

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2018

Vice Chair West called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: John West, Dan Denno, Lan Tornes, Randy Bettinger, Tim Harrington, David Olsrud, Matt Downing, Sandy Flaherty, Dan Breyen

Absent: Jerry Tveit, Ann Arcand,

Audience: Chuck Schwartz, MSA, Jeff Pilon, Nowthen Mayor

3. Adopt Agenda **Mr. Tornes moved and Mr. Downing seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

4. Approve Minutes **Mr. Tornes moved and Mr. Downing seconded to table the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes to the next meeting. Motion carried.**

5. Treasurer's Report Mr. Denno reported a balance of \$17,912.86. Two deposits totaling \$9,224.14 were made. **Mr. Breyen moved and Mr. Tornes seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.**

6. Unfinished Business A. Election of Chair or Vice Chair **Mr. Downing moved and Mr. Tornes seconded to appoint John West as Chair. Motion carried.**

Mr. West moved and Mr. Harrington seconded to appoint Dan Breyen as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

B. Approved ratifications for 2019 Budget

Ham Lake, East Bethel, Oak Grove have ratified – St. Francis? Bethel? Nowthen?

Mr. Bettinger reported that Nowthen is waiting for the draft 2019 budget and the proposed Comp Plan budget to match before ratifying. It was pointed out that the budget used in the MSA memo was not an actual budget. Consensus of the Board is to use the original numbers provided in the 1/2/18 draft budget for ratification purposes. Ms. Gessner will resend the 1/2/18 draft budget to members and member communities.

C. Comprehensive Plan (Plan) discussion and update

1. MSA City Meetings and interaction with URRWMO members update

Mr. Schwartz reported that he met with all member cities' staff, but not all city councils. **Mr. Schwartz requested copies of each member city minutes showing record of him having met with either staff, council, or both.**

Consensus from the meetings is not to have an "in-house" person working for the URRWMO, but to have some type of liaison to represent the URRWMO.

East Bethel requested more time to consider possible projects. Some ideas were Crooked Brooke which is impaired, Cedar Creek for invasive species, and the joint road project between East Bethel and Ham Lake. East Bethel understands the need for

a URRWMO liaison for representation. East Bethel will contact Mr. Schwartz with projects.

Nowthen believes individual cities should pay the 10% matching amount (not the URRWMO) for projects that affect their city. As for communal projects that affect all member cities, the URRWMO should pay the 10% matching funds. Jeff Pilon, Nowthen Mayor, said people must see the need for projects to justify putting money into them.

St. Francis was a good meeting. St. Francis provided an excellent study Stormwater Retrofit Analysis, done by Anoka Conservation District (ACD), showing a format of projects that could be included in the Plan. Projects in the study were ranked from 1-17 according to “most bang for the buck”. Mr. Tornes noted that those projects listed are actual projects to be included in the Plan. The Stormwater Retrofit Analysis needs to be included in the Plan for St. Francis to receive 90% funding assistance. St. Francis is in favor of a liaison representing the URRWMO in lieu of a current board member representing. Mr. Schwartz said the outreach effort to St. Francis paid off.

Bethel discussed the need for stormwater drains to eliminate standing water on Main Street. This could be a tricky project as there are very limited areas for drains and water to flow into.

Ham Lake agreed on the joint road project with East Bethel.

Oak Grove had no projects from City Council. Discussion was that there will be more push back on spending money. Council talked about the URRWMO being dissolved and/or absorbed by another WMO or watershed district. Lake George projects are being taken care of by the lake associations.

Mr. Schwartz recommended a work session be scheduled with BWSR and board members to review the Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) requested by the member cities. He will resend the 3/6/18 memo from BWSR re: Review Agency 90-day comments on URRWMO 10-yr. Plan Update for review before the work session.

Mr. Schwartz stated the need for two representatives from each member community to be able to continually share URRWMO information with city councils and to bring information to the URRWMO meetings.

Does the board want to send the St. Francis Stormwater Retrofit Analysis to BWSR stating the URRWMO will include some of the projects in its Plan? Mr. Tornes said the analysis would have to be repackaged and have the title changed from St. Francis to the URRWMO.

Does the board want to tell BWSR that they want to do a format like the one presented by St. Francis with all member communities doing one individually or do one study for all five-member communities? Mr. Denno believes there will be more push back if more money is spent on studies. It does not make sense to have a study done to come up with projects that may be rejected by the cities.

Board members were asked to return to their respective cities for at least one (1) specific project to be put into the Plan. The compiled projects can be tied together in a comprehensive format to present to BWSR as the URRWO project.

Mr. Schwartz will find out what St. Francis considers the highest priority projects. He will then share this information with Mr. Schurbon and Mr. Tornes for their opinions on what might be priority projects and then present the recommendations to the board for its final decision. This feedback will be shared at the BWSR and URRWMO work session.

Chair West moved and Mr. Tornes seconded to schedule a joint work session with BWSR on Tuesday, September 25th at 8:00 am at Oak Grove City Hall. Motion carried.

- 7. New Business A. City of Saint Francis 2040 Comprehensive Plan review request
Responses are due October 1st. All board members are asked to submit their comments to Chair West by September 25th.
- 8. Mail None
- 9. Other None
- 10. Invoice Approval A. Recording Secretary August 2018 invoice for \$175
B. ACD Invoice #2018036 2018 Water Monitoring and Management payment 3 of 3 for \$3,663.33
C. MSA Invoice #17 for \$1,448.58 and Invoice #18 for \$149.33

Mr. Denno moved and Mr. Bettinger seconded to approve the recording secretary August 2018 invoice for \$175, the ACD Invoice #2018036 payment 3 of 3 for \$3,663.33, and MSA Invoices #17 and #18 totaling \$1,597.91. Motion carried.

- 11. Adjourn **Mr. Denno moved and Mr. Downing seconded to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Motion carried.**

Gail Gessner
Submitted on 9/9/18