



# Carver County Water Management Organization

## Citizen Advisory Committee

**1. Approval of the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes and August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 agenda**

**2. Notes from the field**

**3. Business items**

- a. Stormwater reuse monitoring
- b. Virtual tour

**4. Information items & project updates**

- a. Budgeting grant update

**5. Next meeting**

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**6. Adjournment**

**August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Carver County Government  
Center

600 East 4<sup>th</sup> St. Chaska  
County Board Room

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Committee Mission

Work with CCWMO staff to proactively make recommendations to the County Board on matters relating to water management including;

- projects and project prioritization
- Funding and water levy
- Water Plan, Groundwater Plan & Solid Waste Plan
- Water quality and TMDL program and projects
- Education program and projects
- Feasibility studies

MEETING OF THE  
CARVER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

<i>Carroll Aasen</i>	<i>Citizen, East &amp; West Chaska Creek</i>
<i>Mike Lynch</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 4</i>
<i>Stan Wendland</i>	<i>SWCD Board Representative</i>
<i>Mary Strother</i>	<i>Citizen, Bevens Creek</i>
<i>Doug Kammerer</i>	<i>Citizen, Crow River/Pioneer Creek</i>
<i>Eric Gentry</i>	<i>Citizen, Carver Creek</i>
<i>Thomas Welch</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 2</i>
<i>Lori Cox</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 5</i>
<i>Rob McKenna</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 3</i>

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

<i>Marcus Zbinden</i>	<i>SWCD Board Member Alternate</i>
<i>Jim Boettcher</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 1</i>

**STAFF PRESENT**

<i>Paul Moline</i>	<i>Carver County Planning &amp; Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Madeline Seveland</i>	<i>Carver County Planning &amp; Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Jess Norby</i>	<i>Carver County Planning &amp; Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Kristen Larson</i>	<i>Carver County Planning &amp; Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Masha Hoy</i>	<i>Carver County Planning &amp; Water Mgmt.</i>

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Carroll Aasen.

1) Approval of agenda and minutes

Lynch requested that there be a change to the May minutes, changing an error of "COVID10" to "COVID19." Welch moved to approve the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting agenda and May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes with the change. Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Notes from the Field

Kristen Larson introduced herself and presented on the Watertown wetland restoration project. The wetland restoration is located on the southeastern portion of the City of Watertown.

- The restoration project restored 50 acres of wetland and 14 acres of prairie.
- The site is publicly accessible by a trail through the prairie and around the edges. It connects to an existing trail network in the city.
- Prior to the wetland this was agricultural land and the wetland had been drained.

- A weir was constructed to raise the water level between 1-1.5 ft. of water.
- Staff will monitor hydrology, vegetation and photo points. Photo points will be used to see how the site and vegetation changes year after year. Staff will do vegetation surveys to make sure that the plant communities establish.
- Equipment has been installed to monitor water levels which will be used to show that a wetland has been restored hydrologically. Wells on site will show that water levels have been restored to the area.
- Staff are keeping the site mowed relatively short to prevent weed establishment.

McKenna asked about what kind of seed mix was used. Larson stated that there were three seed mixes used on the site, a prairie mix, a wet meadow mix, and a marsh seed mix.

Cox commented that it would be nice to do these same types of projects dotted throughout the county. She asked if anyone kept a list of desired sites for wetland restorations. Larson stated that we do have a list of drained wetland areas, and we are working with Soil & Water Conservation District staff to review and prioritize those areas.

### 3) Business items

- **Best management practice monitoring results**

Jess Norby and Masha Hoy presented on the monitoring results for the best management practices monitoring program.

Best management practices, often referred to as BMPs, are structural or non-structural practices designed to treat, prevent and reduce water pollution.

BMPs are constructed to meet the WMO's water rules for stormwater management. Staff review and comment on construction details for BMPs, hydraulic models, and other aspects of construction or development. Staff visit the BMPs after they have been installed, monitoring them for function and maintenance needs. This presentation will focus on monitoring of BMPs.

Cox asked if someone applying for a water rules permit has to pass WMO staff review before moving on. Hoy responded yes and provided detail on the permit application and approval process.

Since 2002, there has been over 489 BMPs built. We inspect a portion of these practices each year by age. Inspection for each practices occurs at different ages; 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, and 15 years.

Norby reviewed the types of BMPs. Most are designed to store or filter stormwater runoff. Examples include filtration basins, filtration shelves, filtration swales, raingardens, stormwater ponds, permeable pavements, sand-iron filters, stormwater reuse systems, amended soils and upland preserves.

Norby shared a map with BMP locations. Most are in cities. Fewer are in townships where development is slower.

Staff does routine inspections on 2, 5, 10, and 15-year cycles looking at vegetation covers, filtration function, erosion, structural integrity and many other factors. Staff will note if there is follow up required with the BMP owner.

Staff does intensive monitoring for select sites, collecting water samples at inlets and outlets over the course of a storm event to determine water quality changes.

Since 2017, overall our practices are doing pretty well. 67% have no issue, 25% have minor issues, and 8% have serious issues. The most common issues are vegetation type (33%), sedimentation (29%), and vegetation cover (21%). A smaller percentage of sites have structural issues (11%) or issues with erosion (6%).

Cox commented that a sturdier program for the sandy areas would be helpful to prevent erosion.

At 15 years staff are seeing some significant reductions in filtration ability of these practices, yet structural integrity maintains to be pretty good even at 15 years. Moline added that some of these features that are 15 years or older have had design requirement change significantly since installation. We have learned how the first versions haven't functioned as well.

There is a wide range of BMPs in the County. Many issues can be prevented with routine maintenance, but some issues do come from initial design.

Strother inquired if the County had any flooding from recent rains, particularly with road closures. Norby said she hadn't seen any, but she hadn't started BMP monitoring yet. Moline stated there have been cases in the past where we've had catastrophic flooding, but we haven't had these so far this year.

Cox inquired if ownership of the BMP changed between 10 and 5 years. Moline stated that it depends on the practice. Some are owned by city or county and those are easier to fix. Some are HOAs and some are private and those can be more difficult to go in and fix. Most BMPs aren't designed to last more than 25-30 years before some major maintenance needs to be done. Staff make sure maintenance agreements are followed.

Cox inquired if developers could be required to put in more BMPs on an area; to spread them out. Moline stated that it is so site specific. Staff are seeing multiple BMPs on sites now, but maintenance is key. Hoy added that adding more practices increases maintenance, and one of the problems staff are seeing is struggles with doing the maintenance. If a practice is undersized for its drainage area that is a huge issue.

McKenna inquired about a trail near the Arboretum and Lyman Blvd, there seems to be a lot of stuff coming down and the creek seems to be deficient of life. Moline commented that there is no stormwater BMP that our staff monitors in that area but it is something staff can check on.

- **2021 CCWMO levy recommendation**

Moline stated that the budget hearing for the county has been pushed to August. There hasn't been any discussion with the County Board yet.

Moline reviewed the map for the WMO water levy boundaries and compared the WMO's tax rates to those of adjacent watersheds. CCWMO has a lower tax rate than every adjacent watershed district except Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

The 2020 CCWMO Levy was \$802,802 which was an increase of \$37,823, but because of population growth it actually lowered the tax rate from 0.927 to 0.893. Moline reviewed the areas of levy distribution that were covered more in-depth at the May meeting; projects & cost share, operations, Soil & Water Conservation District, monitoring and education programs.

Moline reviewed the budget areas of projects funding, operations funding, and what influences the budget in those areas. The project's budget line is influenced by how many project assistance requests we get from cities, our own WMO project needs, grants available and required match, project cancellations or surplus funds.

Cox inquired if the subsurface sewage treatment systems program only targeted direct discharges or if it included non-compliant systems too. Moline says it's for residents that truly have no systems in place.

Gentry inquired why the funding requests were down from cities? Moline – I think it is a unique year. We sent solicitation for projects in February. When COVID19 hit, cities' priorities changed, perhaps didn't have time anymore or were concerned about future budgets.

#### 2021 Project recommendations

- SSTS cost share \$58,000
- Project requests from cities - \$67,111
- BWSR grant match - \$46,250

#### Operational costs

Influences are Board direction, program demands (ex. monitoring), growth – flat tax impact, and other revenue sources from potential partners. The water monitoring program continues to increase in demands and subsequent staffing needs and costs. There are some water monitoring needs that are overdue. These additional needs for monitoring add about \$44,598.

Moline reviewed other revenue sources for 2021. Staff expect about \$1,198,000 from fees and cost recoveries, city match for projects, BWSR annual grants, BWSR and DNR grants, and local agreements.

Lynch inquired about the likelihood of still having the dedicated \$730,000 to Carver County given the current situation. Moline stated that while nothing is for sure, the most recent news was that that money is still dedicated to its purpose.

Moline summarized the preliminary levy request for 2021 which is an increase of \$12,344.

Moline added that the County Board could change direction at any time before the end of the year because of the many unknowns. The current Board direction is to keep a 0% tax increase on the average value home. The direction could change, and we might have to alter these numbers.

Gentry made a motion to approve the recommended budget as presented. Lynch seconded. Chair Aasen called roll call for votes. Wendland voted yes. Strother voted yes. Kammerer voted yes. Welch voted yes. McKenna voted yes. Aasen voted yes.

- **Virtual tour site discussion**

Seveland shared with the committee that the plan for the annual tour is to do a virtual tour at the August meeting. This will involve creating recorded videos and sharing them at the meeting. She asked the committee if there were projects or topics they were interested in seeing.

- Wetland restorations
- Watertown dam, issues and a refresher on the project.
- Community stormwater reuse system in Waconia and the new connection to the apartment complex.
- A construction site with erosion and sediment control.
- How contractors install a septic system.

#### 4) Information items and project updates

Moline shared that we are planning tentatively for a July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Seveland shared that we are doing a water themed story time Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. It is hosted on the Carver County Libraries Facebook site via Facebook Live.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.



## CCWMO Advisory Committee

August 25, 2020 Meeting

<b>Business Item</b>	
<b><i>2020 Stormwater reuse monitoring update</i></b>	
<b>Water Management Plan Related Goal</b>	
Goal 2	Surface Water Quantity. To manage the volume and flow of stormwater runoff to minimize the impacts of land use change on surface water and groundwater resources within the watershed.

### Summary

Presentation of 2019 and 2020 reuse monitoring results, review of new rules, and new items of the reuse monitoring program.

The Carver County Water Management Organization monitors reuse sites that have been approved for stormwater permits. Results are reviewed to ensure that these sites are in compliance with their approved stormwater permit. WMO staff also utilizes this data to inform operators and owners of the status of volume used.

### Discussion Points

- Questions about monitoring methodology, results, and trends

### Recommended WMOAC Committee Action

- No formal action required. Feedback and discussion only.



## CCWMO Advisory Committee

August 25th, 2020 Meeting

### Business Item

#### *Virtual tour, first two videos*

#### Water Management Plan Related Goals

- Protect, preserve, and manage natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems.
- Effectively and efficiently manage public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems.
- Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.

#### Summary

Each year, the Water Management Organization's Advisory Committee attends an annual tour. The purpose of the tour is to educate the committee about upcoming projects, completed projects and projects in progress. The tour also introduces committee members to different water management techniques, topics, issues, and current research.

Due to COVID19, staff have cancelled the in-person tour for June and have created a virtual tour of projects and topics instead.

During this meeting, committee members will view the first two videos created: West Chaska Creek re-meander project, and Cheri Johnson wetland restoration project.

#### Discussion Points

- none

#### Recommended WMOAC Committee Action

- No formal action required. Discussion only.



## Carver County Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

### Upcoming Meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Business Items
<b>9/29/2020</b>	Regular	Virtual tour, next sites
<b>10/27/2020</b>	Regular	
<b>11/24/2020</b>	Regular	
<b>12/29/2020</b>	No meeting	

### Other Events

Date	Program	Details
<b>9/29-10/1</b>	Children's Water Festival	The Metro Children's Water Festival will be virtual this year with opportunities to connect to live webinars, recorded videos, and other resources.
<b>7/7/2020 – 9/29/2020 Some Tuesdays at 2pm</b>	Watering Wise Webinar by U of MN Turfgrass Lab	Outdoor Water Use in the Twin Cities: Am I Using Too Much? - July 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Learning to Control Your Irrigation Controller - July 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Turfgrass Species for Low-Input Minnesota Lawns - August 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Lawn Care Best Management Practices - September 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Winterizing Your Lawn - September 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.