

# Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

## Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Tom Wenzel (Morrison County), Paul Thiede (Crow Wing County), Brian Napstad (Aitkin County), Jack Frost (Beltrami County), Davin Tinquist (Itasca County), Neal Gaalswyk (Cass County) and Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.)

**Members Excused:** Chair Lyle Robinson (Hubbard County) and Dean Newland (Clearwater County)

**Others Present:** Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing County Water Specialist), Chris Pence (Crow Wing County Land Service Supervisor) and Todd Holman (The Nature Conservancy)

**9:05 am** – Chair Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) was not in attendance. Vice Chair Davin Tinquist (Itasca) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 9:05 am on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Walker, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

**9:06 am - Agenda** (March 16th '12). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Tom Wenzel (Morrison) / Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) to approve the Agenda - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**9:07 am – Consent Agenda** (Feb '12 – Minutes/Feb. - March '12 Expenses). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Jack Frost (Beltrami) to approve the March '12 Consent Agenda as provided: Feb. '12 Minutes and Feb. - March '12 expenses of \$3,389.14 – 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**9:08 am – Staff Report** (Feb./March'12). Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) highlighted several items:

- **#2 (P/B)** – Staff noted that the office has received the '12 2Q State reimbursement for \$15,362.44
- **#6 (P/C)** – The office received the 5/12 – 4/13 WEB hosting agreement for consideration (\$410.04/yr)
- **#4 (P/C)** – Staff sent the Initiative Foundation Grant application. Board members were also given an itemized cost sheet for the 3/30/12 event. Some figures were approximate at this time
- **#5 (P/C)** – Staff has been working with the Crow Wing County IT dept. to get a new email address for the office that would more closely represent our new location. The old email address: [cass.mhb@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:cass.mhb@co.cass.mn.us) will remain active and messages will forward to the new one: [mhb@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:mhb@co.crow-wing.mn.us). The WEB site and all documents will reflect the new address
- **#6 (P/C)** – Staff indicated that David Winkelman (from last month's meeting) has sent his request for a Letter of Support. Staff asked him to forward additional project details for review by the board and that he may also want to revisit the board at a future monthly meeting to continue discussion
- **#7 (P/C)** – The office received and forward to the board the final GBA JPB ordinance update as an FYI
- **#8 (P/C)** – The office received a flyer for the Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair (6/16/12) asking whether the MHB would like to have a 'no cost' booth there. After brief discussion, the board thought it sounds like a good event but asked staff to call the Aitkin SWCD to see if we can have Guide Books at their booth
- Staff asked if there were any conflicts with the April 20<sup>th</sup> MHB meeting date. There were none.
- Staff noted that a MHB group photo will may be taken on 3/30/12 and placed on the Web site
- Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) asked if staff was aware of the Canoe Days date for 2012 – **UPDATE: 6/16**

**9:20 am – Zoning Actions – None**

**9:20 am – Action Items –**

► **CWL / BWSR Grant update** – As of 3/3/12, the Grant was sent to MHB Chairman Lyle Robinson. Lyle has since signed and mailed it. Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing County Water Specialist) added that Dan

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Steward (BWSR) has approved the Work Plan. The next step is BWSR sign off, with the first half of the grant \$ deposited in the next week or so. He also noted that once BWSR signs the agreement, 'project time' can start to be tracked. It's hoped that these items will fall into place in time for the SPS III meeting.

► **SPS III / Upper MR Gathering 4 update** – Brian Napstad (Aitkin) asked how the presentation (Power Point - PP) was coming along and if everyone involved was comfortable with the timing/content. Chris Pence (Crow Wing Land Service Supervisor) stated that they should have everything in place w/in the next week (PP/factsheet/time allotment etc.). Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing County Water Specialist) and Chris Pence were able to quickly run through the presentation content and time-line w/the Commissioners today. A copy of the PP may also be emailed to the board members prior to 3/30 for their review.

Mitch went on to explain that a 'commitment card' (an example was provided) has been drafted for the attendees to fill out immediately following the presentation.

Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) clarified w/the board that the Northern Lights Casino is offering a reduced room rate for 3/30 meeting attendees. Rooms will be \$65 (half off). Pam was asked to make sure to add this bit of information to a 'reminder' email that should be sent out just prior to the RSVP due date.

There was continued discussion on Mileage/Per Diem for the Commissioners. The MHB Commissioners will have their mileage covered and \$50 for Per Diem by the MHB. All other 8 County staff (Commissioner/Administrators/ESD etc.) will need to be handled by their respective counties. Jack Frost (Beltrami) advised that he will be in Minneapolis all weekend long for a conference and is willing to travel back for the STS III / Gathering 4 Event if it's the boards desire. He was also asking whether any expenses would be reimbursed to make the trip back. It was later determined that board consensus would be to have Jack try to make this very important meeting. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve any/all expenses for each MHB Commissioner to attend the 3/30/12 SPS III meeting but asks that each use discretion- 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Todd Holman (The Nature Conservancy) asked to take the floor to highlight the topic for the second half of the day (3/30/12). There will be 3 Talk blocks, starting with a 'Summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the day'; discussion of 'Partner Projects' (active near the Mississippi River); and John Shabuck (sp) will cover 'Economic & Recreation vitality' involving area work.

Todd went on to describe and hand out a map that details the MPC Watershed Assessment model w/in the MH corridor and how it ties into this boards newly acquired BWSR grant Work Plan.

He also shared with the board, as an FYI, some info. on a newly formed North Central Conservation round-table (of area non-profits & various agencies) that over-laps some of the 8 MHB Counties. This group was formed to:

- Determine / research conservation capacity
- Find efficiencies
- Look for project redundancies
- And have since developed a LLCMR project initiative grant proposal (\$450k / 3 year scope)

Todd noted the possible interface factors of the proposal, describing how the 5 component initiative has relevancy and could evolve into collaboration with this boards work.

There was no further business of the MHB to discuss; Vice Chairman Davin Tinquist (Itasca) adjourned the meeting at 10:07 am

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**Meeting Adjourned**

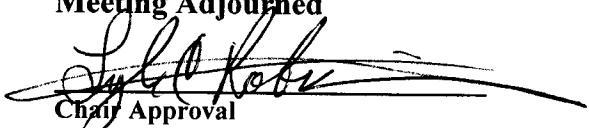
**10:07 am – Misc –**

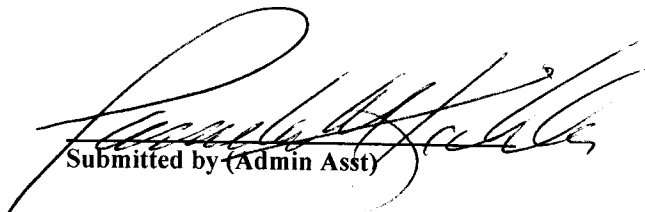
☀ **Legislature Update** – Hot topic at the Capital: Vacation Rentals and State ‘General Tax’ bill w/added conversation on School Trust and Forest Lands

☀ **County Updates** – none

Next MHB meeting: Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> ‘12 at 9 am – Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

**Meeting Adjourned**

  
Chair Approval

  
Submitted by (Admin Asst)