

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting
Minutes January 18, 2017**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 1:30 pm in the Courts Meeting Room, Murray County Courts Building, Slayton, MN.

Members Present: Craig Christensen, Bob Koehler, Jay Takle, John Busman, Glenn Kluis, Larry Byers, Rick Parker, James Jens, Dave Thiner, Jon Bloemendaal, Dave Kremer, Paul Posthuma, Jean Christoffels, and Ken Bickner

Others Present:

Ken called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. He also asked for any additions or corrections to the December 14, 2016, Local Water Management Plan Meeting Minutes.

MSP: Jay Takle, Glenn Kluis to approve the December 14, 2016, minutes as written.

With there being a new Task Force Member, introductions were conducted of all in attendance.

Agenda #1 Final 2016 Budget

Ken presented the final 2016 Budget Report indicating there will be a carryover of \$1,533.10; two wells were sealed in 2016, however, the cost share will not be paid until 2017. Additionally, there was an expense for the 4-H camps, but the reimbursement for that will not occur until 2017.

MSP: Rick Parker, Bob Koehler to accept the final 2016 Budget.

Agenda #2 Approve 2017 Budget

After entering in the final 2016 budget numbers, the budget for 2017 will be a negative \$1,530.90. Ken noted there were errors in the carryover amounts from previous years' budgets. The budgeted amount for 4-H is \$1,200 to account for 2016 and 2017. The well water testing is only about half of the previous years due to the fact that there will only be ¼ of the wells tested each year. Also, well water testing is listed under Education/Information because the results are only used locally for information since the State will not accept the results without knowing the well locations.

Discretionary funds are monies that could be used for Beaver Creek Watershed Projects, such as water retention or rip rap projects; would help assist with engineering costs for the projects. Other budgetary savings could be realized by adjusting well seal dollars by amending the amount available, or changing the cost share; Ken handed out possible options for cost share.

The question was raised as to whether the budget needed to be in the black; Ken would feel more comfortable if it was, but it is not necessary.

Jean Christoffels moved, seconded by James Jens to set the well seal cost share at 50% up to a maximum of \$350.00. Motion failed.

Jon stated the reason for the cost share increase last year was due to the fact that the costs to seal wells had been going up and the Committee wanted to assist with the increased costs. The application process for well sealing will be changed where landowners must apply for, and be approved, for the cost share prior to sealing.

MSP: Jon Bloemendaal, Dave Kremer to approve the 2017 Local Water Management Plan Budget as presented.

Agenda #3 Review 2017-2027 Murray County Local Water Management Plan

Ken distributed a letter from Doug Goodrich, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board Conservationist regarding his review of the drafted plan, as well as a meeting held with Ken and Jean.

Craig commented that on page six of the draft document, the SWCD accomplished more than what is identified in the plan; what's listed is only about what is done in a year, not what has been completed since the last update. Ken will get the list from Craig and incorporate that into the body of the plan.

Rick questioned if the County will be moving forward with the inspections of septic systems at the time of property transfers. Jean explained that was a recommendation that came from the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update, approved in 2016. The County will be reviewing ordinances in 2017 and will decide whether or not to re-instate the requirement; if it is re-instated, it would not take effect until 2018.

John Busman asked if County tiles are mentioned in the Plan as he feels the tiles should be monitored with possible management practices put in place. Ken stated every water in Murray County that has been tested is considered impaired. He included testing in the Plan as an objective as the County needs to understand where the impairments are coming from. Jay questioned whether any other agency samples ditches; he thought there was sampling being done near Currie. Jon commented on how many different agencies were sampling and didn't share information, which was frustrating.

The review of the Plan continued by looking at each of the many objectives, with some discussion on individual ones.

Dave Kremer suggested something be in the Plan that requires the State to take care of the State Park shoreline that continues to erode.

Streambank stabilization projects have recently been held up by the DNR as they have not been allowing work to be done within the streams. Craig noted J-Hooks have been more acceptable practices for stabilization rather than rip rap, because the hooks are a cheaper alternative.

The recorded depth of Lake Shetek in the Plan is four feet; Ken will double check on the accuracy of the depths of both Lake Shetek and Lake Sarah.

Dave Thiner noted the project to connect the Avoca County Park to the Avoca city sewer is scheduled to be done this year, but it would not cost near \$240,000 as noted in the Plan. The City of Currie may also be looking at a sewer project in the near future, which would include connecting End-O-Line Park to the city sewer. Lime Lake Dam replacement was also added to the Plan; if included in the Plan, it increases its chances of being funded.

Red Rock Rural Water will be putting in a new well field south of Dovray that has one or two building sites adjacent to the well site, and if Red Rock connects them to their well, then the existing wells on their building sites should be properly sealed. Jay stated that they are in the process of identifying the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). Craig added that there will be observation wells installed in the wetlands adjacent to the new field to determine if the new well will draw down the wetlands.

Ken commented that there are potential areas for retention basins. On Page 13, Jon asked how Ken identified the locations for the potential retention basins. Ken stated that Chris had a few listed, otherwise, Ken found the others. Jean noted they will be removing the actual property identities from the Plan and make it more generalized as to the number of potential projects.

Regarding the wetland restoration project in Belfast Township, Craig is approximately 90% sure it will happen, just waiting for approvals. There is a project in Shetek Township near Clear Lake that the land surrounding the lake is all in RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota).

Pages 15 and 16 list the objectives of the Plan along with an estimated costs associated with each one, including who is responsible to work on the objectives and where funding would come from.

There will be a technical meeting with the State Agencies on January 31st, to review their comments and concerns, which will be incorporated into the next draft to be reviewed by this Task Force before the Plan is sent out for public hearing and public comment.

Agenda #4 Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017, at 1:30 pm.

MSP: Paul Posthuma, John Busman to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Secretary, Murray County Environmental Services