



## Work Session 7 Minutes

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

Date: June 18, 2009  
Location: East Bethel City Hall

In Attendance: Denny Peterson, City of Columbus  
Frank Kvidera, Linwood Township  
Marie Holm, Linwood Township  
Mike Bury, Ham Lake  
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District  
Chad Liston, Linwood Lake Improvement Association (left at 6:45)

Work Session began at approximately 6:20pm, after the regular SRWMO meeting.

1. **Chad Liston of the Linwood Lake Improvement Association spoke.** They would like to become more involved. They should be able to provide volunteers to monitor the lake and inlet streams. He will get volunteers organized under the MPCA's programs. He will also talk with the association about their interest in contributing to a TMDL impaired waters study for the lake in a few years. We also discussed combining lake association events with WMO efforts, such as workshops or neighborhood storm water improvement projects.
2. **The Board reviewed draft watershed plan materials,** including administrative policies, wetland and stormwater standards created by the TAC, and an implementation plan.
  - **Administrative policies** – the following policy was deleted because other policies covered the same topic in a more appropriate manner:
    - Deleted - *Until local water management plans and regulations are adopted that are consistent with the SRWMO Watershed Management Plan, the WMO shall maintain regulatory authority over all development in the watershed area that might affect water resources.*
  - **Stormwater standards** from the TAC – no changes.
  - **Wetland standards** from the TAC – the TAC was unable to decide on the threshold for wetland excavation limitations. After some discussion and considering the points of view voiced by different TAC members, the SRWMO favored the standards to apply to excavations >0.5 acres. Other options, such as following the WCA de minimis of 2500 sq ft or applying the standards to all portions of wetlands scoring high for vegetative diversity may be too restrictive. The Board recognized that WCA rules still apply in all cases, and therefore provide some protections in instances not triggering the SRWMO standards. The

final text is that “Excavations >0.5 acres must be denied for portions of wetlands that score high on the MnRAM vegetative diversity criteria.”

- **Septic system standards** – The Board discussed how state rules were updated in 2008. Municipal ordinances will need to be updated to comply with the new state rules. The state rules align well with the goals the SRWMO had set at previous meetings. The TAC recommended, and the SRWMO Board concurred, that the SRWMO does not need to have its own septic system standards that are more rigorous than state rules.
- **Implementation Plan** – Items covered included proposed work tasks for the next 10 years, estimated costs, and proposed timing. Compared to the current WMO plan, there is a change in focus from monitoring to water quality improvement projects. The text makes it clear that the WMO may need to deviate and that for some tasks funding from grants and partners will be needed. For example, that text states:
  - “The SRWMO will make every effort to adhere to this plan, though it may be necessary to deviate due to environmental, staffing, financial, or logistical reasons, or because new information leads the SRWMO Board to believe that a change is appropriate.”
  - “the SRWMO area is approximately 50% water and wetlands with substantial public lands, and development is scattered rural residential. The tax base is therefore relatively small, while the need for water resource management is significant. Table 2 identifies potential partners and grant sources for projects.”

In the “maintenance” section of the implementation plan chapter, we revisited street sweeping requirements for municipalities. Previously the requirement of street sweeping for curb and gutter streets was a concern for Columbus because they have a very small amount of such streets and it would be quite onerous to do establish sweeping program for such a tiny area. Peterson mentioned that none of these areas are actually within the SRWMO, so no changes to the text are needed from Columbus’ perspective.

### 3. Next work session

A completed draft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Watershed Plan will be completed for the August 6, 2009 regular SRWMO meeting. Schurbon will provide the draft to Board members to review about a week in advance of the meeting. This draft will be reviewed during the meeting and the Board will consider sending it out for the 60-day agency review period. .

Work session ended at 8:20 pm

*Minutes written by Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District*