

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting
Minutes April 9, 2019**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 9:00 am in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Murray County Government Center, Slayton, MN.

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

Others Present: Doug Goodrich

Sarah called the meeting to order.

Agenda #1 Approval of Minutes

a. 11-29-18 Local Water Management Plan Task Force

A correction was given via email to change "due" to "do" in the seventh paragraph of the second page.

MSP: Dave Kremer, Paul Posthuma to approve the minutes with the one correction.

Agenda #2 Final Draft of Native Shoreline Vegetation Incentive Program

Page 2 of the program document, under Option 2, remove the word "either".

Sarah asked if the Committee had any other suggestions for review criteria; there were none.

For the application form, Sarah asked if the Committee would welcome the addition of contract termination terms. Payment would not be made to the landowner until the project was completed and receipts turned in to the County; the liability would be on the landowner if they do not follow through. The benefit of having the termination terms would be that funds would be held aside for a project; we wouldn't want to hold it indefinitely. The program would run like the well seal program.

Planning for a native planting would typically happen in the fall to spring with a late spring or early summer planting. Craig added that a dormant seeding could be done in the fall.

Craig thought it would be good to have those terms in the application to avoid carryover indefinitely.

Lori questioned where it said reimbursement would occur after completion. Sarah said it was not specifically mentioned in the documents; she will add it.

If there are any changes in the project costs from the time they are approved, the applicant must obtain approval of those changes from the Environmental Office or they risk not being fully funded for their actual project costs.

Sarah also included a couple lists of native plants from the DNR "Restore Your Shore" website; there are many more native plants lists available. Also included was an example of an actual project with costs, and before and after photos from another county with an established native plant program.

Doug noted that if the County would be putting in a lot of time and effort into tracking these projects, maybe just use a flat rate for reimbursement. Sarah noted there is not a lot of administrative costs expected with this program since we already do inspections of shoreline projects before, during and after. This program would be incorporated into the existing shoreline work handled by the County. James felt it should be left as proposed because if it is successful, it will grow.

John Busman questioned what project materials are on the cost examples. Sarah thought it would be erosion control measures such as core logs to stabilize the shore or the bank; we want to make sure they use proper erosion control measures when working on their shorelines.

For the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan form, Sarah asked if herbicides should be allowed for weed control. Rick does not like to see chemicals going into the lake. Duane wondered how anyone would know if spray is used. Bob questioned whether the O&M is handled by the landowner or a hired contractor in the counties with an existing program. Sarah said it could be handled either way. There are water-safe herbicides that can be used.

Information about this program would be promoted to landowners via a special webpage on the county's website, as well as face to face contact with the landowners, flyers, newspaper articles, and the office's fair booth. Additionally, could send out with sewer utility bills, SWCD's yearly newsletter in December, and in the Lake Association's newsletter.

Jon Bloemendaal asked how many projects are expected. Sarah thought maybe a couple this summer due to the lateness of the program approval. There has been interest in native plantings, especially with last year's flooding. It all depends on timing and finances. To mandate native plantings when doing shoreline projects, there would need to be a requirement in the zoning ordinance.

Jon Bloemendaal said that if they want to allow sprays to be used, then note it must be aquatic-safe chemicals; do not supply a list of suggested chemicals as that may place a liability on the County. The consensus was to leave the choice for spraying weeds in, but re-word for aquatic-safe chemicals.

With the inclusion of the end date in the application form, the statement "The cost-share funds will expire two years from the date signed." on the reimbursement form will be removed.

Inspections will be conducted the first, third and ninth year of the program based on the 10-year program.

MSP: Duane Spartz, Jon Hoyme to approve and recommend approval to the Murray County Board of Commissioners the Native Shoreline Vegetation Incentive Program as discussed and amended.

Agenda #3 Murray County Water Planning Updates

a. Capacity Grant Update

Richard Vander Ziel's pond repair is all designed and should be completed this summer. Since contractor bids came in \$10,000 higher than the original TSA engineer estimates, the contract was amended at the March SWCD Board Meeting. The reason for the higher amount was due to increased costs and lack of contractors; three bids given and the lowest one was \$40,220. The cost-share amount is \$30,165.

Left in the grant is \$3,862, plus \$28,800 for the new capacity grant. The TSA is swamped and once they are caught up, added projects will be requested.

Missouri River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

John Busman and Dennis Welgraven have been taking part in the planning process, along with Sarah, Jean and Craig. Public Hearings will be set soon, and the proposed plan will be placed on the county's website for anyone to review and supply comments. This watershed is in the southwest corner of the county and only encompasses 12% of the county.

Agenda #4 Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed for project and budget approvals.

MSP: Duane Spartz, Lori Gunnink to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Secretary, Murray County Environmental Services