

**Zumbro Watershed Partnership
May 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes
Community Center, Oronoco**

Draft

Board Members Present

Paul Baessler, Ron Fuller, Tom Gosse, Muriel French, Andy Hart, Kyle Ketterling, Terry Klampe, Merle Norman, Judy Ohly, Katie Dudley, Chris Bowron, Harlan Pahl, Vernetta Pahl, Brandon Bertsinger

Others present

Jennifer Ronnenberg, Glenn Faith, Ann Spicer, Lois Hackbarth

Open forum prior to calling meeting to order

Katie Dudley presented a certificate to Jennifer Ronnenberg recognizing our appreciation for her outstanding performance and lasting contributions to The Zumbro Watershed Partnership. We enjoyed cake and coffee to thank Jennifer for all of her hard work.

Call to order

The ZWP board meeting was called to order by Terry Klampe at 7:10 PM.

Approve agenda for May 14, 2009 business meeting

Terry Klampe accepted the agenda as published.

Approve minutes of April 9, 2009 business meeting

Paul Baessler moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2009 business meeting. Tom Gosse second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Baessler gave the following report:

General fund:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
\$13,757.21	\$900.55	\$1,887.92	\$12,769.84

McKnight Grant Fund:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
-	\$20,000.00	-	\$20,000.00

Category:

Further Information

101 Contract payroll**	\$900.00	Jennifer Ronnenberg
102 Mileage Expense**	-	
402 Public Outreach**	-	
302 Sub Watersheds	-	
303/304 Sub Watersheds	-	
305 Assistant payroll	-	
403 Materials/Supplies	-	
Grant Income	\$20,000.00	McKnight Foundation
Misc expense*	\$987.92	Membership Drive Expense, Website Hosting Fee, Postage
Interest Income	\$ 0.55	

Memberships*	\$ 900.00	Davis, Shuller, Zins, Kasten & Dudley
Misc. Income	-	

Expenses Pending:

101 Contract Payroll	
102 Mileage**	-
401 Demo Projects**	-
402 Public Outreach**	-
303/304 Sub watersheds**	-
403 Materials/Supplies**	-
Promotional supplies	-
402 Outreach plan**	-
Other*	\$

* General Fund ** Grant Fund

Note: \$150.00 check not cashed by DNR waters for Shoreland Rules Forum.

Paul had the following comments: The McKnight Grant funds have been received. Since the grant is less than requested, the coordinators hours will be reduced, probably to 20 hours per week.

To date, we have received 54 new or renewing memberships.

Judy Ohly moved to accept the treasurer’s report as read. Tom Gosse second. Motion carried.

Approve payment of pending expenses: none were presented at this meeting

Committee Reports

-Executive Committee - Terry Klampe – two meetings were held since the April 9 Business Meeting. The first meeting was April 29, 2009 regarding a grant proposal written from The Nature Conservancy , Rich Biske, to request LCCMR funding that could potentially begin in June of 2010. The proposal is to help restore connectivity with floodplain and bottom lands in the Zumbro Watershed and Root River area with easements, land acquisition options, etc. Land Stewardship Plans would be written to help educate landowners and connect them to funding sources to restore connectivity in those areas. Lessard Outdoor Heritage Funds may also be a part of this endeavor. The application was turned in on May 1, 2009. There are several other partners involved in this, but ZWP was recorded as the applicant. We will hear more in November if the application will go any further. If so, presentations would be made for the legislature at that point. The Executive Committee agreed at this meeting to go forward with turning in the application.

MN Land Trust or Conservation Fund are involved. We are not sure who would obtain land acquisition rights at this time.

At the end of this meeting Jennifer announced that she would be stepping down from her position as the Watershed Coordinator with ZWP. She has accepted a full time position with Faribault County SWCD as an Urban Outreach Specialist for their Small Community Stormwater Management Project.

Meeting two was May 6, 2009 to discuss what will happen without Jennifer as our Coordinator. We need to decide how to replace Jennifer. Jennifer will put together a to do list and a contact list. The Executive Committee will need to meet to decide what to do next with McKnight Funds. The Human Resources Committee – Paul Baessler, Vernetta and Harlan Pahl, and Andy Hart should meet with Executive Committee. If anyone has any ideas on what to do, let the Executive Committee know.

-Membership/Fundraising Committee: Kyle Ketterling – Quick discussion regarding the August 22 fundraising event. Only a few parks in Rochester can have live music played for more than one hour. They are Foster Arends and Bear Creek. We will meet on May 21, 2009 to discuss location and other details of the event. We plan to raffle something that has a low carbon footprint. Brandon Bertsinger suggested the Eagles Club in Rochester as a good location to hold the event. They have great parking and food, plus they hold events outside too. They are also along the Zumbro River.

Coloring Contest – Entries need to be postmarked by Monday, May 18, 2009. The entry form is available on the web site at www.zumbrowatershed.org Contest winners will be chosen at the May 21, 2009 Membership and Fundraising Committee meeting.

-Human Resources Committee: Andy Hart – They will be meeting soon since we have received McKnight Grant information.

-Nominating committee: It was noted that there is currently one vacant citizen board position for a term that will expire in March of 2012. Ann Spicer and Lois Hackbarth discussed sharing this board position. Kyle Ketterling made a motion to nominate them and _____ second. Motion carried.

Partner meeting reports

- Judy Ohly: The Lake Shady Stake Holder group meets the 1st Monday of each month at 1:30PM at the Oronoco Community Center. Guest speakers make presentations on different topics each month with a target of making a recommendation by October as to what should be done with the lake – remove dam, dredge lake, or do nothing.

The Olmsted County board has offered a proposal to the city of Oronoco, where the city would take over both the County Park and Lake Shady dam operation. In exchange the county would pay Oronoco the equivalent of 10 years of county budget for these items. A second version of the proposal would involve the park only, and 5 years worth of the county budget.

Judy continued: The County will always own the dam because the city of Oronoco does not have enough reserves to take care of any catastrophic events that could happen with the dam.

If the Lake was made to go back to a river and not have a dam, there is the concern that a lot of sediment would be flushed downstream and would drain into Lake Zumbro. Luther Aadland from the MN Department of Natural Resources visited about that and explained that a majority of the sediment would be stabilized before the removal of the dam. It would be like a rain event.

Harlen Pahl commented that he is a stream monitor from Pine Island of the north branch of the Zumbro River and believes that 5 inches of fill has come in under a railroad trestle in recent years and is filling in upstream as well.

A report of the dam's inspection/condition will be reviewed at the July 6, 2009 Lake Shady Advisory Group Meeting.

- The Camp Victory Canoe Race will be June 27, 2009 - What type of sponsorship can we afford? \$500 allows advertising at the event – It's the third year for the event and an average of 200 people attend. We don't get a lot of members joining from this event but we do get some publicity. Vernetta Pahl made a motion to sponsor with a \$100 contribution. Kyle Ketterling second. Motion carried.

Watershed Coordinator's Report

Jennifer Ronnenberg presented her report.

These reports can be found on www.zumbrowatershed.org (in the **About Us** section).

Jennifer proposed that Jen Dankers, Wabasha County SWCD Technician, take on the Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) contract on a contract basis through ZWP. Jen Dankers is willing to work with ZWP on this and is excited about getting some baseline data on the streams in this area. Jane Bailey volunteered to help with outlying areas if necessary.

Andy Hart made a motion to contract with Wabasha County and Judy Ohly second. Organization then voted to allow Wabasha County SWCD to take on the tasks of the SWAG Contract. Motion carried. The QAPP needs to be signed. Fundraising is at 29%.

Unfinished Business was deferred until after New Business

New Business

- The discussion regarding the opening of the Coordinator's position: Paul Baessler looked over the application and contract information from last time we went through this process. A new description should be developed and then bring recommendations of applications to hire to the board.

Tom Gosse made a motion to interview and recommended to the group a new hire. Paul Baessler continued: First we need to move forward and get a job description posted for 30 days. It would be ideal to post a job within the next two weeks.

Andy Hart made a motion to allow the hiring process to go forward. Chris Bowron second. Motion carried.

We should do our best to expedite the process and now have funding for a part-time position for a full year with the McKnight Funds. Judy Ohly commented that with our current grant load that is the case, but if more grants are "granted" we could make a better offer and hire more than one person.

- August 22 Fundraising Event – Kyle Ketterling proposed \$3000 for a band and food – Judy Ohly and others are concerned about spending too much money. Andy Hart wondered if we would break even. We earned \$2000 from Goonies by charging \$5 per person

Ann Spicer suggested that the event at Oronoco Park to introduce Oronoco Park's new "management"

Paul Baessler suggested to put forth a budget to the group and allow time for a discussion at the next meeting.

Kyle followed with music suggestions like the blues or country rock types. Cactus and Jolly Brewers were names of bands that were mentioned.

- Andy Hart made a motion to approve Katie Dudley's expenses for Family Fun Night. Kyle Ketterling second. Motion passed.

- Jane Bailey proposes Mike Davis, DNR Lake City employee as a potential speaker. He is doing a Mussel Survey this summer. Jane will also keep us posted on an organization called the Go Green Group in Pine Island. There is also a gardening society that is a National Organization with two cities in MN. Jane will also keep us posted on this organization. They work with public works and park and recreation departments of cities as well as garden clubs to promote rain gardens. This information was referred to the Membership Committee.

Jennifer Ronnenberg mentioned the following items:

- A letter received in the mail acknowledged ZWPs membership with the organization MN Waters.

- A Sponsorship request letter was presented for the Agricultural Conference with the WI local food network. The cost for an exhibit is \$85 and the event will be held Jan. 20-22, 2010 Eau Claire, WI. This item was deferred to a later meeting date.

- Sponsorship Levels for the 2009 Rochester Pond and Garden Tour taking place on July 18 are between \$50 and \$1,000. A sponsor of any level will be included in advertising including the Rochester Women's Magazine. Jane Bailey agreed to contact Debbie Thompson at Debbie.pondtour@yahoo.com or by calling her at 261-3606. We need to promote our rain barrel sales at this event if possible. The deadline is May 29 to get into advertising. Katie Dudley made a motion to put in \$50. Chris Bowron second. Motion carries.

- Jane Bailey mentioned that at the Expo in Pine Island she sold two rain barrels.

- Katie Dudley mentioned she will be attending the Ducks Unlimited Event on May 16, 2009 in Mazeppa. Chris Bowron made a motion to donate 4 ZWP t-shirts and two ZWP hats to Ducks Unlimited Event. Vernetta Pahl second. Motion carries.

- Should we hold outside meetings in the summer? One location would be near Wabasha at Kruger Park.

Terry Lee commented that every time we move the meeting several people still go to the previous location. You would think that everyone heard about it, but that doesn't happen often. Plus it is hard to hear each other outside.

Kyle Ketterling mentioned that one advantage to moving the meeting location is exposure to outer reaches of the watershed.

Jennifer Ronnenberg mentioned that Jeff Weiss with the Lake City MN DNR office is going to conduct a fish survey in the area this summer. She thought we should join him on that during a meeting time or for a special event.

Kyle Ketterling continued that the July and August meetings should be outside; whether it be the Kruger Park or in the Kasson/Mantorville area. Al Atkins should notify people about it through the media.

- Kyle Ketterling also pointed out that everybody here needs to get three people to join or sponsor ZWP.

Unfinished Business

Terry Klampe began a lengthy discussion that ensued regarding the draft letter of complaint to Olmsted County Commissioners and Olmsted County Planning Board regarding non-enforcement of MN Law 6120.3300 regarding shoreland buffers. The discussion was about who should sign it, the ZWP board or just Terry or other individuals?

Andy Hart commented that a lot of farmers do not know about the laws and need to be educated about their options.

Katie Dudley made a motion to sponsor an event to educate farmers of the buffer laws and not include ZWP in the letter. Andy Hart second. Then Terry Klampe called for further discussion that education has not been enough.

These were some of the comments that followed:

Do we know that it has never been enforced?

Several said it only takes one complaint to cause action - do we want to alienate some farmers or others that we depend on? A complaint sounds like a hostile action but it really is a way to show concern that someone actually wants compliance.

Jennifer Ronnenberg commented that we should link our concern back to the ZWP Management Plan. We said we wanted to reduce sediment by 30% in the next 5 to 10 years. We really need to promote permanent objectives and pay attention to action items.

Merle Norman says it has been their role to be protectors of the river since 1989. They try to keep the sediment from going from the streams. It has to be done, but educating will not work. It almost has to be nicely policed and show the landowner programs that are available to alleviate their problem.

Judy Ohly suggested we say: It was brought to our attention that there are violations that need to be enforced.

Katie Dudley made a motion to not include ZWP in letter. Andy Hart second. Motion carried.

Next Business Meeting Announcement

ZWP Chair: Terry Klampe - The next meeting of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership will be June 11, 2009 from 7-9 pm at the Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Kyle Ketterling: Saturday August 22nd is the tentative date for a ZWP celebration / picnic; more details later.

Upcoming board meeting dates: June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th.

Adjourn Business Meeting

Paul Baessler moved to adjourn. Kyle Ketterling second. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Klampe, Chair
Katie Dudley, Secretary