

Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, June 25, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Heron Lake Watershed District office

Heron Lake, MN

ATTENDANCE

Jerry Ackermann, Mona Henkels, Jerry Christopherson, Matt Widboom, Naomi Hill, Dave Thiner, Jan Voit, and Catherine Wegehaupt

1. Call to Order

Jerry Ackermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were done.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2018 HLWD Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jerry Christopherson and seconded by Dave Thiner to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry Ackermann led a discussion on the HLWD activities including Minnesota Public Radio article, cover crop workshop, legal counsel, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts legislative day, summer intern, and the City of Currie meeting. Catherine Wegehaupt explained the Seward 29 project.

3. HLWD Advisory Committee membership

Paul Pietz has contacted a landowner in Jackson County to fill the seat left vacant by Clarence Madsen. The person declined. Committee members were asked to notify Paul if they had any suggestions for membership.

4. Talking Points

Paul Pietz and Jan Voit discussed the issue of Talking Points. Instead of the two of them developing Talking Points, they believe this should be done by the HLWD Advisory Committee. They will work on ideas for how best to get this information from committee members and provide opportunities for feedback. This may involve a special meeting or meeting for a longer period of time in conjunction with the September meeting.

5. Discussion Items

Jan Voit gave an update on HLWD activities.

HLWD

Cover Crop Meeting

On April 4, 2018, partners in the past and present Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) grants. They discussed what worked, what didn't work, what do you want to see moving forward, ideas for future grants, and the upcoming research effort for cover crop effects on soil moisture and soil temperature in strip till and conventional till.

Legal Counsel

On April 10, 2018, Louis Smith and Elizabeth Henley, Smith Partners; Chuck Brandel, I+S Group (ISG); and Jan Voit met. Chuck Brandel explained the Heron Lake Watershed District's (HLWD)

current drainage projects. Jan explained the HLWD Advisory Committee, rules, Cover Crop Research Project, and current grants. Mike Tow's last day was April 20.

Annual Updates

PowerPoint presentations summarizing 2017 activities to the Murray County Commissioners on May 1, 2018; Nobles County Commissioners on May 8; Jackson County Commissioners on May 15; and Cottonwood County Commissioners on June 5. The HLWD 2017 Annual Report, accomplishments handout, and 2018 Work Plan and Budget, and Judicial and County Ditch Project Summary were distributed. Jim Buschena also attended this presentation.

Public Participation for Watershed Approach

On May 23 and 24, 2018, Jan Voit was invited by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to participate in a team meeting regarding public participation. The meeting involved agency personnel and local government staff. Large and small group discussion was held regarding the value of public participation and the roles of state and local government in the process.

Outreach Peer to Peer Learning Network

The BWSR has requested Jan Voit's membership on a team to provide a platform and structure for local units of government to share experiences working with the public (outreach) to enhance their understanding and application of skills. The first meeting was held via conference call on June 6, 2018.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) Meeting

On June 20, 2018, the MAWA met. Following introductions, the March 7 meeting minutes were approved. Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) gave a legislative update. Kevin Bigalke gave a BWSR update. Discussion was held regarding MAWD committees. Assignments were made. Emily Javens, MAWD gave an update on education, the watershed game, technical training survey, Clean Water Council recommendations, build your own monitoring equipment, Performance Review and Assistance Program, affiliate membership discussion, and MAWD communications. MAWA business items included priorities from watershed districts, government accounting and auditing, MAWD dues, managers' code of conduct, 2018 resolutions, SWCD manager partnership, and discussion topics for the fall meeting.

MAWD Summer Tour

Jim Buschena, Gary Ewert, Bruce Leinen, Wayne Rasche, and Jan Voit attended the MAWD Summer Tour on June 20-21, 2018 in Chanhassen, Minnesota. It began with a boat tour from Harriet Island in St. Paul to the confluence with the Mississippi and back.

The MAWD Summer Tour continued on June 21 with a bus tour led by Carver County Water Management Organization. Morning bus stops included Rietz Lake, Waconia City Hall, and the Community Stormwater Reuse System. Afternoon bus stops included four stations: fisheries, plant management, internal load, and external load. Gary Ewert and Wayne Rasche attended the Leadership Session on June 22 at Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

I+S Group (ISG) Drainage Conference

Time was spent coordinating the speaker schedule with Jerry Ackermann and Tim Hansberger. Jerry's PowerPoint presentation was submitted to ISG on June 25.

Grants

Major Watershed Project (MWP)

One of the requirements for the MWP is the creation of a story map. The use of geographic information system was used to create the story map. It was done through Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) with assistance from MPCA.

The LWG for the West Fork Des Moines River (WFDMR) Major Watershed Project II met on June 14, 2018. Ross Behrends welcomed everyone and described the meeting content. I presented the WFDMR Story Map and asked for input from LWG members by June 22. Katherine Pekarek-Scott gave an update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Joanne Boettcher, MPCA led the attendees through a series of questions and group activities to determine the level of involvement the LWG would like as the WRAPS development proceeds after the grant ends on June 30. MPCA staff will summarize the results of the group discussions and distribute them. A proposed timeline, along with tentative meeting needs will also be provided.

On June 18, 2018, a Des Moines River Watershed Shared Leadership meeting was held at the American Legion in Fulda, MN. The purpose of the this meeting was to bring together elected and appointed officials, as well as the Citizen Council and local work group, for an update on the Des Moines Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report, as well as an introduction to the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) process. There were 33 people in attendance, representing six of the seven counties in the watershed.

The grant ends June 30.

Grant Applications

- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 Grant.* On April 4, 2018, the HLWD was notified that we were awarded an EPA 319 grant for best management practices in the JD 3 watershed. Jan Voit worked with Katherine Pekarek-Scott, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and ISG staff to draft a work plan. The draft document was submitted to EPA on April 23, 2018. On April 27, I was informed that EPA had approved the work plan with no comments. It is rare that EPA sends back a document without asking for additional information or clarification. MPCA was impressed by the work that was done. The next step will be providing even greater detail in the work plan and sending it to the MPCA Contracting Division. No timeframe for this process has been provided. The grant begins in April of 2019.
- *ArcGIS Desktop Advanced.* The HLWD was notified of a grant opportunity through ESRI for ArcGIS Desktop Advanced. To purchase the software, the cost would be \$12,000. Through the grant, the HLWD could get this software for \$200 per computer per year. That is a savings of \$11,800. The grant pricing requires an annual application, review, and approval. In May, the board approved the grant and purchase of the ArcGIS Desktop Advanced and extensions for one laptop computer at a cost of \$200.00.
- *Small Watersheds Focus Grant Program.* The EPA 319 Grant Program is changing. For the next funding round, ten small watersheds will be chosen to develop a detailed work plan, focusing on areas at the HUC 10 or HUC 12 scale. The chosen applicants will be prioritized to receive four, four-year grant awards that will span a total of 16 years. The intent of the program is to provide a steady source of funding, focus implementation efforts, and achieve measureable water quality improvements. The application was submitted on June 1. Further information will be available sometime in July.

Public Drainage Systems

Jackson CD 3

On April 10, 2018, Bruce Sellers submitted the Findings and Order for Jackson CD 3. Time was spent revising the document. It was submitted to Bruce Sellers and Mike Tow for review. The document was revised again. The final version was presented to managers and approved at the April meeting. It was filed with Kevin Nordquist, Jackson County Auditor-Treasurer on April 18.

On May 15, 2018, Alba Grain, Inc. filed an appeal of the establishment of the project and the Appellant's benefits and damages as determined by the project's viewers with the Jackson County Auditor-Treasurer. The court will set a scheduling conference which will provide deadlines for what happens before the trial is held. The HLWD will coordinate with Bruce Sellers as much as possible to avoid duplicating efforts.

Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 3

On May 31, 2018, Jan Voit was invited to meet with the Tim Stahl, Jackson County Engineer; Dave Macek, Jackson County Drainage Inspector; and Kevin Nordquist, Jackson County Auditor-Treasurer. Discussion was held regarding communication, viewers, repairs and maintenance on ditch systems, transfer of authority for JD 3, and consolidation of Projects 4 and 84-4A.

Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 19

On June 12, 2018, Svoboda Excavating was involved in a "near-miss incident" during JD 19 construction. On June 15, I received an email correspondence from Marubeni Power International, Inc. regarding this situation. I immediately contacted Chuck Brandel and Kyle Sammons, I+S Group (ISG). Kyle provided an update on the situation. ISG and Svoboda Excavating met with the windmill company on June 19. A memo summarizing the meeting and describing new processes that will be followed will be provided in the near future.

Dave Thiner explained a proposed lake cleanup project in Fulda.

6. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. was made by Jerry Christopherson and seconded by Mona Henkels. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Naomi Hill

Acting Secretary