

Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)

June 22nd, 2012

Cass County Courthouse, Walker, MN

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

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

Members Excused: Neal Gaalswyk (Cass County) and Brian Napstad (Aitkin)

Others Present: Lori Dowling (DNR), Senators Tom Saxhaug and Bob Lessard, Mitch Brinks (Crow Wing County Water Protection Specialist), Chris Pence (Crow Wing County Land Services Supervisor)

9:02 am – Chair Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) called to order the monthly meeting of the Mississippi Headwaters Board at 9:02 am on June 22nd, 2012, in Walker, MN. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

9:03 am - Agenda (June 22nd '12). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Tom Wenzel (Morrison) / Dean Newland (Clearwater) to approve the Agenda - 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:04 am – Consent Agenda (May '12 – Minutes / May - June '12 Expenses). **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Tom Wenzel (Morrison) / Davin Tinquist (Itasca) to approve the June '12 Consent Agenda as provided (May '12 Minutes and May - June '12 expenses of \$4,422.19) – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

9:05 am – Staff Report (May / June '12). Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) highlighted several items:

- **#2 (P/B)** – The office has sent out the '13 Appropriation reminder to each of the 8 counties
- **#6 (P/B)** – Staff met again w/the Crow Wing County (CWC) HR Dept. The target date for HR transition has been moved to the middle of July. Staff has also spent the last couple of days working w/CWC IS Dept. on Email (EM) server and address change and was told that the former CWC email address would cease to work after June 30th. Through discussion today w/other CWC Staff, it seems that the CWC email should 'forward' to a new WEB host address. Staff will confirm this. In the meantime, our email server has been changed from GroupWise to Outlook with the new Outlook address of 'mhb@mississippiheadwaters.org' (at no additional cost). The old Cass County published EM address (cass.mhb@co.cass.mn.us) will continue to forward. **UPDATE:** the former address of mhb@co.crow-wing.mn.us can not be used after July 15th.
- **#3 (P/C)** – Staff reminded the board of the copy they received in their meeting envelopes of the response from DNR Com. Tom Landwehr re: Senator Bob Lessard assignment as the MHB liaison.
- **#4 (P/C)** – Staff mailed the signed Itasca GIS agreement per last month's meeting discussion. Another agreement came in this past week from the Beltrami GIS dept. and will require MHB Chair signature.
- **#5 (P/C)** – Staff received a request for comment from the Crow Wing County Natural Resource Dept. on a timber harvest that has already taken place. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) clarified that since this is simply a forest management action, per our by-laws the County is only required to provide us with notification. No certification is necessary. A standard Thank You/Acknowledgment letter will be sent.

Pam Kichler (Admin. Asst.) asked if there were any conflicts with the next MHB meeting on July 20th*. There were none but the board would like to have a future meeting at the Itasca State Park. After further discussion, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Davin Tinquist (Itasca) to keep the July 20th meeting date/location as is but to have staff investigate the ISP option for a later meeting. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

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9:16 am – Zoning Actions – Crow Wing County – Center Township – Timber Harvest (Cr6a12) – This item had already been discussed during the ‘Staff Report’ portion of the meeting. The reason it appear on today’s Agenda under Zoning is Jacob Frie (CWC Natural Resource dept.) had thought he may attend this meeting and asked to be placed on the Agenda. Jacob Frie was not in attendance.

9:16 am – Action Items –

► **CWL / BWSR Grant update** – Mitch Brinks and Chris Pence from Crow Wing County were in attendance and provided the board with grant updates. They have met with several candidates for the Water Quality contract portion of the plan. Through today’s discussion with the board, it was determined that vendor selection through the RFQ’s submitted be handled by Mitch and Chris. They were asked to bring their recommendation with key points supporting their decision to the next meeting.

Chris was asked to provide a synopsis of the BWSR Accelerated Implementation 3 year Grant for those in attendance that may not be fully aware of the plan that the MHB is working on (Plan: ‘Prioritizing Conservation Projects Implementation in the 400-mile Mississippi Headwaters’).

Discussion followed on what the MHB will need to do to continue the momentum and what the feeling is in the Legislature right now. This topic segued into the next agenda item with Senator Bob Lessard.

► **Bob Lessard** – Senator Bob Lessard was thanked for his past & future support of the MHB and was given the floor at this time to share his thoughts on where this organization can go. He stated that funding is out there and he believes this board is ahead of the curve and gaining momentum. Some other comments offered at this time were:

- 1) Recent Senate redistricting has increased our area districts from 4 to 5 seats, which is a plus
- 2) History has shown that funding is generally targeted toward fixing impairment. The Northern Counties may not have had all the necessary data in the past to represent impairment when applying for funding. Hopefully this will change with the work/data retrieved through the acquired BWSR Grant: the MHB was awarded and the programs that will be developed.
- 3) The Legislature (and Governor) is currently driven toward impaired water solutions/programs. This can only help and support MHB’s ambitious Work Plan and Budget for 2013.

► **2013 Work Plan / Budget** – Staff provided each Commissioner (and some of those in attendance) with a copy of the DRAFT ’13 Work Plan and Budget to use for today’s discussion. The copy disseminated was a version that was drafted after the Budget Committee met on June 8th. The ’13 Work Plan and Budget are focused on increasing funding to support the necessary hiring of staff (i.e. Executive Director) to move this organization forward. After some conversation, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to adopt the ’13 DRAFT Budget - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Below are some of the additional comments that arose through the discussion that followed:

- 1) Advancement of the organization & its programs can only be realized with adequate staffing.
- 2) What is the source of the funding? It would be difficult to get this Budget passed showing just ‘general’ funds as the source. Perhaps identifying the possible sources for each of the programs would be better received. However, a lot is unknown as to what & where it’s needed until the BWSR Grant data is gathered and evaluated.
- 3) Also remember, different sources may be on different funding cycles. The hired Director must be fully aware of the different funding pots and how well one might ‘dove-tail’ with another.

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- 4) This board will need initial 'seed' money to start. Once projects are developed and more Grants applied for and awarded to the MHB, secondary funding can be obtained. Going forward, it will still be imperative that the State continues to fulfill their funding obligation as well.

Following further discussion, **motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Brian Napstad (Aitkin) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to include the previous years 'In-kind Appropriations' total to the '13 Budget (without adding the dollar amount to 'Income') - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

At this time it was also suggested by Senator Tom Saxhaug that this board should consider getting in touch with the various funding boards/councils (specifically Bill Becker – Lessard Sams Council) to discuss the pools of money available. Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) then suggested that a 'delegation' be pulled together and a meeting planned for sometime in August. Others to be invited to that meeting would include a couple Senators, DNR Commissioner Landwehr, a couple MHB Commissioners and possibly someone from the Governor's office. Staff was asked to work out the details and to draft a letter (invitation) to be sent. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Lyle Robinson (Hubbard) / Tom Wenzel (Morrison) to approve the appointment of a 'delegation' (to include Commissioners Thiede and Napstad), planning of an August meeting with Lessard Sams Council and the drafting of an invitation letter by staff - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Chris Pence also offered to help staff organize the meeting.

Motion was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Dean Newland (Clearwater) to adopt the '13 DRAFT Work Plan as presented - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

► **DNR WEB Site – Water Laws (MHB Language)** – Per a request from the last meeting, Staff provided for approval a DRAFT copy of language about the Mississippi Headwaters Board that could be submitted to the DNR and asked to be placed on their 'Water Laws' WEB page.

During discussion it was determined that the first paragraph be removed and one typo corrected in the 2nd paragraph. Once amended, a copy will be forward to Lori Dowling (DNR) to seek comment and/or additional edits from DNR Com. Landwehr. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Jack Frost (Beltrami) to submit the requested draft language to the appropriate authorities for inclusion to their Web site in the form they wish - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

There was no further business to discuss. **Motion** was made and seconded by Commissioners Paul Thiede (Crow Wing) / Jack Frost (Beltrami) to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 am - 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

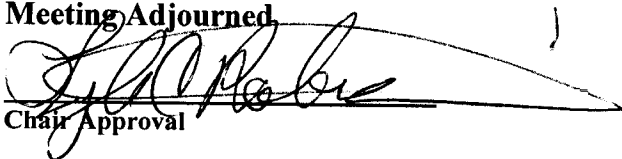
10:27 am – Misc –

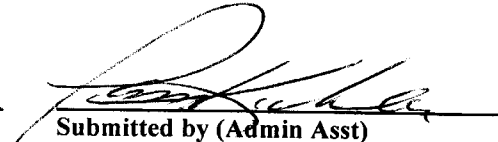
☀ **Legislature Update** – none

☀ **County Updates** – none

Next MHB meeting: Friday, July 20th '12 at 9 am – Cass County Courthouse, Walker. *UPDATE: date now, 7/27/12

Meeting Adjourned


Chair Approval


Submitted by (Admin Asst)