

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING August 18, 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
Monica Foss	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 Foss, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

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

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of June 16, 2020 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. August 18, 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

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
Monica Foss	Yes

IV. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

The group has met virtually and decided upon criteria and points. The funding buckets have not been decided upon yet. It is proposed to divide into three buckets: projects and practices, education and feasibility. E-IGHWMO Plan is largely education activities, so dividing into buckets would be beneficial. Activities must be in Implementation Table section of the Plan in order to be eligible. This will tie into the Plan amendment discussion. There could be opportunity to add to the Implementation Table. An idea may be adding educational signage or outreach based on the new stormwater treatment practices around Eagan City Hall.

V. Watershed Plan Amendments

The Implementation Table is for the 10-year Plan but CIP activities currently only go through this year. A minor Plan amendment would allow for updating CIPs and ensuring the Implementation Table allows for activities to be referenced for WBIF. The City of Eagan has a 5-year advancing CIP process, and could look at this for ideas. IGH not really in place budget wise or land wise to go for Lower MN WBIF funding. IGH would like to see water quality monitoring as an eligible activity. It is difficult to submit projects without supporting data. Next steps will be to bring ideas to next meeting, look at CIPs, have Melissa explain the minor Plan amendment process and then decide whether to proceed with a minor amendment or not.

VI. Volunteer Clean-up Ideas

Discussion on having a clean-up either large scale or on a neighborhood basis. The Board can decide early next spring and try to use partnerships to promote. Eagan is planning four aluminum sulfate treatments, two of the lakes have lots of residents (Hay Lake and Bald Lake). Eagan is planning virtual outreach. A contract for the treatments would be awarded September 15th and outreach to occur after that. Aluminum sulfate applications would occur this year still, latest would be late October. Idea to use these two lakes as pilot lakes to get a newsletter going by the residents. Debris becomes clear after aluminum sulfate treatments, so another idea is that volunteers could potentially mark/inventory for removal. Getting the word out about any event is a challenge. One thought is to have a schedule prepared for Lakefest. Maybe have lake groups submit a proposal for selection for clean-up. Pair event with a fishing program and have people clean-up in order to fish. It was asked if some lakes have more trash. This is not known; however, Patrick Eagan Park is typically a problem, some citizens working on this. Hay lake has a church, with an SWCD project, clean-up could be more of a 'party' with multiple activities.

VII. Communication Tools

Abby started a newsletter in her neighborhood for Bald Lake. She would be willing to give a presentation/training on newsletter creation upon request. There was discussion on how the Board could encourage local eNewsletters. Could check rain barrel distribution list or reach out to existing MWS. Would not be a WMO activity to do the newsletters, hoping citizens take this on as volunteers for their specific lake. Volunteers may need a lot of assistance from the WMO on content. Current group of MWS is not likely to take this activity on. Some lakes have had a newsletter but then fell apart. Email list is big component, and Board would be interested in how Abby got this started for Bald Lake.

VIII. Landscaping for Clean Water Update

While the program for design was virtual, there are still similar project numbers to past years. It is anticipated that 8 of the 12 grants for the E-IGHWMO watershed will be used, possibly more if another grant round is opened. Participants have been very pleased with virtual format for design and in person assistance with layout and construction.

IX. Website Redesign Update

Contract has been executed between the SWCD and 144Design. Initial meetings have started. If the Board has any suggestions on content or redesign, send them to Ashley within the next month. It was suggested to make sure that any pictures be of lakes and resources within the watershed.

X. Master Water Stewards Activity Updates

There have not been many activities due to covid19. Joe has taken some online courses, including the UMN turf grass management and an irrigation assessment course. The content overlapped a lot with the Master Water Stewards Training.

XI. Community Updates

Inver Grove Heights has new development occurring, which means City staff are involved in stormwater management efforts. The part-time stormwater staff is now full-time. New stormwater projects also arise during their Pavement Management Program (PMP).

Eagan City council to decide on upgrading aluminum sulfate storage building, also looking to amend city code on outdoor salt storage. Working on restoration management plan for easement areas. There is one month of water quality monitoring left. In-lake plant harvesting is complete for the year. For the discussion on amending the Implementation Table in the Watershed Plan, there is map of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) online. Eric will send out link. There was a question and some discussion on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and if cities are finding them in sediment during pond cleanouts. Some ponds have PAH but at varying levels. There is a national lawsuit for PAH contamination that some cities are participating in.

Gallagher announced that Black Dog WMO sent notification that they are beginning their next generation Plan. Neighboring organizations are required to be notified and given opportunity to submit priorities. E-IGHWMO and Black Dog do not share water resources and therefore have no comment.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Volunteer clean-up
- Plan amendment
- Website
- WBIF

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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