

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting  
Minutes July 20, 2020**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2020, at 9:00 am in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room, Murray County Courts Building, Slayton, MN and via teleconference.

**Members Present on-site:** Duane Spartz, James Jens, Dennis Welgraven, Jon Bloemendaal, Jean Christoffels, and Sarah Soderholm

**Others Present via teleconference:** Paul Posthuma, Jon Hoyme, Bob Koehler, Craig Christensen, and John Busman

Sarah called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

**Agenda #1 Approval of Minutes**

**a. 11-07-19 Local Water Management Plan Task Force**

**MSP: John Busman, Jon Hoyme to approve the minutes as written.**

**Agenda #2 Budgets**

**a. 2020 Budget Update**

Jean reviewed the 2020 Actual Budget numbers indicating that there have not been much for expenses other than administrative costs.

VanderZiel project is still in process, waiting for contractor; still planning to complete it this summer with the hope to start soon.

The Prairie Ecology Bus normally is contracted with for a day during the fair, along with the Nitrate Testing. Sarah has contacted them to see if we could still host the bus during a day this summer. Also, could potentially still offer the nitrate testing. The consensus was to

**MSP: Duane Spartz, Jon Hoyme to offer the nitrate testing during a week this summer with drop off at the Government Center.**

Dave Herrig is unable to collect the well water samples this year, so Sarah asked the Task Force Members if they wanted to continue with the sampling. Bob Koehler stated that the testing was started in early 1990's and since the information collected is not complete, it is pretty much anecdotal; it is not valuable information from a scientific standpoint. Duane commented that if you used the results from the first year to last year, they would be basically the same results; the changes noted would be based on wet years versus dry years.

**MSP: Duane Spartz, Dennis Welgraven to discontinue the well water testing.**

Sarah will poll other counties to see what they use their Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) funds for. She is also waiting for the Minnesota Department of Health as to other potential sampling projects the County could invest in.

**b. Proposed 2021 Budget**

Jean reviewed the proposed numbers for the 2021 budget. Jon Bloemendaal wanted to know how relevant the numbers are for the pit tile testing. Bob Koehler felt that the pit tile testing would be more valuable if it was pumped the day before the sampling; his overall view of the testing is that there are too many variables, thus making the information invaluable. Jon Bloemendaal noted that the testing was originally started to appease the public to ensure that the pits are watertight and do not leak; he doesn't feel that the testing is worth the time and costs. The discussion

**MSP: James Jens, Duane Spartz to modify the pit tile testing that is....**

Sarah wondered if the Members would be interested in adding new line items to the budget for 2021 to work towards ...

Craig thought in the Shetek Watershed to construct more dry-dams, especially where culverts go under roads, retrofit the culverts and have them act like a dry-dam. These dry-dams would slow the water down in times of heavy rains. Also, he thought about adding steel plates on the Currie dam... Jon Hoyme noted those are big concerns of the Lake Association, along with the dike improvements. Duane wondered if the dam belongs to the DNR, can the County have any say in changes to it.

Craig also noted that the County has Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monies that could...

Jon Bloemendaal commented about the water retention objective of the Water Plan...

Craig does not have anyone in mind for the dry-dams, just his thought. Every site would be different and there is no way it could be completed this year. In the past, there were letters sent out to landowners to consider water retention projects.

John Busman feels it would be useful to have a map that identifies where the potential water retention structures could be located; solicit an engineering firm to work on this analysis. The whole Des Moines River Watershed has supposedly been looked at for potential water retention locations through the PTMApp (Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application).

**MSP: Jon Hoyme, James Jens to create a line item under Land & Water Treatment.**

**MSP: Duane Spartz, Jon Hoyme to approve the 2021 Budget as amended.**

**Agenda #3 Capacity Grant Update: FY2018-FY2020**

The VanderZiel project is from the FY2018 Capacity Grant and should be completed this year. Once that project is completed, should have approximately \$5,800 leftover.

Kerry Ruppert's land has had severe erosion problems in the past and Craig would like the Members to approve using the leftover funds from FY2018 for this project.

FY2019 funds, dam repair for Earl Johnson family; waiting on engineer's estimate.

FY2020 funds no projects lined up for them yet. Craig noted that his dry-dam idea would not qualify for capacity grant funds.

MSP: Duane Spartz, Jon Hoyme to approve using the leftover FY2018 funds for the Kerry Ruppert grassed waterway project.

#### **Agenda #4 Murray County Water Planning Updates**

##### **a. Native Shoreline Vegetation Incentive Program Update**

To date, the County has received two applications for the program with this year's request being quite large, requesting the maximum \$1,000 cost share. The one from last year is looking to expand their request with additional areas being added.

##### **b. Watershed Planning Update**

The Missouri River 1W1P is officially in implementation – \$1.3 million dollars to use over the next two years. Projects have been prioritized and ...

The Redwood-Cottonwood the TMDL's are on ....

The Des Moines River Watershed, the largest watershed of the County, the ????, the 1W1P planning grant application was submitted in June and the decision should be made in August. A competitive process as there were 9 applications submitted and they are unable to fund every project.

#### **Agenda #5 Next Meeting/Adjourn**

None

**MSP: Duane Spartz, Dennis Welgraven to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels  
Secretary, Murray County Environmental Services