

Mississippi Headwaters Board
January 15th, 2010
Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids, MN
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lyle Robinson (Hubbard County), Brian Napstad (Aitkin County), Jack Frost (Beltrami County), Lori Dowling (Itasca), Tom Wenzel (Morrison); and Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.)

Members Excused: Dean Newland (Clearwater), Paul Thiede (Crow Wing); and Dick Downham (Cass)

Others Present:

Don Dewey – Itasca County ESD

Noel Griese – Itasca County SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District)

2:08 pm – Chair Jack Frost (Beltrami) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 2:08 pm on January 15th, 2010, at the Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

2:09 pm - Agenda (Jan. 15th '10). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Lori Dowling (Itasca) to approve the Agenda - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2:10 pm - Meeting Minutes (Dec. '09). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) to approve the Dec. '09 Minutes - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2:11 pm – Expense Report (Dec. '09). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) / Lori Dowling (Itasca) to approve the Expense Report for Dec. '09 – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

2:12 pm – Zoning Actions – none

2:12 pm – Staff Report (Jan. '10). Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) highlighted several items:

- **#2 (P/B)** – Office received MCIT invoice for '10 policy renewal (\$2,111 and \$61.00)
- **#3 (P/B)** – Office received a letter from the Morrison County Auditor re: possible 10% reduction in the '10 MHB annual appropriations. They will contact us on what the exact amount will be. Tom Wenzel (Morrison) will look into this as well
- **#2 & #3 (P/C)** – Office received a response letter from Helen McLennan (Morrison SWCD) and FERC re: Blanchard Dam area River Watch (RW) activity and ongoing Minnesota Power (MP) \$1119 annual grant support. Pam explained that she had Cass County auditor's office make the account adjustments discussed at the Dec. '09 MHB meeting. A copy of the Resolution in support of this action was also provided for review. There was calculation discussion that concluded that \$1,607.10 remains for distribution. Those funds can only be dispersed if '08 and '09 RW activity documentation can be provided. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to draft a letter to MP (Janice Grover) and 'Cc' Morrison County SWCD, explaining that this board would like to reconcile the account and that \$1607.10 remains. Also asking whether the MHB should allocate the amount to them or return the funds to MP - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried
- **#4 (P/C)** – Office received a copy of the MPCA Upper Mississippi Watershed Basin report
- **#5 (P/C)** – Office received a letter from the City of Brainerd re: recent river activity as an FYI
- **#6 (P/C)** – MHB office was provided a letter of a sale of State metallic mineral leases w/in 3 MHB counties as an FYI
- **#7 (P/C)** – Office received clarification on the question of whether or not the State is now requiring the MHB to submit audits annually. Based on recent correspondence from the state, we do not fall under

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- 'Special District' reporting requirements. Hoffman, Dale and Swenson (MHB's hired accounting firm) plans to look into this further however
- **#8 (P/C)** – Received an email from Don Hickman (Initiative Foundation) with suggestions on how the MHB may want to proceed with the second Strategic Planning Session
 - **#9 (P/C)** – Office received a request for comment on a CUP from the GBA JPB
 - **#10 (P/C)** – Office received a letter from the City of Brainerd on their plans for two grant submissions on proposed development of a 3.8 mile non-motorized trail that includes areas w/in the Mississippi River corridor. They are looking for a letter of support. An aerial photo was provided for review. The board asked that Bill Patnaude (Beltrami ESD) review this as well. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Lori Dowling (Itasca) to draft a letter of support pending review from Bill Patnaude (Beltrami ESD) that includes specific mention of compliance to our ordinance - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried
 - **#11 (P/C)** – Office received an email from the MPCA suggesting that the MHB draft an article for an upcoming MPCA quarterly newsletter that details MHB history and plans for the future. The board noted that it may be too soon to make the deadline, but that we should draft an article for future newsletters. It was also suggested going forward, that each MHB Commissioner volunteer to write an article (rotate) but that the first one come from the office. Pam will bring a draft article for review to the February MHB meeting. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Lori Dowling (Itasca) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) in support of drafting a quarterly article to be published in area publications - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried

Pam asked whether the board would be interested in holding the February meeting in Backus. Pam will contact Bill Patnaude (Beltrami ESD) to find out which location will work best for him

2:32 pm – Action Items –

- ▶ **TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting** – Bill Patnaude (TAC Chair) was not able to attend today's meeting to provide details of the TAC meeting. This item will be added to the Feb. 19th agenda for discussion.
- ▶ **ICC (Itasca Community College) tour / IWLP (Itasca Water Legacy Partnership) meeting** – The board had meet with Dr. John Downing (UI Limnologist) at the Itasca Community College (ICC) to tour the water testing lab. Immediately following the tour the board members also met with the IWLP. Below are some highlights of the conversation between the board, Dr. John Downing and IWLP. Noel Griese (Itasca County SWCD), a proponent of area high school water quality programs, was also available for consultation during discussion:
 - The ICC lab can provide EPA certified (Storette Database) water testing
 - Currently the ICC lab has mainly lake testing sites (i.e.: Pokegama and Deer Lake)
 - Potential testing criteria could be the following: Bacteria, dissolved carbon, total suspended solids etc.
 - Site areas must be tested for a two year phase; 5 samples/year, per site - May through Sept
 - Water testing on levels of Oxygen and phosphorus is primarily what schools students measure now
 - The ICC lab can either be hired to conduct the testing or to train student and/or citizen groups on proper testing protocol. Dr. John Downing suggested that since primary testing will be focus on river areas, the testing parameters are different and less extensive. Several bids may need to be gathered so that all samplings are not sent to one location for certification. This board may want to consult w/SWCD's on possible lab alternatives
 - The board should first determine the following: 1) clear objectives (testing purpose); 2) what is the immediate testing needs (what type of non-impugnable testing is nec.); and 3) the geographic areas to target (obtain SWCD input on baseline watershed data w/in the corridor)

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- The next step maybe to send a draft example of what we need to other labs to obtain bids for this level of testing, determine a budget; and apply for grant monies (i.e. Clean Water Partnership, BWSR preservation etc)

The board determined that this was great discussion but that it needs to be further covered with more board members present. It will be added to the February agenda

► **Strategic Planning Session (SPS), the next meeting** – There was little discussion on this topic. As noted early under ‘TAC meeting’, this item will also be addressed at the February 19th MHB meeting

There was no further business of the Mississippi Headwaters Board to discuss, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 pm - 5 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried


3:52 pm – Misc –

☼ **Legislature Update** – None


☼ **County Updates** – None

Next MHB meeting: Friday, February 19th, 2010, at 9 am – Cass County Courthouse in Walker, MN

Meeting Adjourned:



Chair Approval



Submitted by (Admin Asst)