

Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco
November 12, 2009

Draft

Board Members Present: Merl Norman, Judy Ohly, Muriel French, Tom Gosse, Steve Connelly for Andy Hart, Katie Dudley, Ron Fuller, Kyle Ketterling, Harlen Pahl, Vernetta Pahl, Glenn Faith

Members: Gael Enrikin, Ray Schmitz, Ray Romon

Guests: Carol Gunderson, Alice Duschanek-Myers

Item #1: Kyle Ketterling called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item #2: Secretary's Report – Katie Dudley

Action required: The draft agenda for the November 12, 2009 business meeting was reviewed. Judy Ohly requested to add a new business item: regarding moving the meeting venue to a different location. Muriel French moved to approve the agenda with the addition and Vernetta Pahl second. Motion passed.

Later in the meeting, after members had a chance to review the October 8, 2009 minutes, Merl Norman made a motion to approve the minutes and Tom Gosse second. Motion passed.

Item #3: Treasurer's Report - Paul Baessler was not present. He had contacted Lisa, Katie and Kyle to let them know that he is going to be stepping down from the Treasurer's position. He is currently working at a new job outside of the Rochester area, so he will do his best to finish his term until March of 2010. No Treasurer's report was distributed because one was not received by Paul.

Item #4: Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – Kyle Ketterling - The committee has not met recently.
- Membership/Fundraising Committee – Kyle Ketterling – FFFF Update: The FFFF was held on October 17th this year. We had to move the date from October 10th to the 17th due to weather so the band was not available to play at the event like it was planned. On the day, we had 2 pontoon boats available for trips and had burgers, brats, hot dogs and cider available for a small donation. Because of the date change and chilly temperatures we only saw about 25 people stop by and raised \$81.60 in donations. A special thanks to Ron Fuller, Kyle Ketterling and Ray Romon for their work on and at the event.
- Human Resources Committee – Lisa has been doing a great job and we look forward to continue working with her.
- Nomination Committee – Katie Dudley - The committee is accepting nominations for 7 open positions. Open Positions:
 - Citizen Director for Terry Klampe's until March 2012
 - Citizen Director for Paul Baessler's until March 2011
 - Citizen Director for Brandon Bertsinger's until March ????
 - Citizen Director for Chris Bowron ??? until March 2011
 - Dodge County Commissioner Representative
 - Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Citizen Director for vacant position until 2012

Item #5: Partner Meeting Reports

Katie Dudley reported that the Lake Shady Advisory Group will be meeting November 16, 2009 regarding the recommendation to propose getting funding to support an intensive study on the Lake Shady ecosystem.

After Barb Huberty, from the City of Rochester Department of Public Works, read our draft minutes, she contacted Lisa. She wanted Lisa to clarify comments related to sewage issues in the Kutzky Park Neighborhood area, the Walgreens development on Highway 63 and opportunities to be involved in the revision of the City's Storm Water Management Plan. Comments in italics and within quotes are how Katie summarized comments made during the meeting. Barb's comments follow that text.

“Glenn Faith from the Kutzky Park Neighborhood reported that there have been some sewage issues in the area. Continued additions of roof and surface run off in the area from creating more impermeable surfaces has added to the already present sanitary storm and sewage mixture problem.” Mr. Faith is referring to the Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Study that the City is conducting of the sanitary sewer system in his neighborhood. Rochester has separate storm sewers and sanitary sewers. Inflow is storm water that enters into sanitary sewer systems at points of direct connection between the sanitary system and the storm water runoff. Various sources contribute to the inflow, including footing/foundation drains, roof drains or leaders, downspouts, drains from window wells, outdoor basement stairwells, drains from driveways, groundwater/basement sump pumps, and even streams. These sources may be improperly or illegally connected to sanitary sewer systems, via either direct connections or discharge into sinks or tubs that are directly connected to the sanitary sewer system. Inflow can also result when storm water enters the open pick holes in manholes or percolation of storm water (through overlying soils) into leaking sanitary sewers. Infiltration is groundwater that enters sanitary sewer systems through cracks and/or holes in the sanitary sewer pipes. Cracks or holes in sanitary sewer pipes or manholes may be caused by age related deterioration, loose joints, damage or root infiltration. Groundwater can enter these cracks or holes wherever sanitary sewer systems lie beneath water tables, wherever the soil above the sewer systems becomes saturated, or where sanitary sewer pipes are installed beneath creeks or streams. In summary, I/I issues are more closely related to groundwater elevations, and how home and building owners deal with foundation drainage; they are not typically a function of the amount of impervious surface present in an area. The I/I Study will help identify the sources of added clean water and make recommendations to reduce them.

“Ray Schmitz commented that the city of Rochester is updating their storm water management plan regarding what is built new and existing lots that are rebuilt. The city needs to address these issues. He has noticed that the new Walgreens on 63 South has water that goes down into the ditch then into the highway and off into the river. There is nothing present to keep the water on the site. ZWP should try to get involved in the updating of the plan. The developer needs to contain the storm water on site, but usually an assessment is done and then the developer buys their way out. Tom Gosse said that developers are mandated by State law to conform to certain requirements. Any law violation should be dealt with.” The Walgreens construction plan met current City and state requirements for storm water treatment. They did not violate any laws. Since the site was essentially fully impervious before their construction and fully impervious afterwards, they did not have additional storm water treatment requirements because the City lacks treatment requirements for retrofit or redevelopment projects that match pre-existing impervious surface amounts. The developer does not “buy their way out” of their obligation for storm water management. An upfront charge is assessed all developers based on the amount of new impervious surface added. This money goes into the storm water utility fund that pays for the construction of regional ponds that serve those developments. The property owner then continues to pay monthly storm water utility fees based on the size of their parcel and the amount of impervious surface on it. This money also goes to the storm water utility fund and is used to pay for ongoing operations and maintenance activities, as well as capital projects. Redevelopment treatment requirements is one subject (of many) that will be discussed in much more detail as the Storm Water Management Plan Update proceeds. Click on the SWMP Update link on this web site: http://www.rochesterstormwater.com/permits_plans/permitplans_permitplans.asp and you will be directed to the Issue Papers that have been prepared to give people background on the City's SWMP Plan, an assessment of Plan implementation, and emerging/existing issues that will drive the Plan Update.

An informational presentation based on these issue papers will be given to the City Council at their Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday afternoon January 11th (usually these meetings start at 3:30 pm and are held in Conference Room 104 of City Hall, but check the City web site [www.rochestermn.gov] to confirm this if you plan to attend.) The next day, this presentation will be posted on the City's storm water web site; plus, surveys will be posted to begin the process of obtaining public input. Surveys will be available through February 11, 2010. After the input is summarized, a task force or focus groups will be formed to begin addressing the issues in more detail.

Tom Gosse continued to say that there is a lot of agriculture in Olmsted County and subsidies are paid to grow crops on highly erodible land, this is the majority of the problem. If you look at page 74 of the management plan, you will see this.

Gael Entrikin wants to know what can we do with education. What do we need to be doing? Water, Water Quality, Maintaining water on the land, etc.

Lisa agrees to make some recommendations to the City of Rochester by meeting with Barb Huberty from the City of Rochester.

Tom Gosse reported that Jennifer Dankers has recently been appointed as the new Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager. He mentioned that we need to make sure we send an agenda to her regarding our meetings. Lisa met with Jennifer last week regarding the SWAG grant work. They discussed splitting some of the workload. Lisa would be qualified to do that.

Item #6: Watershed Coordinator Report -- Lisa's Report -- she is beginning to understand the big picture -- her report can be viewed at <http://www.zumbrowatershed.org/aboutus.html>.

Lisa's Report sparked the following conversation:

Judy Ohly commented that finding out where we could achieve our niche in the next 3 years is important. Kyle said it is important for us to have a niche, like rain gardens, it would help us stand out more. Getting a project going that gets us out into other communities would help achieve our goals. Finding corporate sponsors with 50 or more employees that live in the watershed may "drum" up some needed funds. If you are a member of a larger church or know businesses to provide donations, please make the effort to acknowledge the ZWP as a possible organization to support.

Item #7: Unfinished Business

Cascade Meadows Wetland and Environmental Center -- Lisa met with Greg Munson. Last contact with Greg was when Terry Klampe said we didn't know about our finances, so we have not heard from them until recently after Lisa was hired. They are hoping to break ground November 20th and be fully operational for the fall of next year. Opportunities could include moving the ZWP office to the new center where we would have a better public interface, exhibits and displays on a watershed scale. The hesitation would be the need to have some upfront funds and funds to maintain our presence there. The in kind agreement with Olmsted County may not last forever. We'd have to pay rent, phones, computers, and down the road we have the financial stability to hire educators as well.

Kyle commented that we would never to get more publicity than there.

Ron Fuller said committing to the funds in the past caused us to hesitate, but the board was for some sort of arrangement. Paying from a relatively small fee all the way up to water education with full time staff for this

was what was discussed. One end he recalls we would have to make a commitment for \$100-300,000 for personnel, watershed exhibits, so that would be spendy. We didn't want to fund that or commit to that without knowing where the funds would come from. But maybe a sponsor that would fund exhibits for it would be an option. When Terry Klampe was the chair he wasn't going to put himself on the line for such a commitment and the McKnight Foundation said they do not provide funds to be a part of someone's center.

Jack Remick, the owner of Fastenal and the Rochester Athletic Club, has provided funding for this project. Although when economic times slowed, things were delayed. At this time, Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) has an investment in it and the City of Rochester is also committed to this project.

Lisa visited with Greg and he looks forward to meeting with more board members again.

The following would like to meet with Greg: the Pahls, Ron Fuller (if it works out), Kyle, Gael, Katie, and Lisa. Lisa will set up a meeting and get back to us.

Several kinds of wetlands will be created and man-made lake will be produced to help support the geothermal heating and cooling efforts for the center.

Gael wondered if it is okay to have our office in Rochester.

Kyle responded that Rochester is the population center and that is where the office is located now.

Judy Ohly- McGhie and Betts Grant Writing Proposal - We missed the important grant season and Lisa did meet with Nicole Lehman and Jeff Broberg about what grants are out there. They plan to meet to talk about projects. Jeff would like to get more money in the Southeastern part of MN. It might take spending some money to make some money.

Judy commented that Olmsted County received 10 times their investment back in grants with the SEMN Waters Resources Board, same with Whitewater Joint Powers Board.

Terry Lee thinks there is something due Dec. 2, a BWSR grant.

Muriel French commented that we should have people lined up to do projects.

SWCDs do not always have on the ground projects ready to go. Although, hayable buffers with Beau in Goodhue are a possibility. The people making these grants want to have landowners already lined up and ready to go. Lisa is pulling together a meeting of SWCDs employees to collaborate on several projects to get on a larger scale project.

Vernetta Pahl is meeting with Beau on Monday.

Terry Lee and Skip Langer from the Olmsted SWCD were talking about a project on the ridgetops. Doing some type of drainage basins that would hold water for 24 to 48 hours including sediment and erosion control.

Terry said we could easily partner with Olmsted County or SWCD.

Should we start actively soliciting projects?

Judy mentioned the KTTC program that we should try to get a time slot on. It is called Around Town and we could advertise to landowners about different programs, etc.

Terry said while we have a couple weeks he will check with Olmsted County Engineers to see if they have any projects that would fit the grant criteria.

Harlen Pahl commented that Pine Island's Elk Run Development concerns him regarding more streets and roads South of Pine Island could cause trouble with the amount of water of the Zumbro goes through the same area. Watershed and storm water issues could occur if they start closing up some of the streams. What will happen with all of these roads and bridges that are built too small? It will dam up into Pine Island.

Tom Gosse said that township and county roads in Wabasha County had over the years bridges that were narrow. They were failing with age, so when new bridges were put in, they incorporated storage dams/ponds for wildlife and livestock. A road on top of that reduces the floodwater and gives great opportunity for structures like that for accessing fields and county roads.

Item #8: New Business

Cell phone for Lisa - Lisa presented that she could add a cell phone line to her existing personal phone. Kyle made a motion that we put a line on her plan for ZWP for \$12.75 a month. Tom Gosse second. Discussion and vote taken. Motion passes.

AgriNews Farm Show Booth (March 24-25; \$330) – Steve Connelly (sitting in for Andy Hart) believes that Olmsted County is in support of splitting the cost of the booth. Judy Ohly moves to share a booth. Vernetta second. Terry Lee mentioned the Whitewater project might wish to collaborate as well. Lisa has the authority to share the booth with as many partners as interested, etc. Motion passes.

Discuss ZWP's stance on the Lake Shady and Lake Zumbro restoration projects and if we want to sign a letter of support for these projects - ZWP has sent something to Lake Zumbro before. Judy recommended we take the resolution that has been signed in the past and update it. Ron Fuller said he would deliver that message.

Judy reported that the Lake Shady Advisory Group is at the brink of making a recommendation as far as what they would like to request for the bonding year 2010. Support for the bonding request will need to be generated and also to move forward for grant requests on a watershed basis as well.

Katie mentioned that we didn't want to leave Pine Island out of our conversations regarding projects in the watershed. She wanted to let the Pahl's know ZWP would like to help in whatever way possible. The Pahl's agreed and mentioned they are very involved since Harlen is on the Pine Island Planning and Zoning Board and Vernetta is on a committee regarding flood control.

Discussion on the need for another ZWP public forum: The last one was at the Zumbrota High School in July of 2004. The main focus of that forum was to determine if there were enough issues to set up the Zumbro Watershed Partnership, a public led organization.

It was suggested to have a Forum like this in February or March.

Gael and Judy mentioned that a Public Forum can help grow an organization. If it is done in Feb. or March, that would be right before we need to show performance measures to McKnight.

Katie asked if it is okay if we e-mail all meeting notices? That way people that would like to be involved can attend when they are available.

Grants can be okayed by the executive committee when necessary.

ZWP Meeting Location – Proposed Change - Judy Ohly wanted to discuss changing the meeting location for board meetings. If we held the meeting in Rochester, would more people come? If the Venue was a place like Quarry Hill Nature Center, it might be free.

Another option would be the Public Health Building at 2200 Campus Rd would accommodate bigger groups. If this group would be supportive to move in January we would need to check on their closing time. Ron moves to look further into other locations to meet. Vernetta second. She says let's give it a try. Gael also has two other possible locations in mind.

Jane Bailey – Pilot project on rain gardens – this update was not provided because Jane was unable to attend the meeting

Lisa added one more item: Year-End Membership Drive - She visited with staff from the Cannon River Watershed and they suggested a year-end membership drive. Some people may be inspired to donate more funds closer to the end of the year for tax deduction benefits.

The expense would be postage stamps and printing. We should send to everyone in the past. Judy moves to send out as many letters as possible by year-end or up to 1000 letters. Try to do before Dec. 1. Please send Lisa some new contact names for her to add to the database.

Ron said there should also be names of friends in the past that people have already provided.

Judy offered to help design the letter.

Glenn Faith mentioned Mr. Wade could help the ZWP be in contact with 1200 members in the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Targeting everyone that owns land and who have a vested interest in the land, on the river and who are part of the watershed. Glenn also suggested that he has a list of Wealthy Republicans.

Lisa said they did a survey of riparian owners in the past.

Katie made a motion to have some type of refreshments at meetings. Judy second. Gael suggested members take turns bringing something. So at the December meeting, Gael said she would bring drinks and Kyle said he would bring some type of bars.

Item #9: Next Business Meeting Announcement – ZWP Vice-Chair: Kyle Ketterling

-The next meeting of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership will be December 10th, 2009 from 7-9 pm at the Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Item #10: Adjourn business meeting – ZWP Vice-Chair: Kyle Ketterling, Judy Ohly moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. and Kyle second. Meeting adjourned.

Video from the 2009 Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus “Nutrients, Nutrients Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink: Land Meets Sea” originally presented by Nancy Rabalais, Executive Director of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. The web link for the presentation is <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2009/rabalais-lecture.php>.

Discussion followed the video led by Ray Schmitz.