

Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 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, March 25, 2008.

Those in attendance include: Joe Jordan – SWCD Board, Ken Nodo - 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, Dan Lais – DNR Division of Waters, Chelle Benson-Benton County DOD Director, Mark McNamara – Benton County DOD, Joe Wollak – Benton County Commissioner Chair, Craig Gondeck – At-Large, John Henz – City of Sauk Rapids, Pat Gehling - NRCS.

(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 Duane Cekalla to approve the February 26, 2008 minutes. Second by Craig Gondeck. Motion Carried.

3. Agenda. Motion by Larry Nadeau to approve the agenda. Second by Craig Gondeck. Motion Carried.

Information from Annie:

- Teleconference on Healthy Drinking Water – Wollak, Cekalla, Jordan attended and reported that they thought to be good.
- Upcoming Classes and Workshops for Planning and Zoning Board members.
- Rain Gardens Workshop – U of M Extension, at Watab Townhall on April 28.
- Harmful algal bloom workshops. Annie was a presenter. Workshops are archived on the MPCA website
- MN DNR Volunteer April article on gauging groundwater

4. Report on 2007/2008 EQIP Sign-Up.

Pat Gehling shared a handout. EQIP is a key source of funding for agricultural practices. Projects have been identified for available funds, \$292,518 from USDA are going towards Benton County land treatment practices.

5. Little Rock Lake TMDL Work Plan Update, Annie Felix

Proposal submitted to the Brainerd MPCA office. It is still being evaluated.

6. Report on blue green algae workshops, Annie Felix

The workshop was geared at learning from past few years to educate lake property owners and others on the issue of harmful algae blooms. When drought happens, shallow lakes are more susceptible to toxic algae blooms. Is someone watching Mayhew Lake? There will be TMDL monitoring work done at Mayhew Lake this summer. Toxicity levels at 80,000 ppm measured at Little Rock Lake were the highest measured in the world.

7. Water Plan review, revisions, approval, Annie Felix

If there are only a few and not major revisions, we would aim to go to public hearing on April 22. The group proceeded to review the document.

-Page 5 & 6. Remove St. Cloud from wellhead protection plan list because they do not have this process.

- Delete item related to policy on 319 funds for feedlot improvements. April 2006, it was decided that 319 dollars can be used for feedlot BMP implementation, but not for implementing a feedlot program.
- Is there an action item that we would want to happen related to this? No because we have already stated to seek any available funding assistance.
- Page 15 on Development section, adding 2007 estimated data to the chart.
- A heading would be added called "Other Chemicals" on page 19 above "Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons"
- Goals, Objectives, Action Items placed at the end of the document.
- Additions on page 35 related to implementation items and items that are already underway through dedicated funding.
- Page 4 needs a goal 4 added under development
- Under groundwater quality on page 41, Mike Howe MDH suggested adding an action item to create a performance standard for sensitive areas impacted by development. Are there standards now? Consider this with municipalities to deal with orderly annexation areas. If use this, we could indicate MDH as lead agency. How about: "Assess the need and where needed develop a process ..."
- Page 41, Object 3 "add an action item to inventory of Class V injection wells in sensitive areas and work with EPA to eliminate these in those areas." Prefer a wording "to investigate issues related to Class V injection wells ...". Lots of questions. New SSTS rules will likely eliminate garage drains.
- Question about Objective 3 related to SSTS – This is not based on something commissioners are committed to, but to something this group sees as being helpful if it could be done.
- Ongoing activity sheet – Source Water Protection – Should identify St. Cloud and UMRSWPP... entity.
- Page 2 - Mayhew Creek (below Mayhew Lake) TMDL will not start in 2008, but to be determined based on MPCA budgets. Some background work will be done in 2009. Mayhew Lake will stay in.
- Page 12 Dairy Cows and Broiler Chickens are a major source of nutrients. Do we need an action item naming these as priority? Gerry suggests an action item h indicating a priority for dairy and poultry. Consensus determined by hand count.

Duane Cekalla moved to approve editing based on these suggestions and to move forward with a public hearing. Second by John Bemboom. Motion carried.

Motion by Duane Cekalla to set the Public Hearing date for May 6, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. Second by Craig Gondeck. Motion Carried. Annie will offer a summery presentation at the hearing. Others who can attend can be prepared to answer questions and offer support as needed.

8. 2008 Planning – Develop Master Schedule for selected action items. Annie shared the information for us to review before the next meeting. We may meet in small groups based on the three priority areas to consider results of the poll and consider next steps toward implementation.

9. Next meeting: Tuesday May 6, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Benton County Commissioner’s Room.

Adjournment. Motion by John Bemboom to adjourn. Second by Duane Cekalla. Motion Carried.
Adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Martens, Secretary

Approved by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WRAC Board Chairperson