

# EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

## MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING February 20, 2018

The Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) met at the Eagan Municipal Center, 3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, Minnesota.

### **Board Managers Present:**

Sharon Lencowski, Vice Chair	Appointed by City of Inver Grove Heights
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
Eric Macbeth	Water Resources Manager, City of Eagan
Steve Dodge	Assistant City Engineer, City of Inver Grove Heights
Bruce Johnson	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board
Rachel Olmanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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

Vice Chair Lencowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **II. Adopt Agenda**

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

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

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to elect officers in the same positions they currently serve, Reymann as president, Lencowski as Vice President and Workman-Jesness as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion Carried.

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

- A. Minutes of December 5, 2017 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. December 31, 2017 Year-End Financial Summary
- D. February 20, 2018 Year-to-Date Budget Performance

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

### **V. Chloride Pollution Presentation and Discussion**

Rachel Olmanson from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) presented on chloride initiatives. A similar presentation was recently given at the Road Salt Symposium. Presentation covered sources of chloride including winter deicers, water softeners and dust suppressants. An overview of current water quality conditions related to chloride impairments was provided. Resources covered included Winter Maintenance Assessment tool (WMA<sub>t</sub>), Smart Salt Trainings and the Statewide Chloride Management Plan.

Items mentioned but not captured in the presentation slides included:

- State legislation has been proposed to help protect applicators which in turn will allow them to follow more salt application best management practices.
- Chloride doesn't flush out of systems and levels have doubled in the last 20 years, and large river systems have seen an 80% increase. Only 10% of waterbodies in the metro have chloride monitoring data. There are 50 waterbodies with known chloride impairments. Data goes back to 1984, there is some data before that but not much.
- The Statewide Chloride Management Plan was originally a metro plan but is being updated to address statewide issues.
- The WMAAt has 200 questions that look at current and future conditions. There is also a salt savings mode that helps track savings if switching practices. Only 10% of the practices have an associated reduction, so MPCA is also using the tool to gather input. LGUs can enter in their savings, comments, and experiences to help shape the tool.
- Trainings are funded through EPA 319 for another year, then funding source is unknown.

Discussion and questions on the presentation included:

- What is in dust suppressants? Calcium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride.
- Is 15° F the minimum temperature for effectiveness of salt? Yes, there is also a chart available on the MPCA website
- Are communities using beet juice? Is it effective? Yes, some communities use beet juice with mixed results. Brines are also used.
- How are chloride levels in MN compared to other states? We have more data compared to other states, so it looks like we have more impairments, but reality is that impairments are probably similar across the Midwest.
- Since this is a cumulative problem, how do we improve our waterbodies? Need to focus on prevention. Plants do not process chloride, so it is a tough impairment to tackle. Could reduce individual use of softeners, however treating at water treatment plants is very expensive. Could also go to a centralized softening system, or use lime, or individuals could use on-demand systems.
- Does Egan monitor chloride? Currently not part of the monitoring program.

## **VI. Communication and Outreach Plan Review**

The Board completed a task by task review of the Plan. Completed items and items requiring follow up are listed by objective:

Objective 1: Develop an Identity for the Organization

- Develop Logo- Complete
- Educate city staff and Boards- Ongoing
- Legislative Requirements- Ongoing
- Update Website- Look into this for 2018. Generate web analytics for discussion at next meeting and look into design options/costs. It was recommended to look at Ramsey-Washington Watershed District website.

Objective 2: Implement metrics for tracking communication and outreach activities

- Review Plan- Complete
- Number of people reached- Complete. Public meetings, mailing lists, LCW participants
- Number of projects implemented- Complete. LCW installed projects, city projects, annual report.

- Survey on behavior change- Looked into partnering with Eagan on their survey but timing did not work. Connect with Eagan communications to determine timelines and get previous survey results.

Objective 3: Create neighborhood scale education

- All items completed with the Bur Oaks project. A good project for 2018 would be Fitz Lake. Eagan has two improvement projects planned. There has been some involved community members around Fitz Lake. Reach out to resident who hosted a previous meeting to get her input and support. Start outreach plan as soon as possible as construction may occur early spring 2018.
- Future projects that may be good outreach opportunities include Carlson Lake and Le May Lake. Carlson will start in 2018 but will be a 2-3 year process of projects starting away from the lake and working towards it. Le May plans are starting to be developed with a consultant.
- All of these City of Eagan projects are required as part of a phosphorus reduction TMDL.

Objective 4: Enhance existing education programs

- CLIMB Theatre- Complete/Ongoing
- Landscaping for Clean Water Workshops- Complete/Ongoing
- Master Water Stewards- Complete/Ongoing

Lencowski provided a handout of a presentation on 'What's Next in Digital Communications for Local Government.' There was discussion on using social media to direct people to our website, and therefore the first step should be a user friendly and informative website. Members were curious about the technical and legal aspects of managing a Facebook account (who has access, who manages, content, etc.). There may be some opportunity to partner with other WMOs and have a county wide approach for social media. Having followers and links is most important for spreading the word.

Workman-Jesness described 'library kits' article she read in the MN DNR Volunteer Magazine. A volunteer at Ramsey-Washington Watershed District developed kits with books and activities on water quality for a family to check out from the library. Workman-Jesness will reach out to Anna Barker to learn more and bring the information back to the Board.

## **VII. CLIMB Theatre Update**

Gallagher provided an update that the contract was signed. CLIMB Theatre provided an email with their presentation schedule. They already presented to Oakridge Elementary January 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and received wonderful evaluations and thank you notes. Future presentations include Northview Elementary on April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and Pinewood Elementary on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Macbeth to determine dates of Lakefest and Gallagher to work with CLIMB Theatre on content/presentation for Lakefest.

## **VIII. Watershed Based Funding**

Gallagher provided an overview of a presentation that was given to Watershed District and WMO staff/administrators in a potential Dakota County Collaborative for the Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program. Slides were included in the Board packet and are also posted on the SWCD website.

The potential funding distribution for the \$1,018,000 was reviewed. Formula used was \$50,000 base to each WMO/WD, base amount of \$100,000 to SWCD and the remaining \$618,000 divided among the six WMO/WDs based on 50% total land area and 50% property value. If this approach is agreed upon, E-IGHWMO would receive \$124,160 to use towards their prioritized, targeted and measureable projects identified in the Watershed Plan.

Discussion on whether participating in a collaborative would limit future funding options. The state is shifting funding from a competitive approach to a collaborative. There are still other grant dollars E-IGHWMO could pursue. E-IGHWMO has not pursued competitive grants in the past so a collaborative would be beneficial to the E-IGHWMO.

**Motion by** Saito, second by Workman-Jesness to support the collaborative approach and the proposed funding allocations. Motion carried.

#### **IX. Draft 2017 Annual Report**

Gallagher presented a draft 2017 Annual Report. The format is similar to last year. Last year the template was updated. Upon approval at either this meeting or April, the report will be distributed to cities for them to make available to residents. A few minor edits include adding the LCW implemented projects number to activities, changing wording of Local Water Plan review item in Work plan, and changing year in budget footnote. Eagan sent an email change on the description of the water quality monitoring data.

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to approve the 2017 Annual Report with edits noted. Motion carried.

#### **X. Draft 2019 Budget**

Gallagher presented a draft 2019 budget. There are no changes proposed from the 2018 budget. The Board would like to increase the budget for 'Organization Identity' due to the potential website and social media updates. Maintain website has only been approximately one-third of the budgeted amount. Shift more into 'Organization Identity.' There were also questions on if we have the funds available for 'use of fund balance.' Fund balance at end of 2017 was \$65,941.23. Gallagher will revise the budget and bring back to the Board in April.

#### **XI. Establish Meeting Location**

Eagan City Hall will be under renovations during the April and June meetings and there are no meeting rooms available. Meetings will be moved to Inver Grove Heights City Hall, pending room availability. Gallagher will update schedule and website.

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to change the meeting location of the April 17<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> E-IGHWMO Board meetings to Inver Grove Heights City Hall. Motion carried.

#### **XII. Master Water Stewards (MWS) Activity Updates**

Banner options were reviewed. REymann and Lencowski have done research and support the \$225 banner option from Image360. With the purchases Reymann has already made for the kit, MWS need a slight increase in budget in order to purchase the banner. Lencowski will coordinate printing to ensure that the banner is available for the Eagn Home and Leisure Show. MWS have volunteered to staff the booth at this event, which is March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by** Saito, second by Foss to increase the budget by up to \$50 more, bringing the total budget to \$300. Motion carried.

#### **XIII. Member Community Updates**

Eagan is currently working on their Local Water Plan (LWP) as part of their Comprehensive Plan for 2018-2027. They will submit the LWP to the E-IGHWMO Board for approval. E-IGHWMO will reviewed, cross

reference with Metropolitan Council review and prepare a letter of required changes or a letter of support. Hopefully the timing works out with currently scheduled meetings, but E-IGHWMO may want to think about or be open to a special meeting if needed. Applications are in for the new position which will focus on stormwater and MS4 requirements. Eagan staffs have had complaints from a resident on the Bur Oaks project. E-IGHWMO Board members have seen posting on Next Door by an individual complaining about the Bur Oaks project. E-IGHWMO Board members felt that the project was a great project. They also felt that although the resident speaks of potential litigation, they may not have valid claims. No further action is needed at this time on this matter. Eagan staff will continue to work with the resident as needed.

Inver Grove Heights will be hiring for a new position which will be a combination of parks, maintenance, and stormwater. The City recently completed a CIP list of stormwater improvement projects. A PPL cleanout project was recently completed in the South Grove neighborhood and another project is proposed in the Old Village. There has been a lot of planning and coordination on the Highway 3 with MNDOT and the City of Eagan. Inver Grove Heights is also working on their Comprehensive Plan and will bring the Local Water Plan chapter to the E-IGHWMO for approval.

#### **XIV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Watershed Based Funding Update
- Master Water Stewards Updates
- Website
- Survey
- Fitz Lake
- Lakefest
- Budget
- Library Kits

#### **XV. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.