

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING October 17, 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

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	Watershed Specialist, City of Eagan
Anne Sawyer	Board Conservationist, Board of Water and Soil Resources

I. Call to Order

Foss called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. Adopt Agenda

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

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of August 15, 2023 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. Year-to-date Financial Summary

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

IV. Update on Educational Displays

Eagan staff are coordinating with Hamline CGEE on content as there are some slight language changes needed. The illicit discharge (storm drains) display should be complete by the end of 2023. The eutrophication (why is my lake green?) display should be complete by May 2024. The cost of both displays is a total of \$13,500 which is under the WMO approved amount of \$16,000. E-IGHWMO logo will be on the displays. Invoices will come to WMO upon delivery of each display. Both Cities already have plans for use of the displays in 2024.

V. 2nd Generation E-IGHWMO Watershed Plan

It may seem early to think about updating the Watershed Management Plan, however it is typically a two-year process, and there is money budgeted in 2024 for Plan update expenses. Administrator presented a timeline of the planning process. A Plan can cost around \$60,000 depending upon needs. There are many baseline studies and models completed by Eagan that may allow for costs to remain low. Board thinks this is a lot of money to use on planning but understands the statutory requirement.

VI. CLIMB Theatre Contract

There was discussion on how the message from the plays can make it to adults. Proposed and past curriculum has targeted K-2 students. However, kids that are better messengers to their guardians are likely 4th grade and above. Board would also like to put emphasis on CLIMB attending community nights, and especially STEAM nights where both children and adults attend. Board would like to see changes incorporated into the contract prior to approval.

VII. 2024 Budget and Dues

Budget includes a large use of fund balance, however there is \$140,000 in the bank and money has purposefully been put into reserve for watershed planning over the years. Even with the use of fund balance dues are expected to increase by \$2,000. Other increases include Landscaping for Clean Water, match for the WBIF grant for Places of Worship Stormwater Practice Inventory, and the educational displays.

Motion by Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the 2024 budget and dues as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. 2024 Workplan with SWCD

The two organizations annually review a workplan and enter into a JPA for services. Pending E-IGHWMO Board approval the workplan goes to the SWCD Board for approval. Beside the increase of hourly rate by \$5 Administration remains the same. Landscaping for Clean Water (LCW) is in Education and Outreach, Technical Assistance and Cost-Share categories. LCW classes have increased by \$100, the grants to homeowners remains at \$250. Grant amount could be a future discussion, Board seems supportive of increasing. The match for WBIF grant is also in the workplan. There was a question about BWSR billable rate, this is a required item when using BWSR funding. The workplan is a not-to-exceed amount, if changes are to exceed the amount, an amended agreement would be brought to both Boards for approval.

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to approve the workplan with Dakota SWCD for 2024 and authorize Chair to sign the JPA. Motion carried.

IX. 2024 Meeting Schedule

Schedule is every other month and similar to past years, with meetings in both Egan and Inver Grove Heights.

Motion by Saito, second by Foss to approve the 2024 meeting schedule. Motion carried.

X. Education and Outreach Calendar Review

Next meeting we should distribute salt cups and posters. Egan is switching to Lake Nights in June, July and August. Saito will coordinate some outreach in winter IGH newsletter.

XI. Community Updates

Inver Grove Heights: Gradually working to increase stormwater fund. Now have dedicated staff for stormwater that are working on CIP and maintenance, both minor and major. Staff are coordinating with utility/streets projects to assess for potential stormwater improvement projects. IGH grant application for BWSR Clean Water Funds was not selected. BWSR staff available to meet and discuss application.

Egan: Staff are attending the Water Resources Conference this week. A study by BARR engineering on Egan ponds and sediment is being presented at the conference. Last Alum treatment for the year was

completed at Almquist Lake. Last year this lake was treated for carp/goldfish. Currently seeking bids for 2024 pond maintenance. This is primarily sediment removal. There was some discussion on how sediment must be tested for contamination, and there are different levels of disposal. Project moving forward with the Art House for underground stormwater storage. Coordination occurring with the County on Greenway and wetlands. Discussion on wetlands needing classification. Eagan staff will bring a proposal back to WMO for covering this cost. Potential for education along the trails as well. Discussion on County Groundwater Collaborative efforts, primarily on recent email about supporting development of a state sponsored low input turf seed mix with research trials through UMN.

XII. Agenda Items for December 5, 2023 Meeting

- CLIMB Theatre
- Smart Salting Coordination
- Wetland Classifications
- LCW Report
- Emerging Issues review

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.