

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING June 16, 2020

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) met virtually via Zoom due to the State guidance for meetings during the pandemic.

Board Managers Present:

Joe Reymann, Chair	Appointed by City of Eagan
Sharon Lencowski	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Sarah Saito	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Appointed by City of Eagan

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher	Resource Conservationist, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
Steve Dodge	Assistant City Engineer, City of Inver Grove Heights
Eric Macbeth	Water Resources Manager, City of Eagan

I. Call to Order

Chair Reymann called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Reymann, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the agenda with addition of item 8, Master Water Stewards Program. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes of February 4, 2020 Meeting**
- B. **Invoices for Payment**
- C. **June 16, 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Summary**
- D. **Audit Report for 2019**

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

IV. Lower MN One Watershed, One Plan

A group of approximately 25 potential planning partners met in February to discuss a planning grant application to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Different planning boundary options were discussed. Boundaries could affect the level of participation require of E-IGHWMO. Planning process can be anticipated to be two to three years. Different levels of participation include Steering Team (high commitment) or Technical Advisory Group (lower commitment). No decision needed form E-IGHWMO on whether they would participate or not, but the group would like some discussion to occur. General consensus from the Board is to participate at a lower level if it makes sense. The next meeting of potential partners will occur in July.

V. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

The first convene meeting was held April 29th via Zoom. The group determined they would operate on a super majority vote which is seven of the nine voting members. Approximately ten others participated in the call. The second meeting was via Zoom on May 20th. The group started discussing criteria. It was decided to divide funding into categories similar to what BWSR had for the competitive grants including projects/practices, feasibility studies and education/outreach. The E-IGHWMO Watershed Plan has many education activities so the categories that the convene group has created will be helpful.

VI. Landscaping for Clean Water Virtual Programming

It became apparent to the SWCD that due to Covid19 the LCW program would have to change. Staff turned the introduction presentation and design classes into an all virtual platform. Participation numbers have still been close to a normal year. After the first round of applications, four of the twelve grants from the E-IGHWMO have been approved. The SWCD billing for the program this year will be different. The workplan typically has a cost per introduction and design in each watershed. Since no physical classes were held the SWCD wants to know if the E-IGHWMO still supports the LCW at the full amount identified in the workplan. SWCD anticipates that the actual hours spent on the program will be more than a typical year.

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Lencowski to fund the LCW program at the full amount in the 2020 workplan. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

VII. Website Redesign

The SWCD is working with 144Design to update their website. Currently the WMO websites are housed within the SWCD website. It is an opportunity for the WMOs to update and create their own domain if desired. A new domain and full website redesign would cost E-IGHWMO \$4,225 for the first year, plus annual maintenance fees which are about \$700 higher than currently budgeted annually.

Motion by Saito, second by Lencowski to work through the SWCD and 144Design for a new website. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

VIII. Master Water Stewards Program

Discussion on whether E-IGHWMO should take on the coordination of the MWS program which is currently done by the City of Eagan. City of Eagan would like to lessen their role and time commitment. Time demand for volunteers is also very high, and hard for people to complete. Recruiting is difficult, and cost is high. There is a need to keep current MWS engaged as well. City of Eagan has been hosting an annual meeting, we should continue this, but who takes this on? WMO should support current MWS but not sponsor more participants. Has anyone asked participants to pay more of their participation fee so as to make them more invested? Paying more may have opposite affect and push more people away. Suggestion to Freshwater as the program developer would be to have tired MWS levels.

Motion by Reymann, second by Workman-Jesness to maintain current support of MWS projects but not take on sponsorship of the program. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

IX. Draft 2021 Budget

No decision was made at the last meeting as discussion on the MWS program needed to occur first. **Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Lencowski to shift MWS coordination to website, for a total of \$4,000 in website. Motion carried.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes

X. Volunteer Clean-up Ideas

The group had discussion on ideas, likely for next year and not this year due to covid19. Focus on neighborhood lakes, could be monthly rotate throughout watershed or one big yearly event. Focus could also be on stormdrains. If bigger scale, the City of Eagan could facilitate collection in the water. City already has a park clean-up support program where the City supplies bags and picks up filled bags. Canoes or kayaks supplied could be an incentive for people to participate.

XI. Master Water Stewards Activity Updates

Sharon attended Wild Ones conference, otherwise covid19 has dampened efforts. Joe took a salting class and is certified. Abby Grommesch, a MWS publishes a newsletter for her watershed seasonally. This is the type of activity current MWS should be doing if possible, maybe ask Abby to host a how-to meeting.

XII. Community Updates

Eagan presented water quality trends to their public works staff. Trends show progress. Adjusting city code for Lower MN Watershed District updates. Staff have still been monitoring construction activity. Some staff still remote, others reporting for field work. Monitoring will still occur but had to skip May. Starting plant harvesting next week on three lakes. Cancelled Lakefest but will be doing virtual fishing clinics and provide discount on fishing gear at local stores. One rainbarrel has been donated back to the WMO from last year's sales. It can be used as a demo rainbarrel. There were approximately 40 pre-orders placed but program was cancelled for 2020.

Inver Grove Heights- Part-time stormwater staff is now full-time and is maintaining many raingarden and infiltration basins. Record high water levels are causing issues with shorelines and affecting some properties. In dry years, structures were built by homeowners, but they are below the ordinary high-water level, protected by easements and structures should not be there. Overflows and system designs are as important as ever.

XIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Brainstorm on lake clean-up
- Newsletter training by Abby
- 1W1P for Lower MN
- WBIF updates
- Keep virtual option

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Manager	Vote
Joe Reymann	Yes
Sharon Lencowski	Yes
Sarah Saito	Yes
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Yes