

Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2008- 1:30 PM
Benton County Commissioner Board Room - Foley, MN 56329

The Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Jordan 1:30 p.m. at the Benton County Commissioner Board Room on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

Those in attendance include: Joe Jordan – SWCD Board, Ken Nodo At-large, Guy Spence – At-large, Duane Cekalla – Little Rock Lake Association, Dan Hennek – At large, Annie Felix – Benton SWCD and Water Plan Coordinator, Dan Martens – U of M Extension, Gerry Maciej – Benton SWCD, John Bemboom – Township Representative, Phil Votruba – MPCA, Larry Nadeau – Municipalities-City of Foley, Brian Kaschmitter – ERWA, Butch Backowski – Benton County Commissioner, Dan Lais – DNR Division of Waters, Jason Weinerman - BWSR.

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

1. Review / Approve Minutes. Craig Gondeck requested an excused absence for the November 27, 2007 meeting. Duane Cekalla moved to approve the November 27, 2007 minutes with an excused absence for Craig Gondeck. Second by Craig Gondeck. Motion Carried.

2. Agenda. Motion by Larry Nadeau to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Hennek. Motion Carried.

3. Membership Terms and Bylaws

Annie passed out a list of memberships and years served. People are asked to check for corrections. A certificate was presented to Joe Jordan for serving on WRAC for 11 years. By-laws indicate 3 year terms with a maximum of 9 years total. There was some discussion that members appointed by the County Commissioners would be limited to 9 years, but those elected by another group (such as selected by township association) could serve longer. It is noted that the municipality representative be limited to 3 years so it rotates among municipalities. A question was raised about a city council member that would finish their council term before finishing a term. Someone would need to be appointed to finish the WRAC municipality term.

It was suggested that a list be created indicating years served by ex-officio members.

4. A new claim form was circulated based on a per diem of \$55 and mileage at \$0.505.

5. Publications on Water Resources. Initiative Quarterly, Confluence (Minnesota Water and Lakes Association, Minnegrain (U of M), Shore to Shore (U of M Extension), “The Technical Assistance Times”(Minnesota Rural Water). Subscription information was circulated.

6. Edits to Water Plan. Some people have done a lot of reading and offered comments and suggestions. Some are typos and formatting edits that should not need group approval.

The dollar estimates help BWSR to get a handle on financial needs. This helps BWSR to identify needs that may need to be requested from the legislature or other sources.

Page 4: Development, Goal 2 Action 2 “to establish and maintain ...” Then 2d refers to “yard management.” Clarified this to mean basic management practices, mowing, fertilizer, pesticides, composting fall leaves. The group likes “lawn/yard best management practices.”

Page 6 under State, Do other agencies that have plans we should be aware of.

Page 5, Section 5 Summary.

It is possible for County Water Plan groups to offer comments to other agencies about experiences with inconsistencies in their plans. Gerry mentioned the inconsistency of our county not being eligible for Federal 319 funds for some projects because we are not a delegated feedlot county with a minimum number of feedlots. In previous discussion, financial resources have been a concern related to whether the County would consider delegation designation. One of the action items is to review a decision again related to feedlot delegation. As this is considered, the timing of the county budget process needs to be considered.

Duane Cekalla suggested SWCD do some research on the 319 funding policies and bring information back to the next meeting. Is it statute, rule, or internal policy?

Page 10

Question: Does the county have data about the number feedlots within shoreland areas? Feedlots that are registered answered this question on their registrations.

Reworking paragraph at the top of page 10.

Re-Label graphs on page 11.

Suggested that it might be helpful to identify pieces that need work and identify smaller groups to work on pieces of this and bring it back to the next meeting.

Suggestion that the group look at timelines for some of the action items. Some of these needed to be targeted for work very soon and can be done in a timely way. Where funding is needed to get things done, funds need to be asked for.

BWSR says this plan is a basis for implementation planning. This is “a plan to start planning.” Once the plan is adopted more detailed planning would be done in the process of implementing priority action items.

Give suggestions for changes to the plan to Annie. Annie will put together a third draft that will be reviewed before and at the February 26 meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 26 at 1:30 at the Benton County Commissioner’s Room.

Adjournment. Duane Cekalla moved to adjourn. Second by Guy Spence. Motion Carried.

Adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully Committed,

Dan Martens, Secretary

Approved by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WRAC Board Chairperson