

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING December 5, 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:

Kathleen Reitz	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
Steve Dodge	Assistant City Engineer, City of Inver Grove Heights
Gregg Thompson	Watershed Specialist, City of Eagan
Jenna Olson	Water Resources Manager, City of Eagan

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Errante, second by Saito to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of October 17, 2023 Meeting
- B. Year-to-date Financial Summary

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

IV. Accept Proposal for Legal Services

WMOs are required to solicit for services every two years. Administrator publicly noticed the RFP for legal services. Only received a proposal from current lawyer Campbell-Knutson. They only charge when services are requested but fees are outlined in proposal. Campbell-Knutson represents several other watershed organizations.

Motion by Errante, second by Reitz to enter into an agreement with Campbell-Knutson for legal services. Motion carried.

V. Review of 2023 Landscaping for Clean Water Projects

Spreadsheet with a summary of projects within the watershed was included in the meeting materials. E-IGHWMO supports up to 12 projects, 10 projects were installed, with majority being raingardens and the remaining projects were native gardens. There are conversations across the county about increasing outreach related to Landscaping for Clean Water, which may increase participation. Having a set number of grants helps SWCD manage workload. If there are more requests than grants available, we can consider

increasing for 2025. Cities are appreciative of the LCW program and its been working well. There were suggestions from the Board related to maintenance, make sure to check-in with people in future years, possibly offer to collaboratively buy plants for replacement. SWCD has worked on a platform for past participants to communicate and share ideas. May be an opportunity to increase capacity with an upcoming soil health RFP and this could come back. There is an LCW maintenance class.

VI. Approve CLIMB Theatre Agreement

CLIMB Theatre staff were receptive to changing the targeted age for the curriculum to 3rd-6th grade, with focus on 4th grade. They also are willing to attend STEAM nights. These changes were made in the agreement. Payment is not per performance but is \$10,000 for two-years of programing, they would reach approximately 5 schools each year.

Motion by Errante, second by Reitz to approve the agreement with CLIMB Theatre. Motion carried.

VII. Overview of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

Topic is relevant as E-IGHWMO begins to think about updating their watershed management plan. The state has a watershed planning framework that cycles through monitoring and assessment, to planning on a 10-year timeframe. E-IGHWMO is part of large watershed area that is starting the next round of WRAPS. Though Eagan has extensive monitoring, if there are needs, now is the time to bring those forward.

VIII. Consider Watershed Partners Membership

This membership would be for access to education and outreach materials. Eagan staff support membership and would find the Adopt-a-Drain program valuable. Even though Eagan currently has an Adopt-a-Drain program, they would switch to the new model, which provides analytics to members. Membership for the WMO is based on budget and would be \$350-\$500 a year, which is much lower rate than if Eagan were to become a member.

Motion by Errante, second by Saito to become members of the Watershed Partners through Hamline University. Motion carried.

IX. Update on Educational Displays

One display will be delivered before the end of the year. The other display will be delivered next spring. All branding is with the E-IGHWMO logo. With membership to Watershed Partners, will also have access to Adopt-a-drain displays, but coordination/transportation remains an issue. Board members willing to help if scheduled enough in advance.

X. Discuss Greenway Trails and Wetland Delineations

Eagan presented an area that the County is looking at for greenway trails, which is technically on the border into Inver Grove Heights. Eagan wondering if E-IGHWMO would pay for the wetland delineations. Unclear who the Wetland Conservation Act applicant would be and where the WMO fits in. Administrator and Eagan staff will gather more information for the next meeting.

XI. Distribute Smart Salting Materials

Cups were brought to the meeting for distribution. Inver Grove Heights is not ordering their own cups this year. Idea for cups came from Dakota County groundwater, and the County can still provide cups, so WMO doesn't have ownership, and however partners want to work together to distribute cups is acceptable. Past distribution included hardware stores, gas stations, libraries, and city buildings. Board members can work with staff (Brian and Nicole) to ensure distribution is tracked. Signs should also be posted with the cup display.

XII. Discuss Pet Waste Education Materials

Inver Grove Heights staff reach out about doggie bag holders. WMO could consider purchasing these, depending upon quantity they would be around \$1.50 each. Egan had plans to purchase doggie bag holders. WMO education and outreach plan currently doesn't have pet waste education, however there is room to work within the education and outreach budget. WMO will take time to research existing education related to pet waste and work on developing a strategy for outreach before purchasing doggie bag holders.

XIII. Education and Outreach Calendar Review

Administrator will reference schedule for February agenda items. Saito worked with Inver Grove Heights staff to ensure chloride topic was in winter newsletter. Board terms are up to date, Saito was just reappointed.

XIV. Community Updates

Inver Grove Heights: Continuing to assess future projects for stormwater retrofits and upgrades. Currently working on a project with a very large hydrodynamic separator.

Egan: Awarded contract for 2024 CIP work, including pond maintenance and a ravine stabilization. Continuing coordination on underground stormwater storage projects at the Art House and Goat Hill Park. City is trying new Lake Scout monitoring buoys on Holz and Thomas Lakes for monitoring dissolved oxygen and ice thickness. City is assigning a position in streets to assist with winter lake aeration, which will allow more time to analyze water quality data.

SWCD: Plan to increase staff capacity by submitting a proposal for Soil Health Capacity funding through Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Staff could potentially work on the Landscaping for Clean Water program.

XV. Agenda Items for February 20, 2024 Meeting

- Rain barrels
- Smart salting
- Greenway wetland delineations
- Annual reporting items
- Pet waste education

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Saito, second by Errante to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.