

Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting Minutes March 17, 2014

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Monday, March 17, 2014, at 1:00 pm in Meeting Room B, Murray County Government Building, Slayton, MN.

Members present: Jay Takle, Paul Posthuma, Darrold Peck, James Jens, Gerald Magnus, Dave Kremer, John Giese, Howard Konkol, Bob Koehler, Justin Hoffmann, Annette Bair – SRDC, Jon Bloemendaal, Chris Hansen and Jean Christoffels

Others present: None

Chris Hansen called the meeting to order and distributed minutes from the December 18, 2013, meeting, allowing time for the Members to review.

MSP: Jon Bloemendaal, Paul Posthuma to approve minutes as written.

Agenda #1 Water Plan Update

The Water Plan is to be reviewed and updated every five years. Since an update was recently completed, the next one will be in three years.

Agenda #2 2014 Budget

The 2014 Budget shows budgeted and actual amounts; \$2,500 has been allocated for the Ray Metz retention structure. Pit tile testing will be conducted in early May with more sites checked in even years than in odd. Around the 4th of July, Dave Herrig will gather samples for testing from half of the well sites in the county.

Agenda #3 Well Seal Update

No new updates.

Agenda #4 Grant Projects

As the only County in this area to be awarded one of these grants, water testing of the Des Moines River (DMR) Watershed will be taken over the next two years from three sites within the DMR watershed in Murray County beginning in early May.

The Biennial Budget Request List will open today; the State looks at shovel ready projects for 2016 and 2017. The Rita Lear Streambank Stabilization Project was not funded. Chris and Howard are working on two stabilization projects to add to the List.

Funding potential was increased due to the Level 3 Inventory being conducted in the County, which contributed to Chuck Hill's Ag Waste project being funded.

A water retention – road project in Holly Township is being funded through Area II.

Jon questioned whether this Committee should budget money towards Mike Skoglund's Lidar Project. As they are not looking for additional dollars at this time, nothing was allocated.

In order for projects to receive funding, they need to be added to a projects list, including cost estimates determined through engineering. All engineering costs would be considered in-kind until funded. Chris works to minimize costs so there is little to no cost to the landowner.

Agenda #5 Water Retention Projects

Chris was contacted by Ed Herrig for cost-share funding for his stock pond or holding basin where the work has already been completed. Ed dug a big hole to redirect water into what he calls a water impoundment. Since projects funded by Water Plan are typically engineered and individuals apply for cost-share before the work is completed, the Committee chose to not fund Ed's project after the fact.

Agenda #2 2014 Budget

Annette asked if, through the Water Plan Education dollars, the County would address the need to keep pharmaceutical drugs out of the water; the Southwest Regional Development Commission has currently been doing outreach to mature residents. Chris and Jon thought they could address this through current advertising mediums and County Fair Booth.

Agenda #4 Grant Projects

Murray County was awarded a Low Income Septic Grant for roughly \$38,000 through 2016. Established as a "first come first serve" 80% cost-share grant, the monies available should cover almost four systems. Eligibility is determined by income and household numbers.

Agenda #6 Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be held in early September; Chris will send a calendar doodle to determine date and time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Murray County Environmental Services