO in January. Her recommendation would be not to proceed with the Plan until the decision has been made.

Discussion ensued on the following issues related to the potential of the WMO continuing with four member cities:

- Restricting the amendment to the WMO boundaries to municipal boundaries rather than sub-watershed boundaries
- Future discussions regarding the working relationship with adjacent watershed organizations
- Potential impact of working with two to three adjacent watershed organizations on staff's workload

Marshall advised that including conditions in the dissolving of the organization could be problematic. He advised that there would be a two step process which consists of dissolving the WMO, as well as each member city actively participating in the process to change the entity that the city's land is incorporated into.

Discussion ensued on the process for dissolving the SCWMO.

Lewis indicated her availability to meet with city administrators or attend city council meetings to answer questions of the member cities.

Consensus was reached that the member cities of Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop are to determine the direction of the city councils based on the current status of the WMO membership with the decision of Coon Rapids to petition for membership in Coon Creek Watershed Management Organization. The January 20, 2011 Board meeting agenda will include the following for consideration: 1) resolution to dissolve the organization; 2) amended JPA with opt out clause.

Rhein requested clarification as to the required timeline for action on the status of the organization. Lewis replied that the expectation is that the Board will have enough information to have a specific timeline with dates, milestones and deadlines for continuing and operating with five or fewer cities. BWSR expects this timeline to be followed. She advised another item of consideration is that if the organization is dissolved or a few members leave the organization changes in taxing must be submitted to the Secretary of State by July 1, 2011.

Lewis noted there has not been discussion today regarding the special taxing legislation previously discussed. It was noted that creating a new taxing authority will not be looked at favorably with the current legislative climate.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Rhein, seconded by Hovland, to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at Coon Rapids City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Gatlin, Chairman

Drafted by: Carol Hamer, Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

>>> "Tim Kelly" <tkelly@cooncreekwd.org> 1/13/2011 1:47 PM >>>
January 14, 2011

Steve Gatlin, Chair
Six Cities WMO
7550 Sunwood Dr NW,
Ramsey, MN 55303

RE: Request for Statement of Concurrence on Proposed Boundary Change between Coon Creek Watershed District and Six Cities Watershed Management Organization

We are requesting a "**Statement Of Concurrence**" from the Six Cities Watershed Management Organization as required under M.S. 103B.215 to be submitted with the petition for boundary change.

Attached is a copy of a DRAFT petition to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) under M.S. 103B.215. The reason for the proposed boundary change is to achieve a more accurate alignment between the hydrologic and legal boundaries of the two Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs).

The Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) Board of Managers hopes to address the final petition at its February 14, 2011 meeting. We are requesting your response **by Friday February 11, 2011**.

If you have questions or concerns please call me at 763-755-0975.

Sincerely,

Tim Kelly
District Administrator

CC: M. Lewis, BWSR
T. Germundson, BWSR