

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Call to Order of the Workshop

President Larry Olson called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the NMCWD office, Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie.

Managers Present: Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Peggy Kvam, Chris-Ann Lauria and Larry Olson

Advisors Present: Janna Kieffer and Michael McKinney (Barr Engineering) and Michael Welch (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Boor (Watershed Specialist), Brett Eidem (Natural Resources Planning and Project Manager), Erica Sniegowski (Administrator), Zach Stafslie* (Regulatory Program Manager), and Gael Zembal (Education and Outreach Coordinator)

*Attended virtually.

I. Houston Engineering Scope of Work

Lizzy Boor summarized a proposed scope of work from Houston Engineering for adding components to the cost-share online application system and making enhancements to the permitting module in the interface software NMCWD uses.

Manager Kvam moved, seconded by Manager Lauria, to authorize the administrator, with advice of counsel, to enter into a contract with Houston Engineering for the scope of work presented for not to exceed \$15,050. Upon vote, the motion carried.

II. WSB Fisheries Management Scope of Work

a. Lake Cornelia Goldfish Management and

b. Normandale Lake Carp Management

Erica Sniegowski provided the managers with background and history on NMCWD's assessment and management of fish in Normandale Lake and Lake Cornelia. She reminded the managers that fisheries management is a new line item in the 2024 budget, and the plan is to establish fish management as a NMCWD program.

Administrator Sniegowski said that the 2018 pre-drawdown survey revealed that the carp population exceeded the ecologically damaging threshold. She said post-drawdown in 2019 and 2020, the carp population still exceeded the threshold, which led to the district to conduct box netting to remove carp. Administrator Sniegowski stated Normandale Lake in 2023 had approximately 160 pounds of carp per acre. She said the current goal is to reduce carp to below the ecologically damaging threshold of 89 pounds of carp per acre, although the district is planning further discussions this year to understand if this is an appropriate goal for Normandale Lake. Administrator Sniegowski said Jordan Wein of WSB recommends the district test hoop-netting this spring. She explained a hoop net blocks the passage of fish. Administrator Sniegowski noted WSB's scope of work for Normandale Lake carp management is \$34,364.

In response to a question from Manager Butler, Administrator Sniegowski said the proposed scope includes the same three electronic fish-tracking stations established in the past, and no new stations. She said about 300 carp in the lake system are tagged.

Regarding Lake Cornelia, Administrator Sniegowski said that goldfish and carp were identified in the 2018 fish survey. She said the population was studied in 2020, and population management and removal methods were tested. She said goldfish removal was tested starting in 2021, and in 2023 the goldfish removal effort was expanded.

Administrator Sniegowski said the proposed scope of work for goldfish population reduction and monitoring in Lake Cornelia has a cost of \$18,832.

It was moved by Manager Kvam, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to authorize the administrator, with the advice of counsel, to enter into a contract with WSB for the scope of work for Normandale Lake at not to exceed \$34,364 and the scope of work for Lake Cornelia at not to exceed \$18,832. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Manager Butler asked if there will be a discussion on the long-term thinking about fisheries in Normandale Lake. She said it feels like this has been part of the

district's adaptive management that does not get projects taken off the books. Administrator Sniegowski said yes, she thinks this will be an important discussion as part of the lake assessment framework discussion this year.

III. Lake Study Approvals

- a. Arrowhead and Indianhead Lakes Feasibility Study and**
- b. Birch Island Lake Water Quality Study**

Janna Kieffer said the managers board saw the draft Arrowhead Lake and Indianhead Lake Feasibility Study and the draft Birch Island Lake Water Quality Study in October. She said Manager Butler submitted non-substantive proposed changes that staff incorporated into the final report, and Manager Cutshall provided comment about the water level in Birch Island Lake and whether the current low water level should be a factor to consider regarding the timing of a sediment treatment. Ms. Kieffer responded that the next step following completion of the water quality study will be to conduct a feasibility study, in which the timing of a sediment treatment in relation to water levels could be evaluated further. She said a question Manager Butler and Manager Cutshall have raised is whether the timeline for the lake-level investigation should be moved up compared to the timeline indicated in the draft study. Ms. Kieffer said the timeline in the report has not been changed. Manager Butler said she does not think it needs to be changed.

Manager Butler moved, seconded by Manager Kvam, to accept the final Arrowhead and Indianhead Lakes Feasibility Study and the final Birch Island Lake Water Quality Study. Upon vote, the motion carried.

IV. 2022 Board Retreat Outcomes Update

Administrator Sniegowski revisited the goals/key tasks and timeline table developed out of the board's 2022 retreat. She said that in the next two months, the district needs to assess if it will renew its administrative assistant agreement with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. Administrator Sniegowski added that the district needs to look ahead and identify if there are other resource gaps and needs for staffing. She said there is a potential increase in workload around the flood management planning and the district's watershed management plan.

Administrator Sniegowski addressed the goal of cross-training staff, noting staff are generally able to fill in for each other. She said she is training on the district's permit application review processes, and Elizabeth Boor can review permits that only trigger the NMCWD erosion and sediment-control rule. Manager Cutshall said it is important for the district to be responsive in its regulatory work.

V. Flood Visioning

Ms. Kieffer displayed a map of the Nine Mile Creek watershed, along with flow hydrographs for the 100-year, 24-hour storm event at numerous locations along Nine Mile Creek, to help describe how the extent and duration of flood flows change significantly throughout the creek system. She said these maps help the district understand where more flood storage might be needed or where more conveyance capacity might be needed to move water downstream.

Manager Kvam asked if Anderson Lakes is an area where water could be stored. Ms. Kieffer said restricting flows out of the Anderson Lakes should be considered, at a minimum.

Following the presentation of flow hydrographs from around the district, the managers and staff broke into small groups to discuss the question, “What questions do you want a watershed-wide plan to answer?”

On coming back together as a full group, Ms. Sniegowski said staff will review the input from the breakouts and present results at an upcoming meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Manager Butler moved, seconded by Manager Lauria, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris-Ann Lauria

Chris-Ann Lauria (Mar 21, 2024 11:16 CDT)

Chris-Ann Lauria, Secretary

NMCWD-February-1-2024-Workshop-Minutes

Final Audit Report


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