

# EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

## MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING April 18, 2023

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
Sarah Saito	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Monica Foss	Appointed by City of Eagan
Steven Errante	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights

### **Others Present:**

Ashley Gallagher	Resource Conservationist, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
Nicole Portugal	Engineering Technician, City of Inver Grove Heights
Gregg Thompson	Watershed Specialist, City of Eagan

### **I. Call to Order**

Foss called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **II. Adopt Agenda**

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

### **III. Approve Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes of February 28, 2023 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. Year-to-date Financial Summary

Workman-Jesness will coordinate with Eagan staff to get check to SWCDD for invoice. The final payment for the BWSR WBF grant is in process.

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

### **IV. Minnesota Watersheds Membership Discussion**

Email was sent to Managers from Minnesota Watersheds director; the attachments were included in the Board packets and included a letter and supporting materials on Minnesota Watersheds. The organization used to be Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) but wanted to open to all watersheds. Potential dues were noted in the letter and dues would increase significantly by year three. Managers discussed what they may gain and felt that they have strong local partnerships and they do not see a benefit from joining the organization.

**Motion by** Foss, second by Workman-Jesness to decline membership to Minnesota Watersheds. Motion carried.

#### **V. Rain Barrels Distribution Planning**

Gallagher published a public notice seeking proposals for local business partner for rain barrel program. Hardware Hank in Egan was the only business to submit. Distribution will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 11:00. Still need to promote rain barrels for pre-order. Coordinating with Hardware Hank on cost of the upgraded kit, last year it was \$90. Information packets will be provided at the distribution event which includes an installation guide. Thompson and Gallagher will promote via email lists and monitor pre-orders. Workmann-Jesness will coordinate with Egan staff if need more promotion.

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to enter into agreement with Hardware Hank for rain barrel program in 2023. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Clean-up/Earth Day Planning**

Workman-Jesness has been coordinating with Val Jackson from Friends of the Core Greenway. Clean up is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Patrick Egan Park from 10-Noon. Workman-Jesness will set up and Foss/Saito will take over at 11:00 and take down. They typically have enough volunteers for cleaning up, so E-IGHWMO has been invited to set up a table to provide educational materials. The bin that is stored at Egan needs to be updated. Thompson has cleaned it out, and discussion occurred and what to update. Gallagher will send resources to Thompson.

#### **VII. Education and Outreach Calendar Review**

Managers would like to keep this on every agenda as a check-in. Saito submitted newsletter ideas to IGH that were published. IGH newsletter is now quarterly. Good to have topics for outreach by season, will have to continuously discuss how to promote. IGH mentioned they are having a stormwater impacts meeting in conjunction with the Healthy Living Fair. Discussion about the August tour, it can be simple such as Managers meeting at a site before their August meeting. Potential idea for this year is City Hall BMPs and signage. Discussion about WMO adding more Marketfest tabling evenings, but decision was to keep as is for this year.

#### **VIII. Library Bags Update**

There are two themed bags at both Wescott and Inver Glen libraries, Water in the Home and Water in the Community. Both libraries reported they were checked out 5 times and 4 times respectively, and last time was in 2021. WMO would like to do some more promotion of the bags, such as check them out and bring to events. Also distribute the flyers at events. IGH will promote on social media. Managers checked how its cataloged online. Doesn't show up if searching water conservation unless filter by type to 'kits'. Library staff reported that the bags and contents are in good condition.

#### **IX. Education Materials Discussion**

Free materials promotion packet was sent to the Administrator, materials were available at the meeting. Managers could choose a couple resources they like to use for tabling events. However, when going through a company like this you lose the ability to tailor to our watershed. Member City and SWCD have some materials, but not others, such as coloring books. Was decided that materials are expensive and prefer them to have a more local focus. There was also discussion on dog waste outreach, any materials with seeds should be locally sourced, and adopt-a-drain programs at cities and through Hamline (Clean Water MN).

#### **X. Minnesota Water Stewards Activity Updates**

Foss volunteered at the Landscaping for Clean Water shoreline workshop. No other reports.

**XI. Community Updates**

Inver Grove Heights: Working on increasing education efforts with another staff now full-time engineering department. IGH modified salt cups and distributed, using Facebook for sharing information. Looking to have a booth at fall business expo. Also working on storm drain stenciling program. Question about radium in water, and meeting with city and MDH was referenced, reports are that it is safe to drink. Filters will be updated in the fall/winter when water use drops.

Eagan: Have 2 stormwater interns on board for the summer. CIP planning for year has wrapped up. Working on maintenance plan for Carlson Lake chamber and the company will be filming a video for use in other projects.

**XII. Agenda Items for June 20, 2023 Meeting**

- August tour
- E&O calendar

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Errante to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.