

**Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting
Minutes December 18, 2013**

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at 9:00 am in Meeting Room B, Murray County Government Building, Slayton, MN.

Members present: Duane Spartz, James Jens, Howard Konkol, Larry Byers, John Giese, Jay Takle, Paul Posthuma, Jon Bloemendaal and Chris Hansen

Others present: None

Chris Hansen called the meeting to order and distributed minutes from the June 12, 2013, meeting, allowing time for the Members to review.

MSP: Howard Konkol, Duane Spartz to approve minutes as written.

Agenda #1 Water Plan Update

No new updates.

Agenda #2 2014 Budget

The budget handout shows the 2013 Actual and 2014 Proposed. Currently there is approximately a \$4,800 surplus with a few more well seals pending.

Area II, from Marshall, looked at engineering of blown out grade stabilization projects in Section 36 of Lowville Township. Request for bids occurred last spring and Howard worked on other funding options for the project. He was successful in receiving \$10,275 from county retention monies, \$6,800 from the Soil and Water Conservation District, and is requesting \$2,500 from the Local Water Plan. The landowner is willing to allow the project to be done, but doesn't want to incur any costs because he doesn't see that he will benefit from the repairs. This small flood retention project bid came in at \$9,575, including replacement of the dyke and the rusted piping. Located within the Beaver Creek Watershed, which is an impaired water, these projects show that Murray County is trying to make improvements for water quality.

MSP: James Jens, John Giese to approve funding of the Lowville Township flood retention project at \$2,500.

Howard noted the project would be done in the spring or summer; engineering is all in-kind and would be handled by Area II.

For the 2014 Proposed Budget, Chris entered numbers to bring the ending balance as close to zero as possible. He increased the budget for Newsletters/Radio Announcements as he is considering sending postcards to landowners with septic systems after they have been installed for a couple years; he wants to remind them to have the tanks pumped; it wouldn't be a huge cost as it may only be about 40 postcards.

The next time the Water Plan needs to be updated is 2017; a minor revision was done in 2012 in-house.

MSP: Paul Posthuma, Duane Spartz to approve the 2014 Budget as presented.

Agenda #3 Well Seal Update

As previously discussed, well seal reimbursements are getting close to being finished for the year.

Agenda #4 Grant Projects

Chris applied for funds to assist with low-income septic system replacements; it is a 100% grant, not a loan. The County was awarded \$40,000, with a certain percentage able to be designated for administrative costs to run the program. Participants must meet certain low-income guidelines; the total number of systems funded would be determined by the percent of pay-out. The application process would start in the spring and would be similar to other funding programs; it would be available on a first come first serve basis. After two or three years, any unused monies must be returned to the State.

Agenda #5 Water Retention Projects

Des Moines River (DMR) Watershed has an opportunity to apply for a water quality monitoring grant in 2014. Three sites within the watershed in Murray County being proposed to be monitored are: Lime Creek east of Avoca; one on Beaver Creek; and one on Des Moines River. The costs for monitoring would be completely covered by the grant, which includes 10 samples at each site from April to October; all surface water.

Clean Water funding for the Rita Lear project was also applied for, but awards will not be announced until the end of December, 2013. In addition to J-hook installations on Rita's property, the application included the creation of a sediment pond, which should increase the chances of being funded.

Earl Johnson has a couple water retention sites that Howard and Chris will be looking at this year and getting cost estimates for; both were put in in the 1950's. One site Earl would like it left as is, however, the other one he felt it could be altered to increase the storage capacity.

The Mason bridge project was discussed; when working with public waters such as Beaver Creek, you have to work directly with the DNR. The creek must be slowed down because it is rapidly encroaching on bridge structures/roads. In addition, the Slayton Golf Course is experiencing problems associated with the increased velocity from Beaver Creek.

Agenda #6 Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Murray County Environmental Services