

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-3027

RBWMO MEETING

Approved Minutes
Richfield-Bloomington Watershed
Management Organization (RBWMO) Special Meeting

5:30 pm
September 17, 2007
(Bloomington)

CALL TO ORDER Chair Debbie Goettel called the special meeting of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bloomington City Council: Mayor Winstead, Rod Axtell, Amy Grady,
Karen Nordstrom, Steve Peterson, and Vern Wilcox

Bloomington City Staff: Mark Bernhardson, Clark Arneson, Karl Keel, Shelly Pederson, Scott Anderson, and Steve Segar

Richfield City Council: Mayor Goettel, Susan Rosenberg, Suzanne Sandahl, and Fred Wroge

Richfield City Staff: Mike Eastling, Kristin Asher and Steve Devich.

INTRODUCTIONS Chair Goettel asked that everyone introduce themselves.

APPROVE MINUTES Motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Axtell, and all voting aye, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Meeting as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Asher asked that under Other Business they add 64th Street and Girard, Richfield's Comprehensive Plan and Bloomington Trout Stream.

Motion was made by Rosenberg, seconded by Wroge, and all voting aye to approve the agenda as amended.

RBWMO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN Asher explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to hold a formal public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan for the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed District. Once the public hearing has been held, the document will go to the various agencies for another 45-day review and then submitted to the Board of Water and Sewer Resources. Once that review is completed, the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) will consider adoption of the Plan at their March annual meeting.

- **PURPOSE**
- **PROCESS**
- **PLAN DETAILS**

Phil Belfiori, from WSP and Associates, explained that his firm was hired to work on the Comprehensive Plan for the District. He explained that this evening he would talk briefly about the background and purpose of a Watershed Management Plan and what the plan outline looks like. He discussed the development process, how the plan was put together and the review and approval process. Belfiori explained that they developed an initial draft plan and sent it to all of the local member communities, stakeholders and agencies and received five comments back from those groups. This meeting is the culmination of that process and the required public hearing. After tonight's comments are received along with the other five comments received from the agencies, they will compile that into a final draft which will then go into a 45-day review by the State review agencies and the BOWSR. Belfiori stated that they have 90 days to complete that approval and decision phase. Within two years of BOWSR approval, the two cities have to develop a plan that is consistent with and as stringent as these WMO policies. Belfiori reviewed with the Organization the process that has been followed to date. He explained that the plan is not looking to duplicate actions. The implementation program also relies heavily on the City's program as talked about and also identifies that there is an oversight component. Belfiori also reviewed some of the key implementation items including education monitoring and local collaboration as well as regulatory and review. They will also promote a landowner cost-share program for on-site infiltration practices such as rain gardens or rain barrels.

Wroge asked if in promoting the landowner cost share program for rain gardens, would they help them financially. Belfiori responded that the Plan right now proposes that there be a small amount of money, approximately \$800 to \$1,000, put aside annually where if a landowner were in a strategic location, staff would have a bit of a slush fund to help out on cost sharing at their discretion. In response to a question from Wroge, Eastling explained that the money would be for residential property owners and not businesses. Belfiori further explained that the scope is more for a level where it's not trying to address large scale flooding issues but more for a demonstration/education type of scale.

Goettel asked what types of comments were received from the various agencies. Belfiori answered that some of the comments from the BOWSR was that they wanted to see an evaluation component where on an annual basis the WMO would take the roll of the two member communities and make sure that they are compliant right now and that in the future as things progress the cities continue to be compliant with the WMO Plan per State statute. Goettel asked if this is why they are requesting the NPCA report as well. Belfiori said that is what they are proposing to address their concerns. Belfiori said the other trend that came out both with the BOWSR and the PCA was the need to start thinking about how the cities, with the assistance of the WMO, is going to address some of the impaired waters that might be brought forward. Maybe in a few years they will need to develop more water quality monitoring protocols to address the PCA's concern. Sandahl asked if there are bodies of water in Richfield and Bloomington that are below standard. Belfiori explained that the Minnesota River, which is not in the WMO's boundary, is listed as impaired for several pollutants. They reference the River because some of their bodies of water discharge to the Minnesota River. He also explained that the PCA mentioned that there is the potential that some of the cities bodies of water may be identified in the future as being impaired. Anderson explained that 9-Mile Creek in Bloomington has been listed for a couple of impairments as well as Bush Lake for mercury impairment.

Asher said she did not remember them having to distribute a newsletter annually as stated in the Plan and she asked if this is something new. Belfiori responded that it is part of the requirements and the State Law requires some form of distribution of education materials. If they prefer not to do a newsletter, they can use the website as a mechanism for that distribution.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RBWMO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chair Goettel opened the public hearing for the RBWMO Watershed Management Plan. Having no one appear, motion was made by Wroge, seconded by Rosenberg, and all voting aye, to close the public hearing.

BLOOMINGTON'S COMPREHENSIVE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Anderson explained that they are beyond the 60-day comment period for Bloomington's Comprehensive Water Management Plan. The Plan had been submitted to the City of Richfield for their review as well as other Watershed Districts and Agencies. The Plan also incorporates many of the same things that Richfield's Plan does. Anderson further explained that Bloomington is looking for approval of the Plan going forward. Asher reported that the Plan is consistent with the WMO Plan and that she did review the Plan and recommended approval of it.

Motion was made by Nordstrom, seconded by Sandahl, and all voting aye, to approve the Bloomington Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

UPDATE ON BLOOMINGTON'S NON-DEGRADATION PLAN

Anderson reported that at the Organization's annual meeting, they discussed Bloomington's non-degradation plan. This Plan is a component of the City's storm water pollution prevention program. He explained that Bloomington was one of 30 cities selected to perform a loading assessment and a non-degradation report. The loading assessment is an analysis of significant increases in pollutants in the City during two time periods; from 1988 to the present and from the present to 2020. The City recently completed the loading assessment and identified those increases and are in the process of completing the non-degradation report. That report will essentially determine whether additional control measures are necessary to address those increases in pollutant loadings in the form of additional best management practices that then will become a part of the City's storm water pollution prevention program. Anderson reported that Bloomington was fairly developed in 1988 and there hasn't been a lot of change but they did see a three to five percent increase in each of the pollutant loadings to the present and moving forward to 2020. The non-degradation report as finalized will look at what best management practices can be implemented to address the increase

in volume provided it is practical, feasible and consistent with the language of the permit. Anderson stated that the report is due to the State of Minnesota October 1 and the City will be soliciting comments from the Watershed Districts and SWMO. Action may be taken by this Organization at the March annual meeting.

Goetel asked how Bloomington was chosen to be part of this study. Anderson responded that Bloomington was chosen based on a formula that incorporated population and change in population over the time periods in question. They were looking at cities generally with populations between 10,000 and 100,000 and they also looked at population growth.

Peterson asked how other cities such as Eden Prairie, Chanhassen or Woodbury were impacted by this study. Anderson answered that he has not yet seen the results of any of the other cities' reports. He indicated that in talking to some of the other cities, they were finding similar results and are looking at what types of best management practices they can implement to offset their finding and to get their levels back to the 1988 date.

RBWMO WEBSITE

Anderson explained that staff is looking for direction in pursuing the creation of a website specifically for the RBWMO. The purpose of this website would provide the WMO an avenue for their newsletter or public education as well as providing a permanent repository for the plan. Staff feels that a specific website for the WMO would be cost effective and simpler than housing links on each of the cities websites. Anderson reported that staff has received a preliminary cost estimate of hosting this website should they not do it internally. The website could be done outside for a nominal fee of \$10 per month. The design would be relatively modest since they are basically looking to have a repository for information.

Peterson said his preference would be to go with a low cost approach. This would involve one city agreeing to host the whole thing on their website and the other city would have a link to that site. The Organization would then reimburse that city for maintaining it. Asher said this is probably the course they would take. Once the site is initially set up, they just have to keep it updated. She indicated that there is quite a bit of information that needs to be posted. Sandahl said she found that people want to be able to get as much information as possible off of the city's website. She indicated that she would support developing a website for the WMO. Goettel said she liked information to be made available to the public and this would also save staff time. Winstead said it only makes sense to link the cities to the website.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Rosenberg, and all voting aye, to direct staff to move forward with a website.

OTHER BUSINESS

• RICHFIELD LAKE

Asher presented the Organization with an update on the current schedule for Richfield Lake. She explained that they are expecting to award the project some time in November with construction beginning in early December and completion of the project in June. The play feature will probably be constructed next summer.

• RICHFIELD'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Asher reported that Richfield is going through the same process that Bloomington did in completing their Comprehensive Plan. Richfield will submit their plan to the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the RBWMO. It is anticipated that the Plan would be presented to the RBWMO at their March meeting.

• 64TH AND GIRARD

Asher explained that Richfield had sold \$2.2 million of storm water bonds for various projects. One of the projects is Richfield Lake and another is west of 35W at 64th Street. This area has an ongoing water problem and this bond money will be used for an additional storm water pipe that goes under 35W towards Richfield Lake.

Asher mentioned that the bridge at 76th Street over 35W will be reconstructed in 2008. Also, the Lyndale bridge over 494 is scheduled for reconstruction in 2009.

• TROUT STREAM

Anderson explained that the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge along the river bluff in Bloomington, had come across a cold water stream fed predominantly from ground water. The Wildlife Service partnered with the Department of Natural Resources and undertook a project to clean up the corridor and ultimately stocked the stream with about 1,450 finger links. Their plan is to stock trout annually for a three-year period and over that time monitor the stream and the condition and viability of these trout to see if they can

have a self-sustaining population. Anderson said they don't anticipate ever having a real fishery there but wanted to see if the trout could support and re-establish that. If they are successful, they would probably be looking to pursue designation in two to three years.

Nordstrom said that one of the concerns of the Izaak Walton League and some of the environmentalists is that when Mall of America Phase II occurs, something will happen to this area and they want to keep it as pristine as possible. They are concerned about storm water going into that area. Anderson explained that there is no storm water discharge to this stream. It is entirely ground water fed and redevelopment would not be adding any direct discharges to this stream.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion was made by Sandahl, seconded by Wroge, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Carol Pelzel
Acting Bloomington Council Secretary