



Work Session 6 Minutes

3rd Generation Watershed Planning

Date: February 5, 2009
Location: East Bethel City Hall

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

Work Session began at approximately 7pm, after the regular SRWMO meeting.

1. TAC Update

The first Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be Friday, February 20 from 9 am to 11:30 am at the Anoka Conservation District office. Holm indicated she cannot attend that meeting, but will attend in the future.

2. Optional topics to include in the watershed plan

Schurbon explained that all of the Board's priority topics for the watershed plan have been addressed. He stated there are several other topics which are typically included in watershed plans that the Board should discuss. These topics included water quantity, groundwater, wetlands, upland natural areas, and administration. The Board discussed the first four topics, and had consensus support for the goals, policies, and actions listed below.

a) Water Quantity

The Board discussed flooding problems and determined that none were known in the watershed. Water quantity policies will reflect a desire to prevent future flooding. These flooding prevention policies not need be overly aggressive because of the lack of existing problems, and sandy soils and abundant wetlands that reduce flooding risks.

Goals:

- Avoid future flooding problems. None currently exist.

Policies:

- The WMO encourages maintaining natural water storage areas and preserving all natural basins within the floodplain and prohibits encroachment into the floodways.

- The WMO requires member municipalities to adopt and enforce a floodplain ordinance that is at least as protective as the Anoka County Floodplain Ordinance, Minnesota Rules Chapter 6120.5000, and the standards for floodplain ordinances found in this Plan.
 - *The Board discussed, and decided they do not wish to develop any additional standards for Floodplain Ordinances beyond those stated in the policy above.*
- If FIRM maps for a member community are not available or are claimed to be inaccurate, the SRWMO shall require the regional (100-year) flood elevations for the area to be established by the member community or the proposer of land use alterations. (from URRWMO Plan)
- All member communities within the SRWMO shall adopt a shoreland ordinance in compliance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 6120.2500 through 6120.3900. Linwood Township shoreland areas will continue to be administered by Anoka County. (from URRWMO Plan)
 - The Board discussed, and decided they do not wish to develop any additional standards for Shoreland Ordinances beyond those stated in the policy above. This is partly due to the fact that the State Shoreland Standards, which will apply to all municipalities, are being updated to be more protective.
- Each community will be responsible to perform maintenance measures to assure proper function of public drainage system, with the exception of County ditches which are managed by the Anoka County Highway Department.
- Where practical, stormwater conveyors shall not discharge directly into streams or lakes without at least primary sedimentation in natural or man-made basins.
- The SRWMO requires infiltration of treated storm water whenever a development or redevelopment project increases storm water volume runoff, provided that past and existing land use practices do not have a significant potential to contaminate the storm water runoff and the soil characteristics are suitable for infiltration.
 - This policy statement is copied from the URRWMO Plan.
 - The Board requests that their Technical Advisory Committee recommend infiltration standards.
- The SRWMO requires stormwater discharge volumes and rates in new developments and redevelopment will not to exceed existing rates. This requirement is not site specific, and volume control within a larger common plan or region is acceptable. For specific criteria see the Performance Standards section of this Plan.
 - The Board requests that their Technical Advisory Committee provide:
 - a review of this statement to ensure is practical and workable.
 - recommended standards for volume and rate control.

Actions:

- Member municipalities shall adopt and enforce floodplain, shoreland, and stormwater ordinances consistent with this Plan.

b) Groundwater

Vision:

- Sustainable amounts of groundwater free of contamination.

Goals:

- Complete studies that allow informed decision-making toward sustainable groundwater use.
- No significant groundwater contamination issues.

Policies (suggestions from ACD, *italicized* are from current SRWMO Plan):

- The SRWMO supports long-term efforts to protect groundwater quality and quantity.
- Development projects and stormwater management plans should incorporate techniques that maximize infiltration of precipitation.
- Stormwater infiltration practices shall not infiltrate water from potential stormwater hotspots. Potential stormwater hotspots are defined as a land use or activity that produces higher concentrations of trace metals, hydrocarbons, or pollutants than normally found in stormwater. Examples include fueling stations, vehicle service or washing areas, vehicle fleet storage areas, auto recycling or salvage, stockpiled snow from salted roadways, construction site inputs, manufacturing sites, public works storage areas, facilities that generate or store hazardous waste materials, and others as determined by the municipality or watershed management organization.
 - This statement should be duplicated in the Performance Standards section of this Plan.

Actions:

- Support, financially or otherwise, a multi-agency effort to create an Anoka County Geologic Atlas that will gather new detailed information that will improve protection of groundwater quality and quantity.

c) Wetlands

Goals:

- Identify and protect the highest quality wetlands. The wetland functions and values of greatest importance to the SRWMO are water quality treatment, wildlife, and groundwater recharge.

Policies:

- The Wetland Conservation Act of 1991 and the MN DNR Public Waters and Public Wetlands program are the overriding regulatory programs that address the WMO's goals pertaining to wetlands.
- The SRWMO does not act as the Local Governmental Unit (LGU) for the MN Wetland Conservation Act or 1991. Each of the member municipalities is charged with the LGU responsibility and has the authority to delegate that responsibility to another entity. The entity must agree to accept the LGU designation.
- Member municipalities will adopt and enforce wetland ordinances consistent with the Performance Standards in this Plan.
 - The Board requests that their Technical Advisory Committee recommend wetland standards. The Board favors standards that would be triggered in limited cases. The triggers in the URRWMO standards were discussed favorably and include:

- Subdivision
- Any project with wetland impacts as defined by WCA (Minnesota Rules 8420).
- Wetland excavations >0.5 acres (from URRWMO standards)

Standards that the TAC should discuss include buffers, setbacks, and alterations such as excavations. Board member Hunter voiced concerns about buffer requirements, the benefits of buffers, and whether it is more appropriate to put efforts into reducing the pollutants that buffers are meant to filter. The TAC should examine these questions. For all wetland standards, the Board asks that the TAC set minimums, with room for cities to do more if they choose. The TAC is a recommending body, with final decisions made by the SRWMO Board.

- Member municipalities should consider wetland biotic communities when evaluating water level fluctuation (bounce) in wetlands.
- High priority wetland areas should be protected both in terms of quantity and quality.
- Wetland restoration is encouraged.

Actions:

- Review member municipality ordinances and standards for consistency with this Plan.

d) Upland Natural Areas

Vision:

- High quality natural areas will be protected and have public access.

Policies:

- The WMO strongly encourages the protection of MN DNR classified Natural Communities from future development and public access to these areas.
- The SRWMO encourages protection of high quality natural areas.

3. Next work session

No monthly work session is planned for March. Rather, the TAC will be meeting. The next SRWMO Board work session is likely to be around May. Work at that time will include reviewing TAC recommendations, a draft implementation plan, and administrative policies.

Work session ended at 8:15 pm

Minutes written by Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District