

**Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tom Wenzel (Morrison County), Paul Thiede (Crow Wing County), Neal Gaalswyk (Cass County), Brian Napstad (Aitkin), Lyle Robinson (Hubbard), Jack Frost (Beltrami), Dean Newland (Clearwater) and Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.)

**Members Excused:** Davin Tinquist (Itasca County)

**Others Present:** Bill Patnaude (Beltrami ESD/SWCD and TAC Chair), Todd Holman - The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Dan Steward (BWSR)

**9:00 am** – Chair Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 9:00 am on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Walker, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

**9:01 am - Agenda** (Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> '11). Brian Napstad (Aitkin) asked to leave time open for Dan Steward (BWSR) to speak to the board about some upcoming projects for possible consideration on board collaboration. Chair Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) advised that there should be plenty of time on the agenda to do that. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Neal Gaalswyk (Cass) / Brian Napstad (Aitkin) to approve the Agenda with the slight amendment as discussed - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**9:02 am – Consent Agenda** (Jan. '11 – Minutes/Jan.-Feb.'11 Expenses). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Jack Frost (Beltrami) to approve the January '11 Consent Agenda (Jan. '11 Minutes and Jan.-Feb.'11 expenses of \$ 7,646) – 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) identified one particular item under Expenses that will require discussion and additional approval. She asked the board to make special note of the expense item (\$14,683.44 - RiverPlace Communication Arts) for video production and on-going Guide Book press coordination. Because the 'ID Development' account that this bill will be paid from has a current balance of only \$11,224.38, staff is asking that \$25,000 be transferred to that account to cover this and any other billings that will come forth in the following months. After further discussion, it was determined that \$5,000 be transferred for now to cover today's approved invoices. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve a transfer of \$5,000 from the 'General' account to 'ID Development' account - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**9:10 am – Staff Report** (Jan./Feb.'11). Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) highlighted several items:

- **#6 (P/B)** – Staff mailed the 2Q ENR reimbursement request on 1/31/11 for \$19,104.63. She went on to also update the board of the reimbursement outlook for the remainder of the '10-'11 fiscal
- **#2 (P/C)** – The office received a request for comment from the Forest Service (Walker District) re: South Leech Lake 2 Resource Management Project. Staff sent a copy to Neal Gaalswyk (Cass) for response. Neal expressed 'no concerns' so a thank you/acknowledgement letter was sent on behalf of the board members
- **#4 (P/C)** – The office had received a phone call from Jane Ekholm to inform the board of some recent activity pertaining to the potential migration of the Asian Carp in relation to a possible failing Dam in Coon Rapids, MN. Staff believes this was a 'heads up' and that it also sounded as if Jane were asking the board if they would be in support of a possible future resolution to address the failing Dam. Jane was told that there was too little information for this board to take immediate action at this time (and by the 3/1/11 deadline) but that she is welcome to approach the board later with more details. The board

## MHB Meeting Minutes

- had not heard anything about this but Todd Holman (TNC) shared what he knew on the topic from a recent DNR round-table discussion on repair and/or replacement of several Dams for this reason
- Per direction given by the board at last month's meeting, staff was asked to look into the results (if any) of a '08-'09 DNR UMR Fisheries Study. Staff briefly read an email sent to the office in response to her request for study information. Further discussion ensued with staff advising that more information, when available will be forward to the board
  - A copy of the draft working agreement with Chip Borkenhagen for WEB re-design was distributed for review. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) offered several suggestions that he would like added but was also asking that the other Commissioners review it for any others. It will appear on the March for approval
  - Staff asked if there were any conflicts with the March 18<sup>th</sup> MHB meeting date. There were none

### 9:25 am – Zoning Actions – None

### 9:25 am – Action Items –

► **River Watch Update (Letter of Agreement)** – Bill Patnaude (TAC Chair) was in attendance but had not had the opportunity previously to fully review the LOA to offer any updates. This item will be moved to the March '11 Agenda

► **Strategic Planning Project development update** – Chair Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) started discussion on what the board may want the message to be to the Legislature. He also supplied the board with a brief synopsis of recent conversation and activities in support of gaining a guaranteed time-slot (hearing) at the Capital for the MHB funding bill. Some of the discussion highlights were:

- √ Paul had met with the House and Senate delegation of the Headwaters Counties (2/15) to provide an opportunity to review the video that will be used at the Capital and to ask for their support of a funding bill and what they feel is the best methodology/approach should be
- √ Paul has a set appointment to sit with the Senate Environmental Committee on 2/24. He also hopes to visit with the House Environmental Committee as well as the Governors assistant
- √ The bill to be drafted will ask to restore MHB funding to the 2001 level of \$240k for the biennium (\$120/yr)
- √ If the MHB funding bill passes, it will allow the board to hire an Executive Director to help provide the necessary man-power to develop new programs and solicit the necessary grant money to implement them. Paul provided the board today w/a draft job description for that position. He intends to take it to the Capital for any questions may that arise
- √ The board determined that the Sub-committee should try to make the 2/24 meeting.

Motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve reasonable travel expense reimbursement to the board members delegated to travel to the Capital - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Immediately following the previous discussion, Dan Steward (BWSR) and Brian Napstad (Aitkin) provided several examples of regional Clean Water and Habitat based initiatives that the board may want to consider for collaboration. Dan had copies available today of the details of these grant opportunities for board review. The MHB is in a very persuasive position to possibly capture some of the initiative money by using the strength of the eight county JPB and have others, like the area SWCD personnel, actually work the program. These initiative funds are out there to be used for regional preservation and other environmentally driven program development and the MHB may want to consider the opportunity even if the MHB push for continued State funding is unsuccessful. Much of this all depends on what (and where) the State ends up cutting. Many entities are nervously waiting and watching.

MHB Meeting Minutes

► **2011 Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair** - Staff had sent out to the board members some details on the event shortly after last month's MHB meeting. Today staff is looking again, as in past years, for approval of MHB support in the way of offering representatives from the board as Judges and in support of monetary awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners. Science Award winners would receive \$250 - 1<sup>st</sup>, \$150 - 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$100 - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Again, the board asked that staff inform Julie Larson (BSU Chemistry Professor and event organizer) that the winners of the MHB awards must have environmentally themed entries (preferably water oriented). The board also would like the organizers of this yearly event to know that the board would very much like to continue to support such an event but that going forward board participation/sponsorship will be considered if and only event details are provided to the board at least 2 months in advance. Because of the late notice for this year's event, the board will sponsor awards but will not be able to provide judges. This board asks that the organizers choose alternate judges on behalf of the MHB. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) / Neal Gaalswyk (Cass) to approve the cash awards for the '11 Northern MN Regional Science Fair (\$250/\$150 and \$100) and ask that the organizers provide judges for this specifically environmentally toned award - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**11:00 am** - Immediately following the Science Award approval, the floor was given to Todd Holman (The Nature Conservancy) to briefly update the board of recent activity and again re-enforce the on-going interest to work with the MHB on future projects. He wanted to wish the board luck with their upcoming efforts to secure continued funding. He wants to remind the MHB commissioners and sited several opportunities (w/non-profit partners) that this board could collaborate on even if State funding should cease. Todd provided a flyer that describes the ways that TNC has worked w/other organizations.

There was no further business of the MHB to discuss, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Jack Frost (Beltrami) to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 am - 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned**

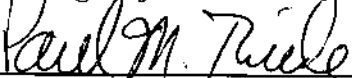
**11:12 am - Misc -**

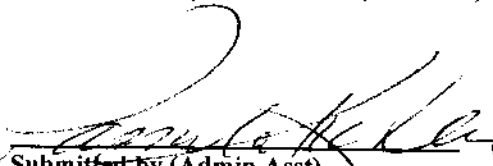
☀ **Legislature Update** - refer to 'Action Items - Strategic Planning - Project Development Update'

☀ **County Updates** - Neal Gaalswyk (Cass) offered details on a flyer/mail insert that Cass County is using to provide information on water quality etc. to county residence. The cost for this insert was minimal (approx. \$930) and might be a good idea for other counties as well.

Next MHB meeting: Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> '11 at 9 am - Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

**Meeting Adjourned**

  
Chair Approval

  
Submitted by (Admin Asst)