

Mississippi Headwaters Board
June 18th, 2010
Cass County Gov. Bldg, Backus, MN
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Excused: Lori Dowling (Itasca)

Others Present:

Mel Milender – GBA JPB Zoning

Todd Holman – The Nature Conservancy

Mark Anderson – Morrison Planning/Zoning

Terry Neff – Itasca Planning/Zoning

Dan Steward – BWSR (Brainerd)

Dave / Sharon Carlson - Applicant

9:15 am – Chair Jack Frost (Beltrami) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 9:15 am on June 18th, 2010, at the Cass County Gov. Bldg., Backus, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

9:16 am - Agenda (June 18th '10). Brian Napstad (Aitkin) asked that discussion on a proposed Resolution be added to the Agenda prior to the 'Action Items' section. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Dick Downham (Cass) to approve the amended Agenda - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:17 am – Consent Agenda (May '10 – Minutes/Expenses/Staff Report). Chair Jack Frost (Beltrami) explained a format change that was being introduced for this and future monthly meetings. In the past, previous months Minutes, Expenses and Staff Report was reviewed individually. Jack suggested that the board place all three items on a Consent Agenda for approval as each is reviewed prior to the meeting. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) added that he would like to continue to allow for questions/discussion on specific items if nec. prior to voting. The other board members in attendance were in full agreement with the revision, with the understanding that it also could be returned to the previous process in the future if nec. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) continued w/further review of the recent 'Canoe Days' in Brainerd (see Misc – County Updates). After discussion, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Dick Downham (Cass) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve the May '10 Consent Agenda - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:27 am – Zoning Actions –

A. Crow Wing County –

1. Cr-6a-10 RE: Review/comment on proposed Ordinance revisions – Crow Wing Land Services

- a) ► Discussion: Chris Pence (Crow Wing Land Services) was not available for questions. The information on the proposed revisions was mailed to the board members prior to the meeting for their review. There were no concerns expressed by the Commissioners today and after brief discussion the board asked staff to mail the customary Thank You/Acknowledgement letter.

B. Beltrami County (GBA JPB) –

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1. GBA-5a-10 RE: Review/certify a variance to attach a 12' x 26' entry to an existing lake home at 84' from the OHWM and a 28' x 32' garage to new entry at 96' of OHWM – Lake Bemidji – applicant – Loren / Deb Zutz

► Discussion: Mel Milender (GBA P/Z) was available for questions at this meeting. Additional information (BOA draft minutes) was also provided for review. Some other specifics noted in discussion were:

- a) This application was review/approved by the GBA JPB Board of Adjustment on June 9th
- b) Applicant is looking to convert their non-conforming seasonal cabin to a year round home w/attached garage which will remain consistent w/others in neighborhood
- c) Dwelling is 68' of the OHWM, addition connecting garage to house will be 84', garage at 96'
- d) Home will be connected to municipal sewer/water and impervious surface is limited to 25%
- e) Storm water run-off from eaves will be directed to the rear of property, not lake side

After review/discussion, a motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) to certify the variance with conditions and the Findings of Fact noted by the GBA JPB Board of Adjustment at their June 9th meeting and those identified by this board - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried

C. Morrison County –

1. M-5a-10 RE: Review/comment on an application to rezone 4.11 acres of Ag land to Commercial for the purpose of relocating J & S Auction on property – Mississippi River corridor – applicant – Gordon Jr. / Tracy Wheeler

► Discussion: Mark Anderson (Morrison P/Z) was available for questions at this meeting. Additional information (BOA draft minutes) was also provided for review. Some other specifics noted in discussion were:

- a) This application was reviewed/approved by the Morrison BOA on May 24th
- b) Property is approx 2000' from the river but encroaches on a back-water channel in the area
- c) Only 2% falls w/in the Headwaters zone, no structure will be permitted to be built in that area

After review/discussion, a motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Tom Wenzel (Morrison) / Dean Newland (Clearwater) to approve rezoning the parcel w/conditions and the Findings of Fact noted by the Morrison Board of Adjustment at their May 24th meeting and those identified by this board - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried

D. Aitkin County –

1. A-5a-10 RE: Review/certify a variance to construct a 24' x 44' addition on a non-conforming structure at 133' of OHWM – Mississippi River – applicant – Dave and Sharon Carlson

► Discussion: Terry Neff (Aitkin P/Z) and the applicant were available for questions at this meeting. Additional information (BOA draft minutes) was also provided for review. Some other specifics noted in discussion were:

- a) This application was review/approved by the Aitkin County BOA on June 2nd
- b) The original structure was built north of Palisade on the Mississippi River in 1975

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- c) Previous variances were approved in '84 and '04, they're now looking to add to structure while removing the old mobile home addition – septic will be adjusted to fit new structure size

After review/discussion, a motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to certify the variance with conditions and the Findings of Fact noted by the Aitkin Board of Adjustment at their June 2nd meeting and those identified by this board - 7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried

10:20 am - Presentation: Dan Steward – BWSR & Todd Holman – The Nature Conservancy

Dan Steward and Todd Holman provided a 10-slide Power Point presentation to aid in their discussion on a RIM Program to implement the 'Camp Ripley Compatible Use Buffer' (ACUB) project on the Mississippi River. The slide show introduced a specific easement program, the issues, current ACUB status and the partners involved as an example. They described how the RIM program works (as administered through the local SWCD offices) and asked whether this board would like to be involved in similar/parallel partnerships in the future. After in-depth discussion, the board thanked them for considering MHB involvement. Although the MHB is interested, they may not be currently in a position to offer much but would like to be considered in future avenues of collaboration w/in common areas of interest (i.e.: water quality, and/or buffer programs) when the MHB is better seated to fulfill the obligation.

10:55 am to 11:10 am – Break

11:10 am - At this time Brian Napstad (Aitkin) provided a copy of a draft Resolution for board endorsement. He went on to explain the details for support of the 'Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Funding' land acquisition of a parcel that had been used for wild rice farming and been suspect of causing area watershed degradation due to years of fertilizing/pesticide residual discharge. A similar adopted Resolution by the Big Sandy Lake Association was also provided as an example for review. After discussion and some slight language adjustments, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) to draft a resolution in support of the 'Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Funding' as described - 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried

11:25 am – Action Items –

► Strategic Planning Session (SPS) –

- a) Identity Redevelopment – a brief summary of understanding (memo from Chip Borkenhagen) from the June 10th subcommittee meeting was copied to each of the board members for discussion. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) provided additional insight on the topics covered during that meeting and explained that Chip intends to draft a proposal of service for the re-branding project to be review at the July meeting
- b) Citizens Advisory – the board expressed that the Citizen Advisory Committee of the past could still exist but that a secondary Advisory Committee needs to be pulled together on a case-by-case basis for specific projects. This new volunteer group could be called a 'Project Advisory Committee' (PAC) and would consist of a rotating group of individuals specific to a given project. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Dick Downham (Cass) to empower the Chair to appoint, when nec., Project Advisory Committee members for specific program/projects - 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried
- c) Mississippi Headwaters River Watch – Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) confirmed that the Mississippi Headwaters River Watch program (319 Grant) that the board endorsed May 21st is in the running and a high priority with the MPCA. Things are moving forward but final grant approval has yet to be verified

► Article / Press Release – Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) explained that she is still working w/Bill Patnaude (IAC Chair) on a 2nd article draft but will have a final draft for board review at the July 16th MHB meeting

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► **'11 Work Plan (WP) and Budget** – Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) explained to the board that the DNR will be looking for copies of each document in the next couple of weeks as the MHB fiscal year '10 official ends June 30th. Pam continued to advise that she was not able to provide a draft of a possible Work Plan for '11 for their review/approval but was able to distribute a copy of a possible draft of the '11 proposed Budget for board discussion. After in-depth conversation on suggested changes, the board asked that staff present another version of both the Work Plan and Budget for '11 at the July meeting

There was no further business of the Mississippi Headwaters Board to discuss, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Dick Downham (Cass) / Brian Napstad (Aitkin) to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 am - 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried

11:57 am – Misc –

⊗ **Legislature Update** – None

⊗ **County Updates** – Canoe Days: attendance was down from last year and it has been discovered that the DNR is shifting the date of their open house next year, which may affect attendance even more. There may be further discussion on this (via board re-branding/visibility plans) in the coming months on whether or not the Canoe Days is something this board could embark on as an organizer in future years

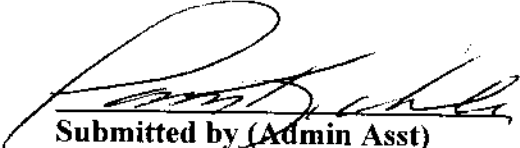
Next MHB meeting: Friday, July 16th '10 at 9 am – Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

August meeting location will need to be changed – either in Backus or near Itasca State Park area (Douglas Lodge)

Meeting Adjourned:



Chair Approval



Submitted by (Admin Asst)