

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting
Minutes November 29, 2018**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 9:00 am in the Courts Meeting Room, Murray County Courthouse, Slayton, MN.

Members Present: Bob Koehler, James Jens, Glenn Kluis, Jon Hoyme, Justin Hoffmann, Howard Konkol, Duane Spartz, Dave Thiner, Paul Posthuma, Craig Christensen, John Busman, Rick Parker, Dave Kremer, Merri Post, Jean Christoffels, and Sarah Soderholm

Sarah called the meeting to order.

Agenda #1 Approval of Minutes

a. 09-27-18 Local Water Management Plan Task Force

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

Agenda #2 Proposed Project for local Water Quality funds

Howard explained that he is looking for funding assistance to remove vegetation and sediment from behind the outlet structure of Summit Lake, aka Hadley Lake. It is an ongoing problem that is getting to be too much for the City and they have asked for assistance. DNR has reviewed and approved a permit for removal of the vegetation and sediment 100 yards from behind the structure.

Back in August, the cost estimates were \$20 per yard plus removal costs; total estimated cost would be approximately \$3,000. Howard requested Local Water Plan funds used for water quality projects as this project would help alleviate vegetation and sediment going down the intake into the tile system and outletting into the unnamed tributary that flows into Beaver Creek.

Duane questioned if the request is for 100% payout of the project with no funds coming from the landowners or the City. Sarah pointed out the Committee does not have to fund the total amount, could do a partial funding of the project with the balance of the costs paid by the City and the eight landowners on the ditch system. Standard cost share funding usually includes the landowner paying 25% of the project. Howard asked for the Committee to consider a 75/25 cost share.

After vegetation and sediment is removed, will that prevent it from filling back in? How long before the sediment and cattails return? Part of the problem is the county owned structure, built in 1986, outlets into the tile that was undersized and is located under the county road; there is nothing wrong with the ditch system itself.

Craig wondered if rock, placed around the structure in a horseshoe shape, would provide a better way to slow down the sedimentation. The DNR said it would take more planning and engineering for that; they agreed to the project as submitted with the agenda.

MSP: Duane Spartz, Dave Thiner to approve a 50% cost share for the removal of the accumulated sediment and vegetation build-up from behind the outlet structure of Summit (Hadley) Lake, using budgeted water quality project funds.

Agenda #3 Second Draft of Native Shoreline Vegetation Incentive Program

An updated draft of the Native Shoreline Vegetation Incentive Program was provided to the Committee Members. Through visits with lake lot owners after the recent flooding, Sarah noted there is interest for this program, which she expects to see more shoreline projects in 2019 because of the flooding. The native plants would be a variety of grasses, plants, shrubs, trees; the DNR has a large list of these that are good for shorelines based on many different characteristics ranging from height to color of the plants. There are also smaller lists for specific natives for steep shorelines, ice ridges, and bad erosion issues.

Sarah has been using Stearns and Becker counties' programs as models for Murray's; both programs started out funding smaller projects. The Murray County Zoning Ordinance defines a steep slope as one greater than 12%; which is where natives would provide the greatest benefit. However, natives provide many benefits, and would not want to discourage their use on any other shoreline projects.

Currently other counties record deed restrictions for their native planting programs, but this program would not due to the size of the anticipated projects. Maybe in the future, if the projects increase in size, the need for deed restrictions would be realized. In all projects, large or small, there would still be a 10-year life span with a required operation and maintenance plan; it would be designed like a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the chance outside funding sources would be needed in the future.

The goal is to create the program and get initial projects funded so others can see the benefits and hopefully create more interest; would like to get it finalized for roll-out in April. This is only the second draft, so it is still in the development phase.

This program would not eliminate the use of rip rap or other shoreline stabilization practices, but it would encourage more use of native plants along with those other practices. Native plants are costlier to use, so the hope is the cost share will make it more feasible for landowners to plant them. Projects could include the addition of native plants amongst or above the rip rap, or maybe even for aquatic plants; it would all depend on the characteristics of the shorelines and landowner preference.

Comparatively, a root system on turf grasses is roughly from 2-6 inches whereas the root system on native plants and grasses can be six feet in depth. Native plant root systems are the better choice for steep slope shoreline stabilization projects.

Dave Kremer feels most landowners around the lakes ~~due~~ do a pretty good job of protecting their shorelines, but the DNR has some major shoreline issues on theirs that they should take care of.

Funding for this program was previously discussed by the Committee to use the dollars the Commissioners set aside each year for additional water quality projects. For 2019, there is approximately \$26,000 remaining of these funds since the Committee approved using up to \$14,400 for the FY2019 Capacity Grant Match.

The consensus of the Committee was to direct Sarah to continue developing the program using a 75% cost share, with a not to exceed \$1,000 per project. With these parameters, if \$10,000 is designated for this program, ten projects could be funded at the maximum amount. It is hard to determine the amount of interest until the program is rolled out. Once started, Sarah noted the Committee should continually commit dollars to the program to ensure continuity. Additionally, the Committee wants the life span of the projects to be ten years, which Sarah will include a contract requirement that if the native planting project is not kept for the life span, the landowner would be financially responsible up to 150% of the cost share to the County.

Agenda #4 Murray County Water Planning Updates

a. Well Sealing Update

Twenty contracts were received for 2018 for a total of \$7,875, which is basically using up the full amount budgeted for well sealing this year; only half of the contracts have been paid thus far.

b. Missouri River 1W1P

The final two sections of the Missouri 1W1P will be reviewed by the Policy Committee in December with the next step being the plan put on notice for public comment. An approved plan is anticipated in 2019, which will then allow implementation of the plan to begin after that.

c. Redwood-Cottonwood WRAPS

A final draft of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is scheduled to be completed in December for the Redwood River, with the Cottonwood River to follow not long after that. The WRAPS documents will be done shortly thereafter as they have been worked on simultaneously, just waiting on some stressor data from the MPCA. The tentative plan is to move into a 1W1P for the Redwood-Cottonwood in 2021-2022.

d. Des Moines River WRAPS

Two sections of the WRAPS document have been reviewed and the draft is set to be completed in 2019. The TMDL is still in development phase as there were some staffing issues with the MPCA, which has caused a delay in the draft. Based on these documents, the discussion has been to move into the planning phase for 1W1P for this watershed in 2020-2021.

Jon Hoyme informed the Committee of the newly created Shetek Area Lake Association, which is a non-profit organization with an 11-person Board. Meetings of this Association will occur on the third Tuesday of each month and they are willing to work with the Water Plan Committee on projects, especially education. The initial motivation of the Association was this year's flooding and would welcome anyone to become a member or attend the meetings, not just those property owners around the lakes.

Agenda #5 Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be some time in March to finalize the native planting program; Sarah will send a doodle-poll to schedule the meeting.

MSP: Paul Posthuma, Duane Spartz to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Secretary, Murray County Environmental Services