

MEETING OF THE



ELK RIVER CITY HALL
Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Members present: Nicki Blake-Bradley, Ed Buttweiler, Tiffany Determan, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Patrick Plant, John Weicht

Members absent: Mark Basiletti, Andrew Hulse, Paul Sheets, Jim Tachney, Vance Zehringer, Nick Zerwas

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of 5/11/11 approved. Agenda approved.

Updates

TMDL. Tiffany said the study was put into public notice on June 20 for comments until July 20th, but because of the state shutdown it will probably be extended. They are also waiting to hear on the implementation plan from the MPCA. Depending on staffing, they can apply for funds. However, the animal inventory does not need additional funds and the shutdown does not affect it much.

On Aug. 25th they will be presenting the major Mississippi watershed project at Clear Lake Town Hall (Hwys. 10 & 24) at two times: 3-4:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. There will be a short 15-minute presentation, and stations will be available that present watershed topics, there will be a watershed model display and a fish tank.

Updating Beach Closure Criteria & Procedures. Nicki said that testing will be done 5 times per month—two in the first week and once a week thereafter. There will be a rolling average of the past 5 counts; if the average goes above the 200 count threshold, they will post the beach and perform daily testing until it goes below 200. Cindi wants the actual protocol language to include in the LOIA handbook she sends out and to post on the web; Nicki will send it to her.

Patrick said that in doing the SECCHI disk reading we're noticing that the water is clearer and the water flow higher because of more rainfall.

Tiffany said that the SWCD is monitoring *Ecoli* weekly downstream of the dam through a partnership with the McKnight Foundation and other organizations. They will maybe have trending data in the fall and let us know if there are any high readings.

Elk River Water Trail Designation. This has to be put on a bill for the legislature. To be revisited after November, possibly in January.

City Branding Committee Update. Andrew was not in attendance so there was no report.

Final Draft LOWQC Annual Roles & Action Plan. Patrick said he will remove any references to a MoU, and will include it in any presentation to the City.

2011 LOIA Lake Management Plan Updating

Nicki took out any budget info from the Plan because the City does not have any money. There was some discussion about referencing costs as it may be helpful in prioritizing items or trying to obtain monies. Ed thought we should state at the beginning that any costs were for estimate purposes only. Patrick thinks the document needs thinning. Tiffany will ask Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation if he has recommendations as to how to scale it back. She can also get samples of other lake plans.

Ed said keep the items we wish to do on the table; Tiffany suggested putting some items in the appendix. We also need to prioritize. Tiffany suggested we narrow the items down to 10, then at the LOIA annual meeting we have people vote on their priorities. Patrick said that LOIA's participation in this group is in LOIA's bylaws, but we do not have any money, we have to request funding from LOIA. It would be good to have other people help prioritize and put other issues in a "back burner" section.

Patrick said we will continue as originally planned and pass the document from Nicki to Tiffany, then to Patrick. Samples of smaller plans would be helpful. Patrick will look at the items before passing them along.

Concern for Substantial Increase in Volume, Locations and Types of Lake Weeds

Patrick said that there are a lot more weeds this year, and some are good but are inhibiting navigation and recreation. He hypothesized that the clarity of the water may be letting more sunlight in enabling weeds to flourish. We need to get the DNR at the table to talk about this. Ed tried to call the DNR headquarters in St. Paul to discuss our *curly-leaf* situation, but got passed around and spent a lot of time on the phone but really didn't get anywhere. We should try to get the DNR contacts to come to our 9/7 or 10/5 meeting to discuss this issue. It would be best for citizens to contact them; hopefully we can get Andrew, LOIA president to do this. We should get pictures of the weeds if possible. Nicki said that with the state shutdown the public *curly-leaf* permit was temporarily suspended, but homeowners could still clear out areas in front of their property.

Other

Mark Basiletti will be retiring on Aug. 25th. Tiffany will take over his job and they will not be hiring to replace her current position. The SWCD will be stretched thin for staff and quite busy. Anoka conservation can help with some funding, and current Legacy funds will continue if a project was started before the state shutdown.

Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cindi Edwards-Plant