

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING April 19, 2022

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) met at the Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Ave, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Board Managers Present:

Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Appointed by City of Eagan
Monica Foss	Appointed by City of Eagan
Sarah Saito	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Sharon Lencowski	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights

Others Present:

Ashley Gallagher	Resource Conservationist, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
Steve Dodge	Assistant City Engineer, City of Inver Grove Heights
Gregg Thompson	Water Resources Staff, City of Eagan

I. Call to Order

Chair Foss called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Lencowski to approve the agenda with addition of bank discussion. Motion carried.

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of February 8, 2022 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. April 19, 2022 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

Motion by Lencowski, second by Saito to approve the consent agenda and the two additional SWCD invoices presented. Motion carried.

IV. Bank Discussion

Foss went to Deerwood Bank in IGH to be added as a signor. Bank is requiring a current manager with signing authority to be with her. She was also informed that the IGH location will be closing. The closest bank will be Mendota Heights. The Board would like to look into new banks, with a preference for online banking options. Gallagher will gather some options for the June meeting.

V. Metropolitan Council Priority Waters List Review

Met Council has had a priority lakes list for several years, this would expand to rivers as well. Past priorities waters may have received some water quality monitoring assistance from Met Council. In our watershed Eagan has extensive monitoring program. Only lakes listed on the draft list for our watershed are Gun Club Lake and Jensen Lake. In the future LGUs may be required to address priority waters in their comprehensive planning or local water management plans. There is currently a comment period and survey open if any cities or managers would like to comment.

VI. Metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding Brainstorm

The planning area is allocated \$75,000. Project(s) will need to meet BWSR WBIF eligibility requirements. No ideas from the Board, but there is still time. Grant workplan opens in July, doesn't have to be submitted until March 2023, but preference is to not wait this long. Education and outreach efforts may be eligible if it is a new program. Will likely end up coordinating with cities and county on projects. There may be an opportunity to do some feasibility study work on Gerhardt Lake in Lebanon Hills. Gallagher will bring some project ideas to June meeting.

VII. Rain Barrels Spring Distribution Planning

Hardware Hank can make just about any Saturday morning work, but had a preference for May 21st. The 21st doesn't work for a number of managers, date selected instead is May 7th and time could be shortened to 2 hours, 9:00am to 11:00am. Gallagher will coordinate with Hardware Hank and work with Eagan staff to get promotion out. There are 26 barrels to sell.

VIII. Bur Oaks Clean-up Day Planning

Scheduled for May 14th 10:00am to Noon, meet at the park on the south side of the lake. No baseball game scheduled so park should be open. Add a map to website calling out the meeting area. Reymann family will be there, Workman-Jesness daughters girl scout troop will be there, and a number of city staff. Workman-Jesness will pick up vests and pickers from city.

IX. Water Smart Yard Checklist

Gallagher had website updated with the Water Smart Yard checklist and created an electronic version. Preference is to funnel people into electronic version for tracking purposes. However, the paper version is good for tabling events. If managers have any comments or edits, send them to Gallagher. There is an option to request a yard sign. No sign has been developed yet, but Gallagher will work on one. Online Survey Monkey sends notification to SWCD account when surveys are completed.

X. Eagan BMP Signage Updates

City uses Vacker signs and estimate for 4 signs is \$3,257 and slightly less if picking up instead of delivery. City staff are having a siting meeting on May 19th. Board supports the cost of the signs.

Motion by Lencowski, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the cost of all 4 signs. Motion carried.

XI. We Are Water Exhibit Updates

There is a committee that continues to work on planning the exhibits and events in Hastings and Lebanon. Displays will be in the fall of 2022. These traveling exhibits have been hosted all over the state for a few years. Program is run by the MN Humanities Center. There is a large focus on how people interact with water. Gallagher will recommend to planning group that Chair Foss would be a good person to interview for content.

XII. Salt Cup Check-in

The salt cups and poster were well received at businesses. Remaining cups will be great for tabling events such as Lakefest and Marketfest. Board would support ordering more cups and continuing the program next winter. Would even like to consider expanding education opportunities, especially to private contracted companies for snow removal. Coordinate efforts with any existing state or local chloride programs. Encourage a broom and pan to be located near salt bins, or even sponsor purchase of brooms.

XIII. Minnesota Water Stewards Activity Updates

Eagan staff continue to coordinate with existing stewards. Stewards can help promote events and volunteer. Volunteers will be needed for Lakefest. Foss taught water themed programming at a Lebanon Hills event. Stewards continue to be helpful throughout the community.

XIV. Community Updates

Eagan: Workman/Jesness spoke with city communications staff and they are supportive of providing outreach through Eagan social media and newsletters for the WMO. Request should typically be made through the water resources staff, unless it is a specific event it is possible to reach out directly. They typically will need a couple of weeks lead time. They also have a lot of existing 'green' messaging that overlaps with WMO goals. City staff are preparing for a number of events. They will speak with St Thomas Beckett church on April 24th about Hay Lake. The volunteer dinner is on April 28th, however this is not the right venue for having a memorial read for Joe. This will instead be done at Lakefest, which is scheduled for June 4th from 11am-3pm. WMO and MWS should work together to staff a booth at Lakefest. Other city projects include the Carlson Lake underground treatment project which is under construction. This summer there will be 8 shoreline projects, 3 alum treatments, a number of Lake Management Plans written, pond maintenance and AIS work. The Council approved Kathleen Reitz as the new manager for the E-IGHWMO Board.

IGH: Saito submitted a few tips on water that made it into the spring Insights newsletter. The City is also promoting for WMO vacancies. Lencowski worked with city staff on updating the water resources portion of the city website, which included linking to WMOs. The stormwater position is in transition from part-time field based to full-time and more focused on stormwater management. The city has a large project near the bluffs to reduce pressure on stormwater system that has blown out Dawn Way two times. With the change in elevation it puts extra pressure on the system. City will also be hosting their MS4 public meeting on April 28th both virtually and in person.

XV. Agenda Items for June 21, 2022 Meeting

- New Bank Discussion
- Newsletter Articles
- We Are Water Exhibit

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.