

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting  
Minutes November 7, 2019**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 9:30 am in the Court's Meeting Room, Murray County Courts Building, Slayton, MN.

**Members Present:** Duane Spartz, Paul Posthuma, Jon Hoyme, Rick Parker, Robert Koehler, John Busman, James Jens, Dave Thiner, Lori Gunnink, Dennis Welgraven, Jon Bloemendaal, Justin Hoffmann, Melissa Runck, Shelly Lewis, Craig Christensen, Jean Christoffels, and Sarah Soderholm

**Others Present:** Doug Goodrich - BWSR, Catherine Wegehaupt – Heron Lake Watershed District

Sarah called the meeting to order.

**Agenda #1 Approval of Minutes**

**a. 04-09-19 Local Water Management Plan Task Force**

**MSP: Duane Spartz, John Busman to approve the minutes as written.**

**Agenda #2 Proposed Project for local Water Quality Funds**

Catherine Wegehaupt submitted a request for Murray County's water quality funds for sediment removal at Schindler's Pond by Fulda. The pond is just northwest of Fulda lake. The small dam structure was installed to settle out any sediment before the water enters the lake. In 2004-2005, Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) paid for the cleanout of the pond. It has silted back in and the HLWD's budgets are very tight, so they are looking for funds to help with the cleanout costs. To date, they have dedicated funds from the Fulda Game & Fish and the Murray Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). The estimated cost is \$15,000, of which they have \$6,000 committed towards the project.

HLWD owns land upstream from this pond, which they cleaned out two years ago. Additionally, this private pond is not on the public drainage system, and the landowner tried to sell it to HLWD but they do not have funds to purchase it. No fund commitment by the landowner.

**MSP: Dave Thiner, Lori Gunnink to approve and authorize \$6,000 of the Murray County Water Quality Funds for 2020 be designated for the Schindler's Pond sediment removal project.**

**Agenda #3 Proposed Project(s) for Capacity Grant**

Craig explained that they do not have any cost estimates yet for multiple projects they are looking at in the Lake Shetek watershed. One is a potential dam repair on Earl Johnson's property and others are for gully erosion problems. Water storage has been a priority for previous County Commissioners, and it is a priority for the new lake association. The cost share for capacity grant projects is 75/25 with the landowner responsible for 25% of project costs.

Priority areas discussed and agreed upon were water storage/retention ponds and then erosion, depending on funding availability.

**Agenda #4 2019 Budget Update**

The current 2019 budget report, through October 30, 2019, shows a carryover of \$22,652.12; not very many wells were sealed this year.

### **Agenda #5 Proposed 2020 Budget**

The State no longer requires the County to show the match requirement for the NRBG (Natural Resources Block Grant). With the \$22,652.12 carryover from 2019, the drafted 2020 budget shows a carryover of \$2,432.12 at the end of 2020. The Committee reviewed the proposed 2020 budget numbers with some brief explanations of the different programs supported.

**MSP: John Busman, Jon Hoyme to approve the 2020 Budget as proposed.**

#### **a. Proposal for FY2020 Capacity Grant**

As in the previous two years, the SWCD is again requesting matching funds from the county for water quality projects; the State will pay up to \$14,400 for FY2020 Capacity Grant so long as the county matches up to that amount. The grants must be used within two years and currently SWCD has about 20 projects waiting for designing and funding. The capacity grant funds are from the state Clean Water Funds.

**MSP: Duane Spartz, Rick Parker to approve and designate up to \$14,400 of Murray County Water Quality Funds for the FY2020 Capacity Grant.**

### **Agenda #6 FY2018/FY2019 Capacity Grant Update**

The VanderZiel project, that was approved using the FY2018 Capacity Grant Funds, has not been started; the landowner plans to have it started and completed in 2020.

### **Agenda #7 Murray County Water Planning Updates**

#### **a. Well Sealing Update**

There were two wells from 2018 that were held over to 2019; one of those has been submitted to the Auditor's Office for payout and the other contract was withdrawn – landowner decided not to have the well sealed. For 2018, there were 19 wells sealed for a total cost share of \$7,375. For 2019, there were three applications and all three are in the process of being paid out for a total cost share of \$1,200.

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

The program was promoted through discussions with landowners as well as through a flyer Sarah created. A webpage for the program is in the construction phase and will hopefully be completed during the winter months. One cost share application was received with a project cost of \$275 equaling a cost share of \$206.25.

For shoreland projects that incorporate native vegetation, this program will pay 75% of the plant costs, no labor costs at this time. The program is available for any project on any lake in the county. Jon suggested Sarah look into the pollinator program.

#### **c. Water Quality Testing Update**

In July, Sarah tagged along with Dave Herrig for the testing of 20 wells in the county, which is ¼ of all wells tested. A copy of the results was supplied to the committee members.

For the nitrate testing at the County Fair, there were 45 samples run, which is the second highest in the last five years; a summary of the results was reviewed with the committee members. New people brought in samples this year and then Sarah was interviewed on the radio the day of the clinic, which may have contributed to the higher volume of people bringing in samples.

Sarah and Jon conducted the sampling of the perimeter tiles of 37 pitted barns this year. Quite a few were dry and there are 10 of the ones on this year's list that will be moved over to the dry barn list where they are then tested less frequently because they have been dry repeatedly.

Well water results are kept from year to year, but Sarah was not aware of the information collected about the specific usage of each well.

#### **d. Watershed Planning Update**

Both the Redwood and the Cottonwood watersheds are planning jointly on their Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) drafts with the first draft of both just released for review. They are also working on a subwatershed analysis that identifies priority problem areas based on local priorities.

The Missouri River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the end of October. The next steps are to finalize the organizational structure and then move into implementation, which includes looking at project prioritizing. Although not final, it appears that the Missouri 1W1P may get \$1.32M for projects every two years.

The Des Moines River (DMR) watershed has begun preliminary planning meetings for a One Watershed One Plan for the watershed. Most of the 15 entities involved have adopted resolutions to plan with application submittal possibly late winter. Murray County has agreed to take on the lead for the day to day activities involved with the planning process. The Committee will want to think about whom from this committee would be willing to serve on the Advisory Committee for the DMR 1W1P.

Thank you to John Busman for serving on the Missouri River 1W1P Advisory Committee representing the Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force!

Jon Hoyme, as a member of the new Shetek Area Lake Association (SALA), extended an invitation for anyone to join or attend their monthly meetings; they meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp.

Doug Goodrich commended the Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force for their commitment to improving water quality in the county through their attendance and participation at these meetings.

#### **Agenda #8 Next Meeting/Adjourn**

None.

**MSP: Duane Spartz, John Busman to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels  
Secretary, Murray County Environmental Services