

Benton County Water Resources Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday September 27, 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 1:30 p.m. at the Benton County Commissioners Room on September 27, 2011.

Voting members present: 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, Warren Peschl - County Commissioner, Steve Anderson – Citizen at Large.

Voting members absent: Wade Bastian - Benton SWCD

Voting member excused: John Bemboom – Elected Township Official, Brian Kaschmitter – Elk River Watershed

Others Present: Katie Winkelman – Benton SWCD, Gerry Maciej – Benton SWCD, Chelle Benson – Benton County DOD, Mark McNamara – Benton County DOD, Dan Martens – U of M Extension, Diana Graning – Benton County Public Health. Joe Wollak – Benton County Commissioner,

(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 Guy Spence with second by Ken Nodo to approve the July 26, 2011 minutes. Motion Carried.

3. Agenda: Motion by Craig Gondeck to approve agenda, Second by Warren Peschl. Motion Carried.

4. Citizen at Large Position Open

Steve Anderson is appointed new to the committee as a member-at-large. He is a dairy farmer in Alberta Township, serves on the Central MN Ethanol Plant Board and with other community efforts.

5. Reports

a. Little Rock Lake TMDLs

Contract ended at the end of the June with Bill Walker. Three additional entities were added to the waste load sources - Watab Township, MnDOT, and Benton County related to roads. Public comment period is open until October 12.

Craig Gondeck thanked Katie Winkelman and Gerry Hovde for participation in a meeting.

b. Little Creek TMDL. Bar Engineering is working on the modeling. They are about 2 weeks behind because of the State shutdown. There is an extension until June 20, 2013. Katie will work to keep them on task.

c. Elk River Watershed TMDLs

This is on EPA's desk now, awaiting approval.

d. Mississippi (St. Cloud) Watershed Project

See below

e. Members

Craig Gondeck reported that MPCA wanted to know what Watab was doing with storm water. They reviewed information about culverts and a bridge. MPCA was pleased with the information.

6. Announcements

2011 Outstanding Conservation Cooperators

Guy Spence and Maureen Graber were selected as Outstanding Cooperators for 2011. They have worked on native buffers on their properties on Little Rock Lake. They surveyed residents on the lake and partnered with Benton SWCD on a buffer workshop for lakeshore residents interested in installing a native buffer. They provide leadership in the Little Rock Lake Association and help other residents with buffers, weed control and other lakeshore practices and issues.

Mississippi (St. Cloud Watershed Project Launch Event

October 13 from 3-4:30 and 6:00 to 7:30 at Clear Lake Township Hall. A flyer was circulated.

7. Water Plan Amendment Edits

Review –

Spelling and grammar errors were reviewed.

Diana Graning – Benton County Public Health p.4

Add Steve Anderson to voting member list p.4

Little Rock Lake data changed with new information p.8

p.11 question about Objective 4 item a. Should we use stronger language than “Consider.” This would be considered in the amendments.

Priority Concerns: Things shaded in pink are new items.

Priority Concern 1: Feedlot and Nutrient Management

page 22,

Previous language: Objective 4: Resolve feedlot regulations/delegation issue

a) Consider need for LGU review of new projects on feedlots under 300 AU.

b) Periodically discuss the county feedlot delegation topic, inviting counties/interested parties to the discussion.

Recommend:

Objective 4: Review and evaluate effectiveness of feedlot permitting and related issues in Benton County.

Consider need for LGU review of new projects on feedlots under 300 AU. (This point is aimed at encouraging people to make use of resources to review feedlot design plans to prevent future problems.) Periodically invite MPCA, Benton DOD, SWCD to give an updates on work being done with County feedlots, related issues and how things are working.

Priority Concern 2: Development

Goal 2: Objective 2, Item a) Explore the need for reviewing proposals of any projects.....

Goal 3: Objective 1, Item g. “Local units of government” would include townships, cities, other.

Priority 2, Goal 3, Objective 1, item e-1. It was pointed out that in 7 years we should be able to “DO” this, not just “seek to”.

Recommendation is to say, “Establish a county-wide “Water Week.”

Priority Concern 3: Groundwater

Objective 2, item c include Benton County Public Health

Objective 6: Educate public on Pharmaceutical Program and disposal recommendations.
Add Law Enforcement to responsible entities.

Goal 2, Objective 1, f. List DNR and USGS as the responsible entity.

Total \$ on page 29 will be \$1,357,900

Question:

Can the board make a recommendation until they see a finished written product?

Discussion: At the July’s meeting it was recommended that we make required corrections to the document on the overhead projector so that we can continue to move forward with the amendment process. So everyone present is truly seeing the final document with corrections as discussed.

Motion by Guy Spence with second by Steve Anderson motion to recommend amended document to County Board. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting

November 22, 2011, 1:30 pm at the Benton County Commissioner’s room.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Ken Nodo. Second by Guy Spence. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

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

Approved by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
WRAC Board Chairperson