

Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting Minutes May 31, 2016

The Murray County Local Water Management Plan Task Force held a meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 2016, at 1:00 pm in Meeting Room B, Murray County Government Building, Slayton, MN.

Members Present: Annette Fiedler, James Jens, Larry Byers, Glenn Kluis, Ken Bickner, Bob Moline, David Thiner, Gerald Magnus, Paul Posthuma, Jon Hoyme, Ricky Parker, Dave Kremer, Jay Takle, Chris Hansen and Jean Christoffels

Others Present: Ed Lenz, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Chris Hansen called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves for the two new Members.

Agenda #1 Minutes

The minutes from the December 18, 2015, Murray County Local Water Management Plan Meeting, were presented for approval.

MSP: Paul Posthuma, Annette Fiedler to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda #2 Water Plan Update, Priority Concerns Scoping Document

Chris reviewed the process for updating the Water Management Plan, which includes establishing priority concerns and drafting the scoping document, hold an open house for individuals to review the draft document and submit comments. There may or may not need to be another meeting of this task force to review submitted comments prior to the draft document being presented to the County Board. The County Board needs to approve the document before it is submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Chris has requested Area II do some engineering on a couple retention structures for proposals; Tom Keller's is one of these structures.

Current priority concerns of the Water Plan are: Protect Groundwater, Protect Surface Water, and Water Retention Projects.

Comments received from the following five entities were distributed and reviewed: Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA); Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD); Minnesota Department of Health (DOH); Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and BWSR.

Priority Concerns:

MDA:

1. Drainage Water Management
2. Water Storage
3. Wind and Water Erosion
4. Lake Protection

HLWD:

1. Sediment/Turbidity
2. Phosphorus
3. Bacteria
4. Water Quantity and Flooding
5. Drainage Systems and Natural Waterways
6. Biotic Habitat
7. Wetlands
8. Education
9. Funding

DOH:

1. Drinking Water Quality (Groundwater)
2. Groundwater Quantity

MPCA:

1. Impaired Waters/Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)
2. Watershed Approach (One Watershed One Plan)
3. Agricultural Drainage Management

BWSR:

Ed noted BWSR's comments are intended to be used as a guideline of what should be looked for:

1. Include the drainage authority throughout the process and in the development of the priority concerns
2. Utilize the State's Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF)
3. Utilize the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) development for the Missouri, Cottonwood, and Des Moines Watersheds
4. Continue to complete Level III feedlot inventories on all feedlots within Murray County
5. Utilize TMDL Reports
6. Collaborate with State Agencies
7. Look at implementation activities to include water monitoring comments
8. Groundwater and drinking water issues
9. Include a priority where inventories throughout the county would be conducted to determine where issues may develop in the future

40-50 surveys were sent out for input on priority concerns and only five were returned; Ed noted that this was a good response comparatively to other counties going through the same process.

Chris recommends Protect Surface Water and Protect Groundwater priorities be kept as priorities for this update. For the third priority, if Water Retention Projects is kept, could include Drainage Water Management to better spell out the priority. Right now, septics and feedlots fall under Surface and Groundwater priorities; however, in other scoping documents, those two items are separated out, which would clean up the document. Cottonwood and Rock counties both have SSTS and feedlots separated out as a priority concern and Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, and Redwood have Drainage Water Management as their third priority.

Annette noted at the last Comprehensive Land Use Update Committee Meeting the group identified both water quantity and water quality as important concerns for the county to be addressing. This committee could be a good resource for bouncing ideas off of as they will be looking at water quality and land use chapters at their next meeting.

Chris suggested the following for priority concerns for the task force to consider:

1. Protect Groundwater
2. Protect Surface Water
3. Drainage Water Management/Water Retention
4. SSTS and Feedlots

Once the priority areas are identified and approved, the task force can do more specific planning. The county will need to identify priority locations, and list targeted projects that the county will be seeking funding for. BWSR wants to see measurable goals so they can see if the county is able to achieve their goals, and if not, why. Prioritize – Target – Measurable.

Timeline for updating the Plan is: set priority concerns today; hold open house in June; present to County Board in July, followed by a 30-day comment period before BWSR will begin their review process of the scoping document. The Plan update must be finalized and BWSR approved by July 1, 2017.

Annette asked about adding protecting water quality as a priority. Ed suggested making it Improving Surface Water Quality and Quantity, which could be the same for groundwater.

Motion made by Annette Fiedler, seconded by David Thiner, to adopt the following four priority concerns for the Murray County Water Plan Scoping Document:

- 1. Improve Surface Water Quality and Quantity**
- 2. Improve Groundwater Quality and Quantity**
- 3. Drainage Water Management/Water Retention**
- 4. SSTS/Feedlots**

After more discussion on the specifics of the timeline for the statutory open house and adoption of the document, Chris called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried.

Ken stated that even though monitoring is buried within the details of the plan, he thought it to be very important and should be added as one of the priority concerns; monitoring should come first – you can't fix something until you understand what is wrong.

The plan is to hold the open house in mid-June, either the week of the 13th or the 20th.

Agenda #3 Next Meeting/Adjourn

Chris will send out a meeting wizard for the next meeting.

Bob noted it takes time to get money from the Legislature for retention projects. Ed stated those project details need to be included in the updated plan and the county needs to continually apply for funding.

Ken noted that the DNR is proposing to install two culverts under Casey Jones Trail in an area that would be a good location for water retention, which is one of the cheapest options for retention.

MSP: Gerald Magnus, Annette Fiedler to adjourn at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Christoffels
Murray County Environmental Services