

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

Call to Order

Chair Peterson called the Special Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Nine Mile Watershed District to order at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 6, 2020, at the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Office, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

Managers Present: Bob Cutshall, Erin Hunker, Larry Olson, Grace Sheely, and Jodi Peterson

Manager Absent: None.

Advisors Present: Randy Anhorn, Janna Kieffer, Erica Sniegowski, and Lauren Foley

Building Addition Update

Administrator Anhorn reported the anticipated timeline for the District's building addition, including:

- Final design will be completed by February 14, 2020
 - Pre-bid walk through will take place on February 25
 - Bids are due March 10, and
 - Staff will bring bids and the watershed district permit in front of the Board on March 18.
- Administrator Anhorn responded to questions.

Manager Sheely moved, seconded by Manager Olson, to go out for bids. Upon a vote, the motion carried.

2020 Seasonal Intern

Administrator Anhorn asked the Board to direct staff to post the District's summer internship opening. He noted staff will be scheduling intern interviews during college spring

breaks. Administrator Anhorn described the types of work the intern will conduct. He said the intern will be scheduled to work 20 to 30 hours per week from May to September, and the pay will be \$14 to \$15 per hour.

Manager Sheely asked for details about the 2019 summer internship in terms of the intern's responsibilities and the ways the internship helped the District.

Program and Project Manager Sniegowski described the tasks managed by last summer's intern. She talked about staff's take-aways from last summer's internship, explaining how the take-aways will be applied to this year's summer intern role.

Manager Sheely moved, seconded by Manager Hunker to direct staff to post and interview for the District intern position. Upon a vote, the motion carried.

Lake Smetana UAA Update - Presentation

Engineer Kieffer, displaying a PowerPoint presentation on screen, opened the Lake Smetana UAA (Use Attainability Analysis) update by giving details about the lake's location, size, maximum and average depth, and providing details about the previous UAA, completed in 2003. She explained a UAA is a structured scientific assessment of a water body's physical, chemical, and biological conditions and provides a scientific foundation for a lake-specific management plan.

Engineer Kieffer highlighted the UAA goal to re-evaluate Lake Smetana's water quality to assess: water quality impacts from changes in the watershed's land use; water quality improvements from best management practices; sources of phosphorous to Lake Smetana; and, need for management activities to protect and/or improve water quality moving forward.

Engineer Kieffer went through the steps in the UAA process, including intensive monitoring, evaluating historic and current lake conditions, and running watershed and in-lake modeling. She summarized the monitoring results, including water, plant, and fish monitoring and addressed the presence of aquatic invasive species such as curly-leaf pondweed. She talked about sources of phosphorous and nutrients into the lake and presented data on historic and current water quality of the lake.

Engineer Kieffer noted the improvements in Lake Smetana's water quality correlate with the timing of the Bryant Lake alum treatment. She pointed out that Lake Smetana shows one of the highest chloride concentrations of the District's lakes. Engineer Kieffer talked about utilizing the previously-developed P8 model and Barr Engineering "Shallow Lake Model" in the study and the results of the modeling.

Engineer Kieffer summarized the study's conclusions:

- Lake Smetana water quality has improved since early 2010
- Water quality improvements are due in large part to Bryant Lake alum treatment (and other upstream improvements)

- The largest source of phosphorous load to Lake Smetana comes from watershed runoff, with Bryant Lake discharge and internal sediment loading also contributing.

Engineer Kieffer presented the following recommendations, based on the study's findings:

- Maintain Bryant Lake water quality – continue to monitor
- Reduce pollutant load from the direct watershed
 - Seek partnership opportunities for enhanced stormwater treatment as additional development occurs in the watershed
 - Close monitoring/inspection of construction projects within the watershed (e.g., SouthWest Light Rail Transit)
 - Seek partnership opportunities to address localized erosion issues along Lake Smetana shoreline (e.g., cost share grant program)
- Continued monitoring of Lake Smetana
 - Continue to periodically monitor Lake Smetana water quality for nutrients and chloride
 - Continue to track invasive species growth, specifically curly-leaf pondweed
 - Continue to monitor dissolved oxygen concentrations and potential for sediment phosphorous release in the lake
 - Update fisheries survey (preferably through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)
- Work with stakeholders on chloride reduction

Engineer Kieffer emphasized that the water quality of Lake Smetana is dependent upon the maintenance of good water quality in Bryant Lake. She noted that the Bryant Lake alum treatment took place in 2008, and it is expected that results diminish over time.

Engineer Kieffer mentioned she and Administrator Anhorn have heard from stakeholders about some concerns regarding erosion on properties on the north side of the lake. She said maybe there are opportunities through the District's cost share program to help address these erosion issues. Administrator Anhorn added that he and Engineer Kieffer plan on meeting with the City of Eden Prairie this spring when the eroded areas are visible and plan on meeting with the property owners as well.

There was a brief discussion about the SWLRT project, a redevelopment project currently proposed where there may be an opportunity to expand the stormwater BMP to provide additional stormwater benefits, and working with the City of Eden Prairie about the possibility of channeling run-off from currently untreated area through the proposed BMP.

There was a brief discussion about chloride testing conducted by volunteers. Manager Sheely brought up a conversation she had with Brooke Asleson of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the Isaac Walton League's national testing kit for chloride. Manager Sheely shared that Ms. Asleson hopes that watershed districts would use the test strips in the

field and see if the data is valid. Program and Project Manager Sniegowski said the District has some of the chloride test strips. Manager Sheely commented she would like to see one of the national test kits for chloride.

Engineer Kieffer asked if the Board would like to have the chloride data and information included in the Lake Smetana Water Quality Study Report Summary document. The Board agreed it would like chloride included in the report.

Chair Peterson asked for more details about the invasive plant species purple loosestrife, commenting it would be good to know its impacts. Manager Sheely added it would be beneficial to know sooner rather than later about any potential impacts from purple loosestrife. Engineer Kieffer said she will bring back to the Board information about purple loosestrife relative to how it impacts the way the District is looking at its lakes and water quality. She noted she will check with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District about any purple loosestrife management projects it may have undertaken.

Administrator Anhorn stated that the District's budget for projects that may come out of this UAA is \$200,000. He remarked that the District, given the recommendations coming from the UAA, may decide it doesn't need to levy those funds at this time. He explained that he hears Engineer Kieffer saying the District's actions for Lake Smetana are to monitor and protect, meaning maybe there isn't a CIP project in 2021 for Lake Smetana.

Administrator Anhorn said he and Engineer Kieffer are reaching out to the MN DNR to see if it could undertake a fish survey of Lake Smetana. Administrator Anhorn said he and Engineer Kieffer will work on the UAA summary, finalizing the report, including adding the chloride data, and will bring back to the Board.

2019 WMP Tracking and 2020 Workplan

Administrator Anhorn displayed on the screen a table "District Annual Implementation Program, Projects and CIP during 10-year Plan Cycle," color-coded to indicate which 2019 action items were completed, are on-going, or have not progressed. He noted that this agenda item is informational only. He summarized the District's 2019 accomplishments toward its program and project implementation action items, reporting 40 items were completed, 11 items were partially completed or are in-progress, and one item had little or no progress made.

The managers discussed the one item that had little or no progress made: Implement structural improvement recommendations from the Pentagon Park/Border Basin Regional Stormwater Management Study. Chair Peterson said maybe this item needs to be moved. Manager Sheely said the District needs to be the lead on this initiative because the cities of Bloomington and Edina are not indicating they will. She remarked that maybe there should be an asterisk added to this item to explain why the District did not accomplish it.

Manager Sheely pointed out that the Board and staff haven't added public art to the discussion enough this past year. Administrator Anhorn talked about how interactive art is part

of the discussion in upcoming projects. The managers and Program and Project Manager Sniegowski talked about educational signage for projects. Manager Sheely described the new park Minnehaha put in by the hospital and the use of art and trails in the park.

Administrator Anhorn highlighted items in the District's 2020 workplan and items coming up at the next Board meeting.

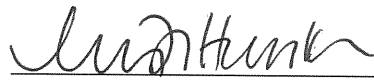
Manager Sheely said she would like the District to track variances and exceptions that come up with the District's rules and to have the topic on the Board agenda every two years in order to prepare and think about rules issues. Administrator Anhorn said he has an ongoing list regarding rules issues, and this would be something additional he could track. He said the Board will review on February 21, 2021 the added delegation for administrative approval and the rules topic could be added to the same meeting agenda.

There was discussion about a question raised at a TAC meeting regarding infiltration in areas with high water tables. Engineer Kieffer suggested the District could explore this question.

Adjournment

It was moved by Manager Hunker, seconded by Manager Cutshall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Upon a vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erin Hunker, Secretary

