

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2007**

**SUMMARY**

**In attendance**

Dodge County:	Mark Gamm	Steele County:	
Fillmore County:	Donna Rasmussen	Wabasha County:	Byron Evers
Goodhue County:	Beau Kennedy	Winona County:	Pat Bailey
Houston County:		BWSR:	Mary Kells
Mower County:	Bill Buckley	MPCA:	Norman Senjem
Olmsted County:	Terry Lee		Dave Morrison
Rice County:	Jennifer Mocol-Johnson	SEMWRB:	Bea Hoffmann

**November 19 Joint Powers Board Meeting** – program will include a presentation by Commissioner Dave Hanson and Mark Gamm about the county’s Compliance Officer Position. That will be followed by Sheila Craig and Aaron Wills, Wastewater Facilitators, discussing the necessary ingredients for engaging unsewered communities in a process.

**Recommend January 14 Board Meeting Program** - this discussion was rolled into the next agenda item

**Recommend 2008 Workplan** - was approved for recommendation to the Board with the following additions under “Goal: Provide educational opportunities for elected officials and staff”:

- 1) Coordinate a program for the Joint Powers Board (“**Tools for Enforcement**”) to look at how various counties enforce existing environmental ordinances. Invite planning and zoning staff.
- 2) Plan a program for the Joint Powers Board that provides a **TMDL update** including the 2008 Impaired Waters List, the pesticide TMDL, and the Root and Cedar River TMDL process.
- 3) Provide an update to the Joint Powers Board on **county shoreland initiatives** to encourage compliance with the 50’ riparian buffer requirement in local ordinances. Invite county Planning and Zoning staff and the new Shoreland Educator for the Basin. Provide information on riparian setback requirements in other programs such as manure and pesticide application distances.
- 4) For the November 2008 meeting, plan a program for the Joint Powers Board on the 10-year **changes in patterns of cropping and pesticide and nutrient usage** (invite Denton Bruening, MDA as a speaker).
- 5) Plan a program that examines **climate change and its impacts on water**. Solicit support from co-sponsors.

**Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Project** – a grant extension has been requested from 6/30/09 to 9/30/09 to allow counties to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> August nitrate sampling. A meeting of the Well Network Coordinators will be convened in January, in preparation for the February sampling.

**Wastewater Facilitator/unsewered community assistance grant applications** (319 & Clean Water Legacy) – two similar grants were submitted for a Wastewater Facilitator for the southern 7 counties of the Basin and for cost-share assistance for unsewered communities. If the 319 grant is unsuccessful, we will have a second chance to receive funding through Clean Water Legacy.

**Straight Pipe Inventory Grant** – 3 counties agreed to go in on a regional project (Steele, Olmsted, and Dodge). Mower and Rice will apply on their own for both inventory and incentive funds. Fillmore will

apply for incentive/grant funds and Ag BMP loans for SSTS. The state set a \$50,000 cap per applicant for the incentive funding which created a disincentive to apply as a multi-county group.

**April 4 Flood Forum** - will be held all day at Winona State University. Staff reviewed the preliminary presentation topics and speakers. The planning committee decided to limit the scope of the forum to the causes and effects of the flood on the landscape and on the stream ecosystems.

**November 6 Legislative Subcommittee Hearing on Watersheds and Conservation** – at the invitation of Representative Andy Welti, about a half dozen representatives of local water interests made a presentation in Stewartville before the Minnesota House Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veteran Affairs Finance Committee. The presentation raised issues surrounding turbidity, funding needs for county programs, need for LIDAR imagery post-flood, and need for dredging of Lake Zumbro.

**Dodge County's Compliance Officer Position** - Mark Gamm, Director, Dodge County Environmental Services, discussed the history of the compliance officer position. As a response to contentious feedlot issues in the county, a county land use conference was organized about 5 years ago and led to the formation of a Land Use Task Force. The Task Force recommended that a compliance officer be hired. This was supported by survey results from citizens indicating that the county should enforce laws already on the books. Their Compliance Officer was hired in March. Her responsibilities include follow-up on feedlots, enforcing zoning regulations including SSTS, conditional use permits, and new construction inspections. She has cleaned up about 30 junkyards using a carrot and stick approach. She also follows up on the SSTS O&M agreements on about 10 communities and the 50' shoreland buffer requirements. Non-compliance is dealt with through a citation (ticketing) instead of through the attorney's office. Citation authority is in their zoning ordinance. There has not been a ticket issued yet as most people are complying. There has not been any publicity on the position. Jenifer Mocol Johnson of Rice County said they also have an enforcement officer who mostly has handled junkyards. It was agreed that to have one person in this enforcement position allows consistency across programs. The individual must be even-handed in their dealings with residents and not have any conflict of interests.

**MPCA's Response to the Flood** - Dave Morrison, MPCA-Rochester discussed the "Incident Command Structure" that was followed in the wake of the August 17-18 flood event. 75 PCA staff members were involved in the response. The public safety phase came first during the time when lives were at risk. This was followed by the environmental clean-up phase which included jobs such as retrieving floating propane tanks and home fuel oil tanks, helping flooded wastewater treatment plants get back on-line, and sorting and handling hazardous waste from dumpster loads. The PCA faced a very complex situation in responding to this flood since a 7-county area was affected with 6375 homes involved. A network of emergency responders was formed and there needed to be constant communication with these people. Donna Rasmussen reported that the MPCA was complimented by city officials at a public meeting in Fillmore County for being very helpful in their response.