*Itasca County Water Plan Implementation Committee*

*Regular Meeting Minutes:* **October 8, 2019**

SWCD Conference Room, Grand Rapids, MN

Chair Norman Miranda opened the meeting at 9:33 AM.

**WPIC members present:** Norman Miranda, Dick Lacher, Don Klandee, Lester Kachinske, Tom Nelson, Norely Hansen, Dan Butterfield, Harold Goetzman, Bob Lindahl Mike Oja, Cal Saari, and *ex officio* SWCD Manager Andy Arens, Specialist Tim Frits

**1) Agenda**. **Motion** made to approve the agenda by Dick with second by Harold; **Approved**.

**2)** **Minutes.** **Motion** to approve the minutes by Dick, second by Mike; **Approved**.

**3) Upper Mississippi Headwaters and the Grand Rapids WRAPS/1W1P Update.** Tim reported on recent meetings of the 1W1P Advisory Committee for the Headwaters and other public meetings for Grand Rapids watershed. Priorities were ranked, goals set, plans updated and data sources reviewed: WRAPS, MPCA, DNR, BWSR, SWCD, IWLP, and MDH (Department of Health). One problem in the program as a whole is the disparate environments, ecology and interests around the state, from agricultural lands/water to timbered northern forests. The program still lacks a unified vision with many players (counties) pulling differently. Pokegema dam control belongs to the federal Army Corps, not part of state’s 1W1P program.

**4, 5) WPIC Membership and Bylaws.**  We still need an At-large Recreational Business representative after years of seeking. **Motion** by Lester, Second from Norley to change the Recreational Business representative to a general At-Large position, hopefully of interest to a County Commissioner as representative; **Motion Approved.** Norley announced that he might not be able to continue for personal reasons; could recruit someone from IWLP. Norm will resign from the WPIC at the end of this year.

**6, 7) Itasca County Water Plan integration with 1W1P: discussion of email from Chad Severts and choice of options.** Discussion of how to accomplish water planning within alternative scenarios:

1) full blown local plan update (beyond just amendments);

2) request another extension waiting for 1W1P data with tweaks to present plan regarding new initiatives with amended implementation schedule;

3) request extension without further updates or amendments, waiting for 1W1P to come on line (no fall back if county commissioners do not approve the 1W1P program).

Chad recommends options 2) or 3). Not certain what the County Board will approve, but implementation grants will only be available by participation in the 1W1P program with Joint Powers among counties in the watershed. Dick pointed out experience in Big Fork River that had greater success from a grass-roots participation with volunteers. **Motion** to go with Option 3) by Lester, with Second from Mike; **Motion Approved** with Dick abstaining. It was noted that Option 2) will continue until all the watersheds are up to speed.

**8) BWSR Clean Water Fund (CWF) for storm-water in Coleraine.** Tim is writing a grant for Trout Lake water management. HR Green will do assessment of target areas. Goal is phosphorous reduction. There are 6 projects considered ranging from a big one near Coleraine Rec Center, and several smaller rain gardens (holding ponds) which will require periodic maintenance. Canistio Pit is not part of this grant.

**9) MPCA Clean Water Partnership (CWP) SSTS loan program.** This is the program initiated by John Davis, President of Deer Lake Association. $500,000 grant has been received for interest-free loans, paid back through the County property tax assessment. Open to all without income-based need (county program has this requirement), and not prioritized to designated phosphorous-sensitive lakes.

**10) RMB Labs moves out of ICC in Grand Rapids.** A better lab has been established in Hibbing. SWCD is frequent customer, as well as several lake association water testing programs. RMB has a pick-up service at the SWCD office.

**11) Miscellaneous.** Cal reported on the East Itasca Joint Powers Board initiative to fix shared sewage treatment for Nashwauk, Keewatin, and Lone Pine Township (Swan Lake). Some Swan Lake residents are resistant to give up SSTS in favor of shared system. Land has been purchased for pond; still waiting for further grant funding.

**8) Adjournment.** At 10:58am, by Dick and Dan.

Tom Nelson, Secretary to the WPIC

Next meetings: December 10, 2019