

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING April 16, 2024

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:

Monica Foss	Appointed by City Eagan
Steven Errante	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
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
Steve Dodge	Assistant City Engineer, City of Inver Grove Heights

I. Call to Order

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

II. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Errante, second by Saito to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
Late addition of Video Campaign Discussion.

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of February 20, 2024 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. April 16, 2024 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

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

IV. Rain Barrels Distribution Planning

Public notice was posted for partners, Hardware Hank was only business to respond. E-IGHWMO should enter into an agreement like previous years. Promotion has started. City of Eagan posted on social media, SWCD shared the post. Administrator developed flyers. Now that Hardware Hank will be the distribution location, add that to the flyer, and a note that other pickup days can be arranged. Distribution planned for May 18, a number of Managers will be there, Administrator will bring handouts such as installation guide and program flyers.

Motion by Foss, second by Errante to enter into agreement with Hardware Hank for the 2024 rain barrel program. Motion carried.

V. Update on Interactive Educational Displays

The Pollute or Protect display was delivered, IGH will be using soon and Eagan has plans for use as well. Cities will track use and approximate number of people reached. Invoice was sent after Board packets went

out. The cost for the Pollute or Protect display is \$5,500. Invoice for the second display will be sent after the second display is delivered.

Motion by Saito, second by Foss to approve the invoice of \$5,500 for Hamline for the Pollute or Protect Display. Motion carried.

VI. Update on Adopt-a-Drain Transition

Staff at Hamline Center for Global Environmental Education are working on transitioning the existing adopted drains to the Adopt-a-Drain program. City staff and Administrator have provided files to CGEE. Link on E-IGHWMO website has been updated. Demonstrated online how to adopt a drain and explored outreach materials provided by CGEE. Board would like to print in-house to start with. If need arises for stickers or other printed items, Board can discuss that at a later date. CGEE can also send out welcome packets with WMO items but would cost money. Board felt that a follow-up email with links/materials would be sufficient. There was also discussion on labeling stormdrains. City of Eagan has had success with duracast labels (stickers). IGH may look into this option.

VII. Watershed Partners Materials Discussion

Membership gives the WMO access to high-quality stock photos on many topics, including dog waste. Board and staff will keep these in mind when working on outreach.

VIII. Information on Lawns Reimagined Pilot Program

Program is a pilot program rolling out this year. SWCD will provide technical assistance and the seed mix. Having a set mix should reduce staff oversight time on reviewing different mixes. There are a variety of ways to prepare for seeding that will be covered in the classes. Suggested to have a recording of the class for people who cannot attend. After the pilot year, program may be able to expand if supported by WMOs.

IX. Review Education and Outreach Schedule

There are events to add to the calendar for IGH. Discussion on the displays. Events using displays could be another color in schedule. Saito asked about content for summer newsletter, Lawns Reimagined would be good topic.

X. Video Campaign Discussion

At the last E-IGHWMO Board discussed supporting the video campaign. The campaign would have two approaches/videos, one for Landscaping for Clean Water, the other for more general groundwater conservation. Board had previously felt both efforts were important. Staff person leading the effort is with Vermillion River Watershed. They applied for a grant and received it but funding is still needed from partners. Previous discussions had included both cities and WMOs but have now simplified to WMOs, as cities are already members of the WMOs. SWCD is also planning to contribute. The ask has been for \$7,500. E-IGHWMO budget for 2024 has \$7,500 as match for the Places of Worship Project. If WMO supports this effort in 2025 it is possible it could be done without increasing the budget from this year. It is a one-time ask for funding.

Motion by Errante, second by Reitz to support the video campaign effort with a letter of commitment for \$7,500. Motion carried.

XI. Community Updates

Inver Grove Heights – Submitted a grant for a 96-inch culvert replacement with water quality improvement projects. Working on ordinance updates for allowing native vegetation and alternative lawns. Many miles of

road rehab in the planning stage, and looking to incorporate water quality projects including a large underground sediment catchment.

Eagan- Project at the Art House has started, which includes four infiltration basins, an Iron Enhanced Sand Filter, and other projects. Working on plans for pond maintenance in 2025, cost estimates are very high. City is taking on some work for smaller projects in-house to save costs. Water Resource staff will be presenting at multiple upcoming Eagan Sustainability Academy sessions.

XII. Agenda Items for June 18, 2024 Meeting

- Rain barrels review
- Pet waste education
- Update on Places of Worship
- Watershed Plan Update

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Reitz, second by Errante to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.