

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
Administrative Options Subcommittee  
Monday, December 13, 2004  
Golden Valley City Hall

Commissioners present:	Pauline Langsdorf	City of Crystal
	Mayor Linda Loomis	City of Golden Valley
	Karla Peterson	City of Robbinsdale
	Elizabeth Thornton	City of Plymouth
	Bill Yaeger	City of Minnetonka
	Karla Peterson	City of Robbinsdale
Observers present:	<i>Tom Mathisen</i>	<i>city of crystal</i>
	Ginny Black	Council person, City of Plymouth
	David Hanson	City of Golden Valley Alternate Commissioner
	Bryan Ripp	Applied Ecological Services
Guests present:	Stephanie McNamara	Administrator, Vadnais Lake Area
WMO	Doug Snyder	Administrator, Mississippi WMO

Commissioner Yaeger requested that a new chair be elected at the time the new BCWMO commissioners take office in February, 2005.

Mr Yaeger gave a brief history of the subcommittee for the guests.

We are hoping our guests can give us some background on the operations of the Mississippi WMO and the Vadnais Lake Area WMO.

**Doug Snyder, MWMO.**

MWMO is in the process of some reorganization. Currently they have 2 full time staff and are possibly looking at another full time position for education.

MWMO can levy taxes without approval of the county (like a District). The commissioners or board members are all elected officials from their member cities. The majority of the 4 million dollar budget come from commercial property. The watershed is about 3/5 of Minneapolis including downtown.

Permitting is all passed back to the cities.

Regarding engineering, the city becomes the project leader.

The MWMO does 5 to 7 capital projects a year as well as 3 or 4 separate educational projects. They also grant funds to do projects in communities and neighborhoods.

MWMO monitors the projects in the watershed for (1) TMDL, (2) NPD, (3) outfalls and big tunnels into the Mississippi, and (4) the river in the area of the intake for the Minneapolis water supply.

The watershed 's largest portion (98%) is Minneapolis with St. Anthony, Lauderdale, and 3 buildings in St. Paul making up the rest. Money for projects is allotted based on the tax base.

The CIP plan was developed with input from a Citizens' Advisory Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, BWSR, and the cities. Graduate students from the Humphrey Institute were hired to write the plan.

**Stephanie McNamara, VLAWMO.**

Ms McNamara is the staff and has been in place since 1991 when the transition was made from in house city employee to full time staff for the watershed.

The watershed is a joint power of 6 municipalities and 1 water utility (St Paul city water is taken from Vadnais Lake). It's size is 24 square miles.

The budget is \$85,000 plus another quarter million in grant money per year. They are looking at more staff or sharing staff. There is a seasonal part time person who assists with the citizen monitoring

About 50% of Ms McNamara's time is administration of the Wetlands Conservation Act.

**General Comments:**

- The administrator should have some technical background in order to communicate. He/she should also be able to track budgets and have communication skills.
- Projects - if the cities are set up in such a way to do the permitting, the administrator would be at meetings with the engineer and the city.
- The administrator costs should not exceed 10% of the budget.
- A model to look at: "Natural Resource Districts" from Nebraska.
- MWMO funds 50 -90% of the costs of water quality related Minneapolis Park Board projects.
- VLAWMO may be hiring a technical person.
- MWMO is looking at using an engineering pool from existing city staff for certain projects.

Next Meeting: Not set

Minutes submitted: Elizabeth Thornton