

Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting Minutes June 12, 2013

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 11:00 am in Meeting Room B, Murray County Government Building, Slayton, MN, followed by a Retention Structure Tour within the County.

Members present: John Giese, Darrold Peck, Bob Moline, James Jens, Jon Hoyme, Chris Hansen and Jean Christoffels

Others present: Charlotte Curry

Chris Hansen called the meeting to order and distributed an article regarding a recently launched Minnesota farm water quality program and the Water Management Plan Budget.

Agenda #1 Water Plan Update

Everything has been progressing as planned with regards to the new biennial budget process; the County needs to know what potential projects may occur within the next couple years. Chris indicated there are a couple projects they are looking at for possible funding.

Agenda #2 2013 Budget

All monies have been received and allocated. Pit tile testing has been completed and well water testing will be conducted soon. Well water testing was modified where ½ the wells are tested one year and the other ½ the next; Dave Herrig will be sampling the north half of the County this year.

More dollars have been spent on well sealing this year; a lot of the applications for this program are received in November and December each year, which are then paid out in the early part of the following year. Once all budgeted dollars are exhausted for the year for well sealing, applications are put on hold until the money for the following year is received, and then they are paid. Wells can be sealed up to one year prior to making application for the cost-share.

Even though nothing was budgeted for newsletters and radio announcements, there was extra funds available so the County helped pay for a newsletters in the Rock River Watershed. There has been good feedback on the newsletter; it seemed to be a worthwhile cause.

\$4,000 was allocated for watershed projects, which used to be capped at \$2,000. These monies have typically been used for rip rap projects with the new maximum allowed per project of \$2,500. Two projects currently being considered are Casey Gillette and Rita Lear. Rita's project could entail the installation of J-hooks and a sediment basin, which could increase its potential for grant funds.

Agenda #3 Grant Projects

At this time, Casey's and Rita's projects would be ones the County could apply for grants to help with the cost to construct. In addition, there are a couple of existing retention structures that have failed on Earl Johnson's property that are in need of repair; he is very interested in getting them repaired. Another structure that needs restoration is near Lake Shetek State Park that was built in the 1950's and has failed.

Agenda #4 Other

The article submitted talks about the “Minnesota farm water quality program launched”, it is the first one in the nation and they are looking at four watersheds in Minnesota. This may tie in with the work being done in the County on feedlot inventories.

Agenda #5 Next Meeting/Adjourn

No date was set for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am for Task Force Members to board the bus for the scheduled Retention Structure Tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Murray County Environmental Services