

Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, May 24, 2011 – 1:30 PM
Benton County Commissioners Room – Foley, MN 56329

The Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Cekalla at 1:32 p.m. at the Benton County Commissioners Room on May 24, 2011.

CHECK Voting members present: Wade Bastian - Benton SWCD, Craig Gondeck – Citizen at Large, Guy Spence – Citizen at Large, Duane Cekalla – Little Rock Lake Association, Ken Nodo – Citizen at Large, Jim Moshier – City of Foley, John Bemboom – Elected Township Official, Joe Wollak – Benton County Commissioner

CHECK Voting members absent: none

CHECK Voting member excused: Brian Kaschmitter – Elk River Watershed, Warren Peschl – Benton County Commissioner

CHECK Others Present: Katie Winkelman – Benton SWCD, Gerry Maciej – Benton SWCD, Chelle Benson – Benton County DOD, Mark McNamara – Benton County DOD, Steve Marod – MN DNR Fishery, Tiffany Determan – Elk River Watershed, Pat Gheling – NRCS, Kimberly Thielen Cremers – Stearns County SWCD, Dan Martens – U of M Extension, Steve Marod – DNR Fish Little Falls.

(Three Priority Issues in Comprehensive Water Plan: 1) Groundwater quantity and quality, 2) Development, 3) Feedlots and Nutrient Management.)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

2. Review/Approve Minutes: Motion by Craig Gondeck, Second by John Bemboom to approve the March 22, 2011 minutes. Motion Carried. Page one Item 4: \$56,000 is for the first scoring period and funding for the second period is still pending.

3. Agenda: Motion by Joe Wollak to approve agenda, Second by Ken Nodo. Motion Carried.

4. Reports:

- a. Craig Gondeck shared concerns from George Dingman about dead animals on neighbor's land on east side of 25 before you get into Morrison County. Staff will share the concern with appropriate authorities.
- b. Dan Martens shared information about the Dairy Breakfast on the farm that will be held at the Ken Bemboom farm on June 25.
- c. Kimberly Thielen Cremers shared information about an open house for the St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan on May 25 and the "Take the Day Off on Mississippi River" event on August 13.
- d. Gerry Maciej Reported on a Grant to do irrigation advising work in Little Rock Area. They could not find a suitable applicant. SWCD staff will aim to do the work they can with existing staff. One task will be to check irrigation systems. The second part is evaluating irrigation needs related to crop development.

e. Elk River Watershed TMDL

Tiffany Determan shared that MPCA is working on memo related to waste water treatment plants. Then the process will move to the public comment period.

f. Mississippi St. Cloud Major Watershed Project:

Work is being done on phase 1 - information gathering. Mayhew Creek will likely be listed as an impaired water for bacteria. Is Mayhew creek also designated a county ditch and that does that affect how TMDL's are handled? Gerry Maciej thought it was probably dealt with as any other creek.

g. Little Rock Lake and Little Rock Creek TMDLs

Public notice started yesterday and public comments can be offered for 30 days. Then there are 30 days to address public comments.

Little Rock Creek - first technical advisory group meeting was held for phase 3. Modeling work is being done.

h. Albany meeting, St. Cloud State professor making a presentation.

No one here attended.

5. Water Plan Amendment Breakout Sessions:

a. Explanation of Schedule, Goals, and Rules

State agencies have been informed about an amendment process and agencies have the opportunity to comment. Today's task is for this committee to provide input.

Priority concerns will stay the same. Goals, objectives and action items can be changed. The July 26 water resources meeting will include a public hearing related to proposed amendments. The document will be presented to the County Board of Commissioners meeting and then sent to BWSR. The goal is to get it to the BWSR September board meeting to stay on track with granting schedule.

b. The group divided into three groups to discuss items in water plan and potential amendments for

- i. Development
- ii. Groundwater Quality and Quantity
- iii. Feedlot and Nutrient Management

6. Results of Breakout Sessions

Group leaders and note takers provided notes from their conversations.

Water Plan Amendment Small Group Discussion Inputs

Development Priority Concern

Goal 1-Objective 1 Subpart A change to read Assist in the development of the County Hydro Geologic Atlas Responsibility: DNR/DOD

Goal 2, Objective 2, Subpart A – add Inform LGU of critical water resource areas identified in the Geologic Atlas.

Goal 2, Objective 3 reword to objective to either include private ditches or need to remove private ditches from subparts. This goal is the group was split on have feel that this is not an active action item because it is just stating that we will comply with already established state statute.

Goal 3, Objective 1, Subpart A-2 make certain that this is the only crisis management tool if not include the names of the other tools.

Goal 4 Reword to state: Retrofit existing development with BMPs and proactively plan for future growth in order to protect water resources and minimize land use conflicts.

Goal 1, Objective 1, Subpart E-1 Coordinating w/LGUs to update and maintain sensitive areas management plan using the resource concerns such as the city of Sauk Rapids - Sauk Rapids Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management....continue from action item E.

Goal 1, Objective 2, Subpart B - discussion was had about a reference guide that would cover all cities and TWP development regulations so it would be easy for people to get the info they need. Many times developers go right to the county for info so it would make things easier so people don't keep getting handed over to another agency. Not sure how this could be done, maybe via website so every agency would be responsible for maintaining up-to-date info.

Goal 2, Objective 2: add to action items: Create demonstration projects to monitor and compare LID methods to standard Development methods.

Goal 1, Objective 1 Expanded beyond Sauk Rapids/Sartell boundaries, expanding to corridor townships adjacent to Mississippi and other growth boundaries

Goal 4, Objective 1 – Suggested adding something to the effect of alternative ways to handle future ways to hand waste water management combining municipalities.

Cluster Development need for proper management, long term management, policy change? County involvement (taxing like county ditches)

Goal 2 Seek to require that any proposed project in Shoreland that will increase the TSS and TP Load will be required to install a BMP to mitigate the greater loading.

New Goal or action item to Goal 3 or 4: Promote land and water BMP in shoreland, such as vegetative buffers, rain gardens, and routing rainwater off roofs away from surface water.

Phosphorus fertilizer education what the rules state and what is recommended

Feedlot Priority Concern

Goal 1, Objective 1, Add Promote the establishment of riparian buffers

Goal 1, Objective 2: Subpart D - Add a Demonstration projects i.e. Best width for buffers

Goal 1, Objective 3: add action item D) promote the establishment of riparian buffers

Goal 1, Objective 4, Subpart B want to make sure this stays in the plan, maybe extend the completion date to 2018 or mark it as continuous.

Remove Subpart B of Objective 4 – Host exploratory meeting(s) regarding the county feedlot delegation topic, invite other counties/interested parties to speak on the topic.

Groundwater Priority Concern

Goal 1, Objective 1: add action item E) Continue DNR OB well monitoring

Goal 1, Objective 3: action item D) just a note that the group is very concerned about the long term maintenance of large capacity SSTS. They weren't sure how to address the issue but there was quite a bit of discussion about the issue.

Goal 1, Objective 4: in general they just wanted the term unused wells to be changed to abandoned wells.

Goal 1, Objective 4, Subpart B - change wording to add low interest load programs

Goal 2, Objective 1: add Action item F - identify regional aquifers

Goal 1, Objective 3, add subpart E – Pursue funding (ie grants) for upgrading failing systems in critical areas, also add MDH responsibility

Goal 2, add objective 3 Ensure accurate irrigation reporting of water appropriation use Action Item – Work with DNR temper proof methods of reporting or encourage DNR to require temper proof reporting

Investigate the need for additional groundwater quantity monitoring wells – add to DNR well network – is the monitoring well network adequate for restoration monitoring plan.

Domestic and Municipal wells competing – business (high water users) or groups of residents homes installing wells and competing with city wells – quantity concerns and education needs.

New Objective or action item: Education is key (important) be sure to include in irrigation management.

N monitoring needed in Little Rock Creek to help with TMDL implementation/restoration – surface runoff and groundwater flow.

Tiling – is there currently any monitoring of tiling in the county – obtain education material on tiling – is this a concern or should this be a concern

Ongoing Activities

Add Major Watershed Project

Update Groundwater monitoring

Emergency Management – add encourage the continuation of the EMS related to water quality.

Add Encourage Buffers on Little Rock Lake

Seek funding for Septic System Replacements for low income residents

Inventory and encourage establishment of buffers along inflows to Little Rock Lake

7. Next Steps for Water Plan Amendment

Submit any other ideas to Katie. June 27 is agency deadline for providing comments. Document will be reviewed in July.

8. Next Meeting

July 26, 2011, 1:30 pm at the Benton County Commissioner's room.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by John Bemboom, Second by Craig Gondeck. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Dan Martens, Secretary and
Katie Winkelman, Water Plan Facilitator

Approved by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
WRAC Board Chairperson