

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING June 20, 2023

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) met at the Eagan Maintenance Facility, 3501 Coachman Point, Eagan, MN 55122.

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
Kathleen Reitz	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
Jenna Olson	Water Resources Manager, City of Eagan
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 Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of April 18, 2023 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. Year-to-date Financial Summary

Motion by Saito, second by Foss to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

IV. Rain Barrels Program Review

There are 9 barrels remaining at Hardware Hank. They can be sold to whomever. Eagan and SWCD can do one last push to get a few people to purchase a rain barrel. The City of Eagan Facebook post was very helpful in promotion. Consensus that the rain barrel program is valuable and WMO should keep doing it. While rain barrels only provide a small water quality benefit, they are a good outreach opportunity and research shows people are then willing to take on a larger project such as a raingarden. There was further discussion about how to promote rain barrels next year. One idea was to get a flier in a "Welcome to the City" packet if that still exists. Discussion on the diverter, current option works but the Fiskars that is no longer made was the best. Add more information to the brochure on maintenance issues with in-pipe diverters and debris clogs.

V. Metro Children's Water Festival Letter Discussion

The festival seems to be casting a wide net looking for support. Administrator reached out to organizer to see if any Egan schools participate but did not hear back. SWCD has participated as a volunteer in the past, and Foss noted she has participated through Dakota County Parks. The festival is popular, and many schools attend. However, the direct benefit to E-IGHWMO is unknown. E-IGHWMO supports K-12 education by sponsoring CLIMB Theatre for presentations in schools in the watershed. It was noted that 4th grade curriculum for water seems robust. The festival website has many resources to peruse.

Motion by Foss, second by Saito to not send funds to the Metro Children's Water Festival. Motion carried.

VI. Education and Outreach Calendar Review

Inver Grove Heights newsletter goes out quarterly. Dodge mentioned a reminder email from communications staff that goes out before deadlines, Saito will request to be on that distribution list. Other changes to the calendar include adding rain barrel review in December and review Manager terms each January. City of Egan staff are ready for tabling at Marketfest. They would look for volunteers for the August 16th Marketfest. Foss has a script for the "Who polluted the water" table top display/activity.

VII. Minnesota Water Stewards Activity Updates

No reports.

VIII. Community Updates

Inver Grove Heights: City was not awarded the grant through BWSR for stormwater retrofits on approximately 4 miles of road. Unfortunately, this means moving forward with the street reconstruction without stormwater BMPs. MS4 inspections for the year are done, no illicit discharge reports. Lining some old stormwater structures. A new stormwater technician has been taking on stormwater CIP planning.

Egan: Summer interns are inspecting BMPs and conducting water sampling. Mooney Lake CIP is complete, and planning continues for next years CIP projects. The new weed harvester will launch for the first time in about a week at Black Hawk Lake. Summer is busy with fishing clinics, and 5 cost-share projects (3 shorelines and 2 ravine stabilizations). Staff often borrow the Vermillion River JPO tabletop display on stormwater and just tape over the names. City staff would like E-IGHWMO to consider customizing a similar tabletop display. This display is through Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE). Price could be around \$6,000. There was discussion about having local schools create a display. Egan staff will bring a quote from CGEE to the August meeting. There was also discussion about the EnviroScape, but this is available through partners and is more cumbersome display. Big Rig Rally was the other week and water resources staff had information available for the almost 1,000 attendees.

IX. Agenda Items for August 15, 2023 Meeting

- Tour start time 5:00
- Table display quote/discussion
- Presentation on Illicit Discharge or Infiltration Requirements

X. Adjournment

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Reitz to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.