

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING August 17, 2021

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) met at the Eagan Maintenance Facility, 3501 Coachman Point, Eagan, Minnesota.

Board Managers Present:

Joe Reymann, Chair	Appointed by City of Eagan
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
Brian Raney	Resident, City of Eagan

I. Call to Order

Reymann called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Resident Brian Raney introduced himself and was there to listen to the meeting.

II. Adopt Agenda

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

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of June 15, 2021 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. August 17, 2021 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

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

IV. Rain barrels

There have been 45 pre-orders of the 66 barrels available. Distribution will be from 9am to noon at Hardware Hank on Saturday. Email reminder will be sent to those that pre-ordered. Reymann is coordinating volunteers to help with distribution, two people present at all times should be sufficient.

V. Water Checklist and Certification

Foss had previously worked on a list of best practices for lawns. This could turn into a certification program. Reward for certification would be a sign. Comment that a sign is nice but many people would want a monetary reward. Foss and Reymann will review list, it would also need to be formatted into a final version. The final version could be sent out as a follow-up item to those that purchased rain barrels.

VI. Lawn & Irrigation Practices

Some managers on the Board have upgraded irrigation systems, including installation of wi-fi controller system that incorporates weather forecast and/or sensors. City of Eagan has a rebate program through their utility department for irrigation upgrades among other practices. This is an information item for the WMO, however the WMO will look into rebate programs and consider their role in lawn and irrigation practices.

VII. Educational Signage for Eagan Stormwater Practices

City of Eagan will now design signage internally instead of through a consultant. This will allow the design to better fit with Eagan's brand style and contain relevant and readable content for various audiences. Practices at City Hall complex which would receive a sign might be the tree trenches, rain gardens and pervious pavers. Macbeth will continue to coordinate with Foss and Reymann.

VIII. Fall Clean-up Day

With rise in delta variant there will not be a fall clean-up. It may be difficult to get families to commit to an event. A clean-up could be planned for the spring time, possibly in conjunction with earth day. City of Eagan Lakefest is planned for June, and could schedule with that event as well. Coordination with the City of Eagan will likely help increase participation.

IX. RFP for Legal Services

Every two years the WMO is required to go out for bid on services. E-IGHWMO only retains legal services so the RFP would be released upon approval.

Motion by Reymann, second by Foss to approval the RFP. Motion carried.

X. Minnesota Water Stewards Activity Updates

Reymann had a conversation with Freshwater on volunteer hours and continuing education. They understand the constraints of the pandemic and are not requiring hours. They encourage people to still enter hours. WMO meetings can count as hours. Program has typically required 50 hours of volunteering and 16 hours of continuing education.

Reymann and Foss both volunteered at the Dakota County Fair in the Natural Resources Building. They enjoyed their time and conversations there. Many interesting exhibits and found the turf exhibit especially useful.

XI. Community Updates

City of Eagan is working on 2022-2023 budget. Support of new Minnesota Water Stewards will not be included. Eagan will continue to support existing MWS but no longer cover the participation fee for new MWS. There have been some ordinance updates, including requiring dumpsters to be covered and plugged so polluted water does not make its way to the storm drains. The other update relates to garbage truck licensing in an effort to reduce hydraulic fluid leaks/spills. The contract for the Carlson Lake project has been approved. Construction timeline is this fall, however components could extend into next year. The WMO will be asking for a WBIF grant extension with BWSR. The City also purchased new aquatic plant harvesting equipment.

Inver Grove Heights updates NPDES permit was approved. The City had to update a few items locally, such as response procedures. IGH continues work in the North West area, in which geology created a contained area, so water infiltration is a key component of stormwater management. Many low flat areas are sandy

and are left undeveloped to encourage infiltration. City is exploring some open space parks ideas for some of the open basins.

Marketfest Update: City of Eagan is looking for volunteers at the city/MWS/E-IGHWMO booth at the farmers market which runs from 4-8pm. Coordinate with Gregg Thompson if interested.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Education & Outreach Plan
- Smart salting
- Signage
- Water checklist
- Utilities rebates
- Workplan
- Legal services

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.