

EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING June 18, 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
Steven Errante	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Sarah Saito	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
Jennifer Workman-Jesness	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 Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

III. Approve Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of April 16, 2024 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. June 18, 2024 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

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

IV. Resolution to Update Watershed Management Plan

The current Watershed Plan needs to be updated and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) prior to its expiration in May 2026. The plan update process is established in MN Statutes and Rules and can take up to two years. BWSR has guidance timelines and documents available for all watersheds. The first step is to pass a resolution showing the intent to update a plan. The Administrator will then initiate the 60-day comment period and work on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to send to consultants for the facilitation and writing of the plan.

Motion by Saito, second by Foss to adopt the resolution to update the E-IGHWMO Watershed Management Plan. Motion carried.

V. Execute Joint Powers Agreement for Marketing Campaign

The E-IGHWMO Board had previously voted to support the marketing campaign by allocating \$7,500 towards the effort. The marketing campaign will include the development of videos for general water conservation as well as promotion of the Landscaping for Clean Water(LCW) program. Measurable items will include clicks as well as number of LCW participants. The Board wanted to ensure that if there is an increase in LCW projects, there would be grants available. Current grant limit for E-IGHWMO is 12 projects,

and have only reached maximum one year, likely in 2019. SWCD will have to work to ensure staff capacity as well. Vermillion also secured a grant through MN Department of Health to cover over half the cost. E-IGHWMO contribution will be \$7,500 in 2025.

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Errante to execute the Joint Powers Agreement with Partners for implementation of the Marketing Campaign. Motion carried.

VI. Review Rain Barrels Program

Had 100 rain barrels to distribute and the event went smoothly. Program is a great opportunity to talk with people about LCW program and other conservation options. Everyone received information on LCW when they were emailed information about rain barrel pickup day. Would be good to email them again, they could send in photos of their installed rain barrel, also include video link of installation in case they need assistance. Cost of the rain barrels is increasing and e-IGHWMO has continued to subsidize so they remain \$40 to the residents, but that means E-IGHWMO costs have increased. May need to evaluate costs in future years.

VII. Planning for Pet Waste Education

City staff have expressed interest in pet waste bag dispensers to promote cleaning up after your dog. Could start here and expand to larger education. Further discussion on bag dispensers at city parks, would need to inventory existing first. Could also work through dog licensing or dog park registrations to get information out to pet owners. Options for bag dispensers were shared.

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to spend up to \$2,000 for bag dispensers to encourage pet waste pickup and disposal. Motion carried.

VIII. Review Education and Outreach Calendar

Saito worked with IGH staff to publish a write-up on the water smart yards checklist. Eagan has upcoming Lakefest events; June 20th at Trapp Farm, July 16th at Thomas Lake, and August 15th at Blackhawk Lake. Eagan will reach out with volunteer opportunities to the Board members.

IX. Community Updates

IGH- Working on a multi-million dollar project for stormwater pipe replacements. Also shifting some stormwater duties among staff and staff are working on a lot of stormwater maintenance projects. Staff have used the new educational displays for multiple events including a Healthy Living Fair and a Touch-a-Truck event.

Eagan- Staff have been using the displays at Big Rig Rally and other events. The bean bag toss is fun and good opportunity to talk about adopt-a-drain. Many projects under way, including the Art House which will have multiple stormwater best practices such as raingardens and infiltration basins. Signage is a potential opportunity for collaboration with the E-IGHWMO, but is not being worked on yet.

X. Cancel August 20, 2024 Meeting

Administrator Gallagher has accepted the District Manager position for Dakota SWCD and therefore will be transitioning out of WMO Administration over time. There are no time-sensitive action items that would be needed in August.

Motion by Workman-Jesness, second by Errante to cancel the August Board meeting. Motion carried.

XI. Adjournment

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

Approved by Board on October 15, 2024

