

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kurt Beckstrom, Carly Johnson, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Melissa Lewis, MPCA; Marcelle Lewandowski, University of Minnesota Extension; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Rich Sve

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Brett Arne, David Copeland, Craig Engwall, Ryan Hughes, Chris Pence, Marcey Westrick, Steve Christopher, Annie Felix-Gerth, Shaina Keseley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jan Voit, MAWD; Amanda Bilek

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Van Amburg noted a change in the agenda. The Central Region Committee item has been moved to be the first item under the Committee Recommendations. Stated there is a RIM Committee meeting scheduled for November 16, at 10:00 a.m.

22-45 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Eunice Biel, seconded by Jill Crafton, to adopt the agenda as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Jill Crafton noted a correction in the minutes on page four to change the word “invasive” to “interested.”

22-46 **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

Chair Van Amburg stated the agenda is shortened to accommodate BWSR Academy taking place today.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher presented the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) was established in 1985 through a joint powers agreement. The vision of the BDWMO is that water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and aesthetic beauty in order to contribute to the well-being of the citizens within the watershed. The BDWMO encompasses approximately 26 square miles in northwestern Dakota County, covering parts of the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville. The BDWMO is bound by Scott County to the west, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the north, Eagan-Inver Grove Watershed Management Organization to the northeast, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the southeast. The majority of the watershed is fully developed and outlets through the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to the Minnesota River, with a small portion of the watershed that outlets towards the Credit River.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The BDWMO initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in mid-2020 soliciting input from its stakeholders, interviewing the member cities and Dakota County, convening a Technical Advisory Committee, as well as holding a virtual public kickoff meeting. They also provided a resident survey between February 2021 and May 2021. During the initial steps of the plan process, the BDWMO completed an analysis of water quality and lake characteristics.

Through the process identified above, the BDWMO identified the following as their highest priority issues:

- Water quality
 - Stormwater runoff quality
 - In-lake water quality o Impairments (Keller Lake)
- Lake ecology and habitat
 - Habitat quality
 - Invasive species management
- Groundwater management
 - Pollution prevention
 - Conservation and sustainability
- Education and Engagement

Additional priority issues include flooding & water levels, wetland management and upland and natural area management.

The BDWMO largely utilizes city implementation for resource improvement, however this Plan increases the cooperation among the member cities as well as the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County. Some examples include recruiting volunteers for water resource management activities (such as citizen monitoring and shoreline cleanup), engaging residents at community events to share information, and supporting workshops for design of residential stormwater BMPs and other stewardship activities.

The implementation of this plan is broken down into five strategic waterbodies and their watersheds:

- Crystal Lake
- Keller Lake
- Kingsley Lake
- Lac Lavon
- Orchard Lake

The BDWMO has demonstrated success in delisting waters such as Crystal Lake, Lee Lake, and Early Lake for excess nutrients. A considerable amount of focus in the new Plan is on improving Keller Lake which is currently impaired for excess nutrients. Targeting efforts along with increased funding availability from the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program should position the BDWMO well in addressing the resource needs of the watershed.

Jayne Hager Dee stated she's a member of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board where they work with this WMO and stated they do a really good job.

Jill Crafton stated she likes the emphasis on education and engagement and thought this was well done.

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22-47 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Marcey Westrick presented the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP).

Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and

globally. This cost-share grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if this like the Lawns to Legumes Program except on bigger plots of land. Marcey stated they are similar, these clientele are local governments where the Lawns to Legumes program is for both individual landowners and then local governments, and bigger plots. Jayne asked if its only public landowners included and not private landowners. Marcey stated the grants will go to local governments who would then do cost share contracts with public and private landowners.

Jill stated there are technical people from Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other watershed management groups that can provide more technical assurance and thought that was a strength.

Kelly Kirkpatrick stated this is a good plan.

John Jaschke stated Carlton SWCD has a growing program with lots of interest from citizens.

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22-48 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP). ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria – Annie Felix-Gerth and Shaina Keseley presented the Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria.

The Legislature appropriated \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund “for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.” The two fiscal year appropriations are combined for this RFP. The Grants Program and Policy Committee recommended the policy and RFP criteria at their meeting on October 24.

Jill Crafton stated she is not opposed to money going to the groups but has some concerns about the technical quality assurance and the criteria. Annie stated this particular pilot and appropriation is a chance to reach out to gain new partners in the work they do around conservation. John stated they have grant agreements and mechanisms in place and will review credentials.

Chair Van Amburg asked about the statement where it mentions BWSR staff may review the qualifications of all persons, if that means they may or may not review it depending on circumstances or asked how it should be taken. Annie stated that it’s a case-by-case decision where it depends on what the project proposal is, what they are proposing to do, and if there is a standard. Stated it’s specific to technical applications. John Jaschke stated they need to see what kind of projects they are and how they’re working; if there are problems they can adapt and address them.

Jill Crafton asked if we could see an example of an agreement. John Jaschke stated they could share an existing grant agreement and work plan that they use now. Stated these new projects will have a custom fit grant agreement and they’ll need to work on it to be both properly legal and practical.

Chair Van Amburg stated it will bring a new level of accountability and applaud their effort. Stated it’s a good pilot to find new partners for clean water efforts.

Thom Petersen asked who will do the grant selection process. Annie stated it would be done similarly to the competitive grants process. Eligible applications go before an interagency and external group that will go through the ranking and reviewing process. They will provide their recommended scores to the Grants Program and Policy Committee and then to the Board.

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22-49 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Carly Johnson, to approve the Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Chair Van Amburg asked for a count of the votes. Rachel Mueller stated there were 16 yes and 3 no votes.

Jill Crafton stated she is not opposed to the program but could not support it with how it was written.

Northern Region Committee

Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Neil Peterson, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes presented Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in Northwest Minnesota encompassing portions of Clearwater, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On September 27, 2022, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On October 5, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton stated she thought this was excellent.

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22-50 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Todd Holman, Chris Pence, and Ryan Hughes presented Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Long Prairie River Watershed Partnership (LPRWP) was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning grant by the Board on August 26, 2020. The LPRWP organized their planning process through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The membership of the LPRWP includes Douglas County, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Todd County, Todd SWCD, Morrison County, Morrison SWCD, and the West Ottertail SWCD.

The Long Prairie River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (Plan) effort formally began in March 2021 with a public kickoff event held online followed by a Citizen Advisory Committee meeting in April. At

these meetings, participants learned about the watershed and planning process and had a chance to offer input by discussing potential issues and opportunities for the Plan to address. Highlights of the Plan are included in the draft Order for Board consideration.

On September 23, 2022, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments from the 60-day review period. During final state agency review, DNR, MPCA, MDH, and MDA replied that they had no additional comments and supported approval of the plan. The EQB did not provide comments.

At the Northern Regional Committee on October 5, 2022, the Long Prairie River Partnership presented a final plan that addressed all comments from stakeholders and the state review agencies. Board staff recommended Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board.

If approved by the Board, this plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until October 26, 2032.

Chair Van Amburg stated its good to hear that these plans are going smoothly, and the different groups are working together well.

Jayne Hager Dee stated we are seeing better plans as we go on.

Todd Holman stated they worked hard to not only to illustrate what they're going to do but to quantify what they're going to do in a one-year or a five-year scope.

Jill Crafton stated she is impressed with the willingness to include things relevant to the climate action plan and was impressed how it was tied together.

Joe Collins stated he appreciates that the plan identifies four different planning regions.

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22-51 Moved by Kurt Beckstrom, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

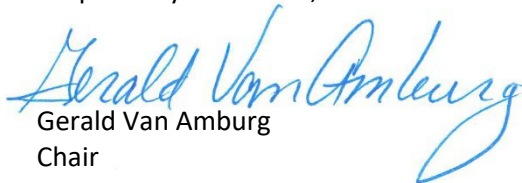
John Jaschke stated Snapshots are available in the day-of packet. He also stated board appointment applications can be made through the Secretary of State's office for positions that are becoming open.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wetland Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on November 15, 2022.
- RIM Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on November 16, 2022.
- Next BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 15, 2022 in St. Paul and virtually.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald Van Amburg
Chair