

# EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

## MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING February 20, 2024

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:**

Monica Foss	Appointed by City Eagan
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	Appointed by City of Eagan
Sarah Saito	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
Gregg Thompson	Watershed Specialist, City of Eagan
Jenna Olson	Water Resources Manager, City of Eagan
Gillian Catano	Sustainability Coordinator, City of Eagan

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

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

### **II. Adopt Agenda**

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

### **III. Election of Officers**

Administrator opened nominations for Chair. Workman-Jesness nominated Foss for Chair. Administrator called for other nominations, there were none. **Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Foss for Chair. Motion carried.

Open nominations for Vice Chair. Workman-Jesness nominated Saito for Vice Chair. Called for other nominations, there were none. **Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Saito for Vice Chair. Motion carried.

Open nominations for Treasurer/Secretary. Saito nominated Workman-Jesness for Treasurer/Secretary. Called for other nominations, there were none. **Motion by** Saito, second by Foss to close nominations and cast a white ballot for Workman-Jesness for Treasurer/Secretary. Motion carried.

### **IV. Approve Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes of December 5, 2023 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. Year-end Financial Summary
- D. Year-to-Date Financial Summary

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

**V. Presentation from Eagan Sustainability Coordinator**

Gillian Catano provided an overview of the sustainability programs in Eagan. Water Resources staff are presenting at two different workshops. Registration is open to all and WMO Managers encouraged to attend. As we move forward, we can cross-promote programming/resources.

**VI. Approve Draft 2023 Annual Report**

It is a requirement to complete and submit an Annual report to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Template is similar to past years but updated for 2023.

**Motion by** Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the 2024 Annual Report. Motion carried.

**VII. Discuss option to Create a Fund Balance Policy**

Having a policy provides a safety for cities and allows for them to budget for dues. Other WMOs have similar policies. With an annual budget around \$50,000 this would result in 200% being \$200,000 in a general reserve and \$200,000 in a dedicated watershed plan reserve.

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to adopt the Fund Balance Policy as presented. Motion carried.

**VIII. Discuss Participation in Conservation Video Campaign**

Staff person coordinating this effort has recently transition from Lakeville to Vermillion River Watershed staff. There is no need to take action at this point. There are on-going discussions as to how to structure this effort moving forward, may be led more by WMOs since cities are member of the WMOs. Still interested in input from cities and managers. Education could be broken into two topics, promotion of Landscaping for Clean Water program and general water conservation promotion. City staff appreciate the restructure idea and feel that regional education on these topics is a good approach. Board sees value in both topics. Need to continue to explore metrics.

**IX. Plan for Spring Rain Barrel Distribution**

Hardware Hank only has 3 rain barrels remaining and would be interested in partnering again. Administrator will officially public notice the opportunity for local businesses. Promotion could occur at the Eagan Home and Leisure show on March 30<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on whether to order 33 or 66 rain barrels, wait to see how many pre-register and order closer to distribution event. Distribution date of May 18<sup>th</sup> was selected, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Administrator will work with city staff to promote via social media and direct emails.

**X. Review Education and Outreach Schedule**

Check-in on salting, seems to be going well, businesses are accepting the cups and people are taking them. Cities and Board would like to further explore materials for educating the public on pet waste. Watershed Parnters may have resources.

**XI. Community Updates**

Eagan reported that the displays are almost done. The Hamline center also has an adopt-a-drain themed corn hole game that is only \$365. There was discussion on the bags. Game would be great way to engage people at events.

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Reitz to approve the purchase of an adopt-a-drain corn hole game. Motion carried.

Egan continues their pond maintenance, also coordination on projects at Goat Hill Park and the Art House. A warning from staff that lakes will likely be green this summer. No winter senescence means more biological activity and green lakes. Question about the general status of shorelines in Egan. Most are in good condition, typically a restoration project on a lake leads to many more once neighbors see the project completed. Increasing shoreline programming and projects could be a future topic of discussion, even during the watershed planning process.

**XII. Agenda Items for April 16, 2024 Meeting**

- Rain barrels
- Pet waste education
- Watershed Partners membership

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Reitz to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.