



**Gun Club Lake Watershed Management Organization  
Minutes of the September 16, 2009 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Gun Club Lake Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Board of Managers (Board) was held Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at the Moonshine Park Retreat Center at 1317 Jurdy Road in Eagan, Minnesota.

**Board members Present:**

Jerry Engelke – Appointed by the City of Eagan  
Wayne Sames – Appointed by the City of Eagan  
Jeff Sluiter – Appointed by the City of Eagan  
Gary Dean Johnson – Appointed by the City of Inver Grove Heights  
Larry Craighead – Appointed by the City of Mendota Heights

**Alternate Board Members Present:**

Allan Cederberg – Appointed by the City of Inver Grove Heights

**Others Present:**

Eric Macbeth, City of Eagan staff and WMO Administrator  
John Mazzitello, City of Mendota Heights staff  
Todd Hubmer, WSB and Associates, Inc.  
Brian Watson, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District staff

Chair Engelke called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**I. Adopt Agenda**

Sluiter requested time on the agenda to discuss attendance at the Minnesota Water Resource Conference and Cederberg requested time to discuss dual flush toilets. The Chair suggested that Water Resource Conference is currently on the agenda but both items can be discussed during the member update portion of the meeting.

**II. Local Government Implementation Report – City of Mendota Heights**

Mazzitello presented the report for the City of Mendota Heights. He provided a handout that outlined several surface water management activities completed or planned.

**Motion by Johnson second by Sluiter to send a letter to the City of Mendota Heights acknowledging and approving the City's progress in implementing its Surface Water Management Plan. The motion passed unanimously.**

**II. Administrative Activities.**

**A. Approve Minutes of March 18, 2009 Meeting**

**Motion by Sluiter second by Johnson to approve the March 18, 2009 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Preparation of Annual Newsletter**

Hubmer reminded the Board that the planned action was to post the newsletter on the GCLWMO web page and publish it in the official newspaper. It was discussed that by the March Board meeting the newsletter needs to be ready for Board approval and publishing. Macbeth asked whether the newsletter was in the budget for WMO activities administered by the Dakota County



Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Engelke noted that there is no approved 2010 SWCD work plan or budget. The budget for the newsletter in 2010 is \$500, which Engelke said allows the Board to meet the minimum newsletter requirements. Craighead asked who receives the newsletter. Engelke explained that it is no longer mailed out, but is available on the web page. Watson suggested that the Board use funds from the 2009 budget to prepare a draft newsletter for review at the next Board meeting. Macbeth suggested that the Board take up the question of distribution next year. Engelke suggested the Board task the SWCD to prepare a draft newsletter. **Motion by Sluiter second by Craighead tasking the SWCD to prepare a draft newsletter using funds from the 2009 budget. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Water Resources Conference**

Sluiter described the annual conference and explained that the Board had funded the attendance of one Board member in the past. He attended last year and would be willing to attend this year. Macbeth noted that there is \$250 in the budget to cover this expense. Sluiter said the conference fee was \$230 for early registration. He circulated a brochure about the conference. Engelke suggested the Board revisit the topic at the end of the meeting.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

**A. Review Year-to-Date Budget Activity and Account Balances**

Macbeth explained that there is currently a balance of over \$45,000 in the bank and that over \$7,500 has yet to arrive from a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) grant. Engelke asked whether there are any outstanding obligations under the grant and Macbeth replied that there are none. The spreadsheet reflects the invoices currently before the Board as paid.

**Motion by Craighead second by Sluiter to approve the update of the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Approve Payment of Invoices**

**Motion by Sames second by Sluiter to approve payment of the invoices. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Wetland Buffer in Member City Parks**

Sames and Macbeth gave a brief summary of a recent meeting with the City of Eagan's Parks Supervisor to discuss possible cooperation to work on wetland buffer projects. Engelke suggested that such projects could be an educational tool to help students get involved in surveys, assessments, planting, etc. Macbeth suggested the Board might want to have a dialogue about these ideas with the School of Environmental Studies (SES) students when they make a presentation to the Board on the water quality sampling project. Sames will proceed with making contacts with SES or other groups.

**B. Student Lake Monitoring Project Final Report**

Macbeth reported that the project has been completed and he distributed a handout. The SES students provided about 2.5 years of information and base data. The project provided a good experience for the students, including leadership skills, that may help them as they proceed to college. Attrition was a problem the first year, but improvements were made, including the opportunity for independent study credit. There is a balance in the project account of \$338. At the next Board meeting the students will present a summary of the data collected. He suggested the Board decide what, if any, follow-up action is needed regarding the lake monitoring. Craighead



asked whether Lake Augusta was included in the monitoring. Engelke noted that the data will be stored on the MPCA's web site. He indicated that it is critical to establish baseline information for the lakes. Macbeth agreed that part of the purpose of the project was to engage students in helping to establish some baseline information. Cederberg asked whether the data is available and accepted for official use by the MPCA. Macbeth said it has been added to the national water quality data base, but it provides only a snapshot. The Board should discuss possible follow-up steps at its next meeting.

**Motion by Sluiter second by Johnson to accept the final report and support submission of the report on behalf of the Board to the MPCA. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Discuss Possible Grant Opportunities**

Hubmer discussed possible new grant opportunities as a result of the appropriation of the Clean Water Legacy funding. He said some of the new funding may be available by October 1. He mentioned some possible uses for the new funding and suggested that there may be more detailed information for the next Board meeting. There will be about \$70 million available, almost all for grants

**D. Update on Clean Water Legacy Grant Funds**

Macbeth provided a handout regarding a possible application for a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Runoff Reduction Grant. The application deadline is before the next scheduled WMO Board meeting. The grant request must be for at least \$30,000. The proposed project is the "Schwanz Lake TMDL Implementation Project – Runoff-Reduction for Direct Drainage Golden Meadow Neighborhood". Eagan has already approved \$350,000 for this project. The project will begin this fall and will include creation of 5-7 raingardens in the right-of-way. Engelke asked what the relationship was for this project between the City and the WMO. Macbeth answered that the City is requesting the WMO authorize the submission of an application for the grant. The WMO could choose to contribute funding to the project. Watson noted that there are dollars available, but wondered how the WMO could deal with the time frame issue. Engelke suggested the WMO should help if needed.

**Motion by Sluiter second by Sames to direct the Administrator to proceed with the application consistent with the general WMO partnership role with cities in the watershed to pursue appropriate grant opportunities. The motion passed unanimously.**

**E. BWSR Performance Review and Updates.** Watson referred to an insert in the Board packets showing the performance standards that BWSR has established. Engelke noted that the Board could spend its entire budget on the administration requirements indicated. If not for new potential dollars, we could disregard this somewhat. Engelke said the Board needs help in keeping its administrative costs down and needs to be prudent. Hubmer noted that the WMO is in conformance with almost all the items shown. The Board could consider addressing some of the minor items, such as an advisory committee and dialogue with city councils. Macbeth said it is worth the time to gain an internal understanding of what the WMO is doing and what it needs to do as part of BWSR performance standards. Engelke asked Watson to look at items the WMO needs to review and address as part of the Soil and Water Conservation District 2010 proposal. Watson explained that the BWSR chart was not intended to be used to "drop the hammer". Not one WMO in the Metro Area meets all of the requirements.

**Motion by Sluiter second by Johnson to authorize Watson to come back to the Board with recommendations for 2010 performance standards review and action if needed.**



**F. Dakota and Scott County Watershed Organization Initial Assessment.**

Watson provided handout copies of the assessment. Engelke explained that the attendance at the later meetings of the group was decreasing and the activity is slowing down. He said he did not think anything would happen. There is some continuing cooperation between the Northern Dakota County Watershed members and there are some continuing shared concerns. He is thinking of hosting a meeting with chairs from some of the other organizations to discuss dealing with BWSR requirements.

**V. OTHER**

**A. Member Community Updates and Information**

Macbeth explained a new wetland banking project in Eagan. Engelke said that could radically change a large area of the city and asked whether the GCLWMO could be helpful. This project could have high visibility. The Lockheed Martin property, for example, is forty acres in size and measures such as reduction in grass cutting and infiltrating storm water runoff could be significant. This is envisioned as a ten year project and could involve planting native vegetation, reengineering parking area and use of solar panels.

**Motion by Sames second by Johnson to authorize Sluiter to attend the annual water resources conference. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Student report on water quality monitoring project
- Performance standards review
- Draft Soil and Water Conservation District work plan
- Park wetland buffers
- Discuss possible grant opportunities
- Newsletter articles
- Water Conference report from Jeff
- Regular agenda items

**VI. AJOURNMENT:** The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 9, 2009.**