

# EAGAN-INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

## MINUTES BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING April 17, 2018

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, Minnesota.

### **Board Managers Present:**

Joe Reymann, Chair	Appointed by City of Eagan
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
Dee McManus	Dakota County Master Gardener
Max McManus	Dakota County Resident
Abbey Sweetman	Intern, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

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

### **II. Adopt Agenda**

**Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Foss to approve the agenda with the addition of Rainbarrels. Motion carried.

### **III. Approve Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes of February 20, 2018 Meeting
- B. Invoices for Payment
- C. April 17, 2018 Year-to-Date Budget Performance

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

### **IV. Master Gardener Presentation**

Dee McManus provided a presentation on the Master Gardeners program. There is a process to becoming a Master Gardener including a taking a Horticulture course through the UMN, obtaining continuing education credits and volunteer hours. Every year there are new interns that join the organization. Master Gardeners come from a variety of backgrounds. The UMN Extension provides program guidance and support, including the priorities of the program. In Dakota County there are gardeners working on a variety of projects, Projects of not include installing and maintaining gardens at Dakota Heritage Village, Annual Plant Sale, tabling at Farmers markets and Expos, Dakota County Fair, Let's Get Growing and a bus tour. Dee also recommended looking at the Speakers Bureau and their Tuesday Nights in the Garden series.

There was discussion as to how cities or others could partner with Master Gardeners for raingarden maintenance. There may be some opportunities; however Master Gardeners are more geared towards plant ID and information and not physical landscaping and weed pulling.

#### **V. Watershed Based Funding**

Gallagher presented the table of projects submitted to the E-IGHWMO. Only Eagan and Dakota County submitted projects for consideration. The group reviewed the list, selected projects and funding amounts. A variety of ideas were discussed including funding all at lower amounts, selecting 3 or 4, funding selected projects equally, or look only at pollutant reductions. **Motion by** Lencowski, second by Workman-Jesness to select the Le May Lake Filtration, Carlson Lake Alum Treatment, Schulze Lake Alum Treatment and Holland Lake Channel Stabilization and allocate \$62,000 to Eagan and \$62,000 to Dakota County for these projects. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Draft 2019 Budget**

Gallagher presented the draft budget. Modifications from last draft include reducing Annual Activity Report by \$1,000 and creating a new Board Education budget for \$1,000. Correction to Member City Assessments needs to be made, as there is no proposal for increase from 2018 to 2019. Discussion on Library Backpacks occurred. **Motion by** Workman-Jesness, second by Saito to Reduce Neighborhood Scale Education by \$1,000 and budget for Library Backpacks. Motion carried. **Motion by** Lencowski, second by Workman-Jesness to approve the 2019 Budget with edits. Motion carried.

#### **VII. Eagan Marketfest Schedule**

Reymann mentioned the schedule for Marketfest, which is most Wednesday evenings in the summer. It is a great venue for tabling and providing information to residents. He will send out information and coordinate sign-up with both E-IGHWMO Board members and Master Water Stewards.

#### **VIII. Fitz Lake Outreach**

Gallagher provided an update on options for the event. The postcard in the meeting materials packet is draft and for the purpose of discussion. Local resident Katie is willing to host if it is on a Mon-Wed after 7pm. The other option is to host at Red Pine Elementary. There was discussion on the date and if this lines up with construction for Eagan. Mid-May would be a good time, as it is still before anticipated start of construction. Of the two projects on the lake, the one near Dodd might start in June, while the other side might start in late May. The Board would like to host at Katie's house on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Suggestions for the postcard include changing the picture and calling it a lake improvement project. Gallagher will continue to coordinate with Katie and City of Eagan.

#### **IX. Website Use and Updates**

A summary of website analytics was provided in the meeting packet. The number of unique visitors between January 1 and March 15 was 67. Many visitors may even just be Board members accessing meeting materials. Currently the website is embedded within the SWCD website. This helps save costs on hosting fees and domain registration /maintenance. Costs could increase drastically if E-IGHWMO wants to host on their own and redesign the website. There are some options to update internally (with the SWCD) and have a website that looks more like Lower Mississippi River WMO or North Cannon WMO. We do not have internal capacity to make a website look like Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. It would be nice to have a website that is accessible via smartphones as this is the way many people view the website. Gallagher mentioned that the SWCD will likely have a website re-design in their new 5 year education and outreach plan. Board would like to focus on what content they would like on the website before re-designing, and by then they might be able to continue partnership with the SWCD and still receive a website upgrade.

#### **X. Library Water Theme Backpacks**

Workman-Jesness provided a detailed summary of the information she has gather from a Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed (RWMWD) volunteer and some ideas of her own. The RWMWD has 4 different water themed backpacks with books and activities available for checkout at their local libraries. There was discussion on content and how much they are checked out. Advertising the backpacks would be very important, including how/where they are placed within the library. E-IGHWMO would likely place backpacks at Wescott and Inver Glen Libraries. The average cost would be approximately \$500 per library. Under budget discussion the Board chose to allocate \$1,000 for the backpacks.

#### **XI. Adjacent and Affected Community Comprehensive Plan Reviews**

As part of the Comprehensive Plan process, the E-IGHWMO is provided the opportunity to review Plans if it is affected by the Plan or adjacent to a community. Dakota County and Burnsville have submitted their Plans the E-IGHWMO. Gallagher has taken a preliminary look, and finds no goals or activities that conflict with the goals and activities within the E-IGHWMO Watershed Management Plan. **Motion by** Foss, second by Lencowski to have the Administrator respond on behalf of the E-IGHWMO with no comments to the Dakota County Plan and no comments to the Burnsville Plan. Motion carried.

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

Foss has volunteered to staff an informational table at recent events and doing some phosphorus fertilizer research for Eagan. Lencowski has been working on the banner with Reymann. Banner was displayed at the meeting and the Board was impressed with how it turned out. Reymann has attended a resilient yards class, volunteered at the Home and Leisure Show, and participated in a groundwater focus group with the Freshwater Society.

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

Macbeth started with an update requested by Reymann on a potential rainbarrel program. Interest has been expressed for a partnership with Hardware Hank to offer discounted rainbarrels. The program is not a good fit for the City of Eagan's grant program. Program would have to be supported by the E-IGHWMO. The Board would like more information on program details. Macbeth shared a map of lake improvement and protection projects that are being submitted for the cities CIP.

Dodge will bring a CIP for Inver Grove Heights to the next meeting and hopefully a Comprehensive Plan (Local Water Plan Chapter). They have a new fulltime staff member that will be half time dedicated to water quality/stormwater. They will also be hiring for a new engineering position.

SWCD now is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Follow them for updates and information.

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

- Website content
- Education and Outreach Plan 2019-2022 Draft
- Rainbarrel program
- Fitz Lake
- Library backpacks

#### **XV. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Lencowski, second by Saito to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.