

Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)
February 17th, 2012
Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Tom Wenzel (Morrison County), Paul Thiede (Crow Wing County), Brian Napstad (Aitkin County), Lyle Robinson (Hubbard County), Davin Tinquist (Itasca County), Dean Newland (Clearwater County) and Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.)

Members Excused: Neal Gaalswyk (Cass County) and Jack Frost (Beltrami County)

Others Present: Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing County Water Specialist) and David Winkelman (The WATERS Foundation - Whiskey River clean-up projec-)

9:03 am – Chair Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 9:03 am on February 17th, 2012, in Walker, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

9:04 am - Agenda (Feb. 17th '12). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve the Agenda - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:05 am – Consent Agenda (Jan. '12 – Minutes/Jan.-Feb.'12 Expenses). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Davin Tinquist (Itasca) / Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) to approve the February '12 Consent Agenda as provided: Jan. '12 Minutes and Jan.-Feb.'12 expenses of \$3,394.99 – 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:06 am – Staff Report (Jan./Feb.'11). Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) highlighted several items:

- **#4 & 5 (P/B)** – Staff noted that the office has received the '12 appropriations for 7 of the 8 counties
- **#6 (P/C)** – Staff explained a recent request from the State to file an Annual Lobby Expense Report. The MHB has not had such expenses but the State still requires that this board go on-line to fill out the annual form, simply stating 'none' on the form. The MHB Chair asked whether this was a request to record expenses incurred for our lobbying at the capital for funding (i.e mileage etc.) or is it for other registered Lobbyist expense. The board believes it is specifically for registered Lobbyist.
- **#8 (P/C)** – Staff asked the board if they have any comments/concerns w/the recent Crow Wing County proposed ordinance changes that they received previous in the meeting envelopes. No concerns.
- Commissioner Napstad (Aitkin) asked staff to elaborate on the progress of the BWSR grant (#7 P/C). There had been some coding issues that the Cass County Auditors and State offices have worked on for routing the grant monies directly into our account. No new updates have been shared w/staff. Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing Water Specialist) also offer other information on the recording software necessary for grant reporting. Both issues are being handled but none of the grant work to-date can be considered for reimbursement until the agreement arrives and is signed. Most activity so far has been preliminary.
- Staff asked for concerns/comments from the Commissioners on the last minute request for comment from the GBA JPB on their proposed ordinance changes. None were noted.
- Staff asked if there were any conflicts with the March 16th MHB meeting date. There were none.

9:15 am – Zoning Actions – None

9:15 am – Action Items –

▶ **CWL / BWSR Grant update** – progress discussion was covered earlier under 'Staff Report'

▶ **SPS III / Upper MR Gathering # update** – Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) started discussion with the details of the last sub-committee meeting. Staff provided a copy of the March 30th SPS III DRAFT Agenda

MHB Meeting Minutes

and invitation mock-up for Commissioner review/comment. Commissioner Thiede also asked for suggestions to pass onto DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, on possible topics to talk about during the lunch hour that day. Several were noted during discussion, i.e. current DNR activity for the prevention of AIS, the DNR's role w/the Foresty in the corridor, the ripple-effect of improved communication between organizations and State etc. Paul will forward today's suggestions.

► **Whiskey Creek – Mississippi Watershed clean-up Grant** – David Winkelman (The WATERS Foundation) was given the floor to share with the board, plans to submit a \$400k grant request to the DNR for area aquatic testing, clean-up and restoration in and around Whiskey Creek in Brainerd (near the Arboretum). He is approaching the board today in hopes of obtaining possible support, matching funds, in-kind and/or a Letter of Support from the MHB. Some of the highlights of today's discussion were:

- 1) Planning started in late January and the grant application details are still being worked out
- 2) Projected budget for the entire project will be approx. \$1.8 million over a 5 yr. period – of the \$400k, 15% would be matching funds (\$60k). There have been a lot of area stakeholders showing interest in helping with the match.
- 3) The money from this grant is hoped to produce a 'model' watershed for others to take ideas from for their water conservation projects (i.e. Managing stormwater run-off)
- 4) Some of the planned projects for this model include: dredging and deepening ponds, create floating vegetation mats, installation of an aerator system and adding to the area trail system
- 5) The plan includes contracting with AW Research labs for the water testing
- 6) The Grant application deadline is Aug. 12th 2012 & a stakeholders meeting will be in April

Through discussion, the board shared with Mr. Winkelman their thoughts about the proposed projects, and although interested, pointed out that this board would need to see more detail before drafting a Letter of Support. Mr. Winkelman graciously accepted the boards input. He will make plans to visit again w/this board after more Work Plan details are gathered and a formal request for a Letter of Support is submitted.

10:17 am – Staff briefly explained recent conversation with Crow Wing County (Auditor's, HR and IF office) on the transition of support from Cass County. Each will be further examined and details forthcoming in the next several weeks.

There was no further business of the MHB to discuss; **motion** was made by Chairman Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 am - 5 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

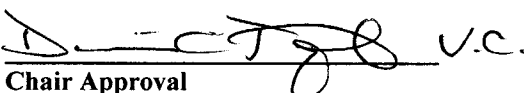
10:18 am – Misc –

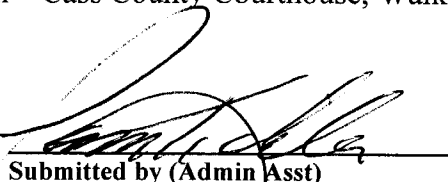
☀ **Legislature Update** – none

☀ **County Updates** – none

Next MHB meeting: Friday, March 16th '12 at 9 am – Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

Meeting Adjourned


Chair Approval


Submitted by (Admin Asst)