



2241 – 221<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Cedar, MN 55011



## Work Session 5 Minutes

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Watershed Planning

Date: January 8, 2009  
Location: East Bethel City Hall

In Attendance: Mark Walsh, City of Columbus  
Greg Hunter, City of East Bethel  
Leon Mager, City of East Bethel  
Marie Holm, Linwood Township  
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District

Work Session began at 6:00 pm

#### 1. Revisions to old work, if any

- Schurbon reviewed the work plan calendar in ACD's proposal for assisting with SRWMO planning. We are currently on schedule or slightly ahead of schedule.
- No revisions to old work were suggested at this time.

#### 2. Develop process for setting performance standards

Schurbon was directed to continue with the previously-discussed approach of forming a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to recommend minimum standards for certain municipal ordinances relating to water. We have people willing to serve on the TAC from each of the member municipalities (except Linwood), the Anoka Conservation District, and oversight agencies including the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, MN DNR, MN Pollution Control Agency, and Metropolitan Council. Holm will follow-up on finding someone to represent Linwood Township. Inviting lake associations to the TAC was discussed but it was determined that TAC participants should only be professionals with technical expertise; lake association participation in the planning process has and will continue to occur through other avenues.

At this point, the TAC will be asked to provide recommendations on minimum contents for the following ordinances in member municipalities:

- Erosion and sediment control ordinance
- Shoreland ordinance
- Septic system ordinance
- Storm water ordinance
- Floodplain ordinance

In facilitating the TAC process, Schurbon will use Upper Rum River WMO Standards and member communities' existing ordinances as sources of ideas and phrasing. If appropriate,

consistency with the URRWMO is desirable because Ham Lake and East Bethel have to be in compliance with both WMOs.

### 3. Set action plan for Water Quality

Schurbon reviewed the vision, goals, and policies for water quality that were set at previous work sessions. The following actions were discussed and accepted:

#### PRIORITY TOPIC #1 – Water Quality

Actions:

- Obtain a watershed model that calculates current pollutant exports from the watershed.
- Join and work with the St. Croix Basin Team, a multi-agency group working cooperatively to address water quality issues in the St. Croix River and its tributaries.
- Implement projects and practices recommended in the Typo and Martin Lakes TMDL.
- Implement projects and practices recommended in the Sunrise River TMDL for the SRWMO jurisdictional area. This TMDL is being led by Chisago County.
- Conduct TMDL studies for impaired waters when funding and partnering agencies are in place.
- Perform storm water retrofit reconnaissance in selected locations to identify opportunities to better treat stormwater that is draining directly to Group I waters. This shall include identifying locations where stormwater is draining directly to Group I waters, sketch designs for cost effective projects, and promoting these projects to landowners or municipal officials. The WMO's cost share grant program shall be used to encourage project installation.
- Maintain a cost share grant program to encourage shoreland restorations and other water quality improvement projects on private property, and promote it annually. Grants shall assist with design and installation of projects that will have public benefits.
- Continue professional monitoring of lake and stream water quality as scheduled in the Implementation Plan portion of this document.
- Recruit volunteers, where none already exist, to monitor lake level and Secchi transparency on each recreational lake, including Coon, Linwood, Island, Martin, Typo, and Fawn.
- Play a role advising design of any new storm water systems that would drain directly to lakes. When municipal sewer is added in lakeshore neighborhoods in East Bethel it will likely involve installing new storm water systems. This construction process will be an opportunity to install storm water practices that protect lake water quality.

### 4. Set policies and action plan for:

#### a. Septic system compliance

The policies and actions listed below were accepted.

#### PRIORITY TOPIC #2 – Septic System Compliance

Vision: (discussed at previous work session)

- All septic systems compliant.

Goals: (discussed at previous work session)

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

Policies:

- The SRWMO supports municipal efforts to replace septic systems in shoreland areas with municipal sewer, community septic systems, or new or retrofitted individual septic systems. Neighborhoods of concern include Coon Lake Beach Community, the Interlachen neighborhood in the City of Ham Lake on the south shore of Coon Lake, and the neighborhoods immediately west of Martin Lake.
- The design, installation and inspection of individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS) shall be in conformance with MN Rules Chapter 7080.
- Municipalities must adopt and enforce a septic system ordinance compliant with MN Rules Chapter 7082 and this Plan.
- Pumping and inspections must be done by individuals licensed by the State of Minnesota.
- Municipalities must adopt and enforce a septic system ordinance consistent with the minimum performance standards section of this plan. This includes measures to ensure :
  - all septic systems are pumped every three years unless an inspection finds pumping is not necessary at that time,
  - failing systems are identified through the pumping and/or inspections process that is required every three years, and these systems are corrected,
  - in cases where owners are not providing proper maintenance or correcting non-compliant systems, the municipalities perform the necessary actions and assess the costs to the owner,
  - non-compliant systems are repaired or replaced swiftly, especially in shoreland areas and in cases where the system is an imminent threat to public health.
  - septic system options available to landowners include non-traditional or performance systems, particularly in difficult situations such as properties without space for a replacement drainfield.
  - the above measures may be waived or changed at the municipality's discretion in areas where municipal sewer is being planned for the next 10 years.

Actions:

- Review each member municipality's septic system ordinance for compliance with this Plan.
- Aggressively pursue establishing program to assist residents with replacing or repairing non-compliant septic systems, such as by providing a low interest loans or cost share grants. A county-level program is preferred as a way to maximize efficiency, and the WMO will pursue this avenue with county officials. The first step will be to do a scoping study of similar programs in other counties, options for administering such a program, funding opportunities, and interested partners. Such a program will require financial assistance from grants. Possible grant sources include HRA, MPCA, BWSR, and community development block grants.
- Implement a program to educate homeowners about proper septic system maintenance and assistance available to those with problems. Homes in shoreland

areas shall be target audiences. Possible approaches include widespread distribution of Septic System Owner's Guides (Univ. of MN Extension Service publication), workshops, and others.

Other discussion:

- Any municipal sewer to be installed in East Bethel should perhaps be sized such that it leaves the opportunity to, at a later date, hook up neighborhoods around Linwood and Martin Lakes. Hunter will ask East Bethel's engineer for feedback on what would be required to do this, such as increasing pipe size and costs. East Bethel city administrator Doug Sell stopped by and mentioned that such a possibility should be included in Linwood Township's Comprehensive Plan. Holm indicated she would talk to Linwood Township about including such a phrase in their Comprehensive Plan. Schurbon was directed to get feedback from the TAC on this topic.
- When municipal sewer is added in lakeshore neighborhoods in East Bethel it will likely involve installing curb-and-gutter systems for storm water where none currently exist. This construction process will be an opportunity to install storm water practices that protect lake water quality. The Sunrise River WMO should play a role advising design of any new storm water systems that would drain directly to lakes. This will be added as an "action" item in the "water quality" section of the new SRWMO Watershed Plan.

#### **b. Education**

The policies and actions listed below were accepted.

##### PRIORITY TOPIC #3 – Education

Policies (suggestions from ACD):

- none

Actions (suggestions from ACD):

- At least once per year provide articles, press releases, and other educational materials to regularly circulated newsletters of the members, newspapers, and local cable.
- Maintain the SRWMO website.
- Provide a link on member city websites to the SRWMO website.
- Organize or host workshops on topics of interest, such as septic system maintenance, aquatic plant management, best management practices (BMP's) or others. At least four such efforts shall take place during the 10-year term of this Plan.
- Provide means of public participation with the SRWMO by:
  - Offering an "open mike" during each SRWMO meeting to take public comments.
  - Forming citizen or technical advisory committees to advise the SRWMO. Such committees will be formed as deemed appropriate by the SRWMO Board, and often will be specific to a particular issue.
  - Inviting lake associations to participate in projects or efforts that affect their lake, such TMDL's or promoting lakeshore restorations.

#### **5. Next work session**

Next work session will be Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. A regular SRWMO Board meeting will occur at 5:30pm, immediately followed by a planning work session.

Work session ended at 8:00 pm

*Minutes written by Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District*