



2241 – 221st Ave
Cedar, MN 55011



Work Session 3 Minutes

3rd Generation Watershed Planning

Date: November 6, 2008
Location: East Bethel City Hall

In Attendance: Mark Walsh, City of Columbus
Denny Peterson, City of Columbus
Kathy Paavola (late arrival), City of East Bethel
Leon Mager, City of East Bethel
Mike Bury (late arrival), City of Ham Lake
Marie Holm, Linwood Township
Frank Kvidera, Linwood Township
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District

Work Session began at 6:00 pm

1. Improving communications with municipalities and correcting miscommunications

It was discussed that improving communications between the WMO and member municipalities is important. At the November 6 public input meeting a city councilperson stated that their city would not allow the SRWMO to gain its own taxing authority. This was surprising to the SRWMO Board because they have not expressed any interest in that authority, and there was concern that this type of misinformation could affect relationships between the SRWMO and the member municipalities. To continually improve communications during the planning process SRWMO members reminded each other that they are important information liaisons to their city. In addition, the SRWMO will do more outreach to involve municipalities throughout the watershed planning process.

2. Review of Public Meeting

Schurbon reviewed input received during the public input meeting on October 30 and comments received in writing. Those present at the October 30th meeting created the following ranking of issues that should be priorities to the SRWMO:

1. Water Quality
2. Sewer
3. Invasive Plants
4. Aquatic Plant Management
5. Education
6. Resident Frustration
7. Construction Site Management
8. Funding
9. Fisheries
10. Mercury Contamination

Additional comments received in writing included encouraging the WMO to adopt a 20% phosphorus reduction goal for the watershed, including provisions to protect groundwater within policies about stormwater infiltration, and including the Friends of the Sunrise River as a stakeholder.

A more detailed summary of all the comments received and actions suggested was provided to the SRWMO Board.

3. Set Priority Issues

The SRWMO ranked issues that should be priorities in the new watershed management plan. Schurbon placed all the issues voiced by the at the Oct. 30 input meeting and the previous SRWMO Board work session on poster boards. Each SRWMO Board member voted on their top two priority issues (using red stickers) and their 3rd and 4th priority issues (using yellow stickers). The resulting priority ranking of issues is:

Priority Rank	Issue	Votes as 1 st or 2 nd Priority	Votes as 3 rd or 4 th priority
1	Water Quality	5	0
2	Septic system compliance	4	0
3	Education	1	5
4	Resident frustrations (similar to education)	1	1
5	Aquatic plants (including both native plant management and invasive species)	1	1
6	Funding	0	2
7	Sewers (a high priority, but will be handled mostly by cities)	0	2
8	Lakeshore restorations	0	1
Issues receiving no votes, but noted either during the input session or earlier SRWMO Board work session			
	Low water in Sunrise River		
	New shoreland ordinances		
	Construction site management		
	Fisheries		
Issues removed from the list			
	Mercury contamination (regional issue)		

4. Create Vision Statements and Goals for Each Priority Issue

For each priority issue the SRWMO Board discussed vision statements and goals. Vision statements are overarching statements about what the Board would like to achieve. Goals

are milestones that the WMO will strive to reach in order to ultimately achieve their vision. The goals are preferably measurable and numeric.

PRIORITY TOPIC #1 – Water Quality

Vision:

- Monitor, maintain or improve water quality, depending upon water body.
- No further deterioration of water quality.

Goals:

- Work toward 20% phosphorus reduction watershed-wide.
- Citizen monitoring of all recreational lakes (gets residents involved and low cost data collection).
- 500 feet of shoreland restorations annually.
- Implement the Martin and Typo Lakes TMDL to work towards the goals set for those lakes.
- Manage rough fish populations that are affecting water quality.
- Partner with lake associations and lakeshore residents (for example funding rough fish control).

Notes:

- The WMO will focus on cleaning up waters, not necessarily doing TMDL studies unless fully funded by outside sources.

PRIORITY TOPIC #2 – Septic System Compliance

Vision:

- All septic systems compliant.

Goals:

- Locate non-compliant systems and provide residents with means to correct the problems including financial or technical assistance. Financial assistance dependent upon outside funding.
- Encourage municipalities to enforce regulations.
- Work in coordination with local units of government toward achieving septic system compliance.

Notes:

- Consider using conductivity meters or other creative means to detect impacts to lakes.
- HRA, MPCA, and community development block grants may have funds for assisting residents with septic system issues.
- Use an incentive (carrot) to get people to respond to voluntary response surveys.

PRIORITY TOPIC #3 – Education

Vision:

- Everyone in the SRWMO (everyone is near water), will receive an educational message about watershed management each year.
- Residents will understand what the WMO is and does, and how to contact.

Goals:

- Improved communications between the SRWMO and municipal staff and officials.
- Residents will easily be able to contact the SRWMO to provide input.
- Utilize city newsletters, websites, newspapers, and local cable to reach many residents.
- Community informational meetings or workshops every other year.

Notes:

- Topics deserving attention for educational efforts include septics, fertilizers, aquatic plant management, and lakeshore restrictions.
- Many educational materials are available from other agencies, and the WMO should utilize these.
- Municipalities have newsletters, websites, and cable TV that could be used.

There was not time at this work session to discuss all of the priority issues, so discussion will resume at the December work session.

Next work session will be Thursday, December 4 at 6:00pm

Work session ended at 8:00 pm

Minutes written by Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District