

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN STORMWATER COALITION

Minutes
April 19, 2018

DRAFT Minutes. Pre-approved by Jeff Pritchard, Chairperson on 4-19-2018.

Members: Dustin Bonack (C-Merrill), Scott Turner (T-Rib Mountain), Michael Wodalski (V-Weston), Tom Turchi (C-Marshfield), Jeff Pritchard (Marathon County), and via teleconference: Tim Vergara (V-Rothschild), Kevin Breit (C-Mosinee), and Nick Dums (C-Wisconsin Rapids).

Absent/Excused: Rod Akey (C-Merrill), Sean Gehin (C-Wausau), Mark Thuot (C-Schofield), Christopher Johnson (V-Kronenwetter), Becky Frisch (Marathon County), Rob Molski (C-Stevens Point), and Tom Pinion (C-Baraboo).

Others: Fred Heider (NCWRPC), Josh Huber (Becher-Hoppe), Josh Accola (AECOM), Tonia Speener (Clark Dietz), and via teleconference: and Jon Lindert (Strand).

1. Call to Order.

The agenda being distributed to each community for posting and to local media, Pritchard called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the Large Conference Room 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI.

2. Approve the Minutes of the March 29, 2018 Meeting.

Action: Moved/Seconded by Turchi/Wodalski to approved the minutes of the March 29, 2018 meeting. Motion carried.

3. Chairperson's Report.

- Pritchard noted that the April 17th Erosion Control Workshop was well attended and went well.

4. Budget Report.

Discussion: Heider reported a current balance of **\$48,532.31, after:**

- Paying a Strand invoice of \$1,293.22; and
- Reimbursing Wausau for Erosion Control Workshop lunch of \$154.00.

Outstanding Liabilities total about \$25:

- About \$25 for new checks.
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Available Balance = \$48,507.31

Approved by general consent to accept the budget report as presented.

5. Stormwater Coalition Board elections.

Chairperson: Jeff Pritchard Re-Elected.

Vice-Chairperson: Tom Turchi Re-Elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Wodalski Re-Elected.

6. Renew 5-Year Stormwater Management Cooperative Agreement.

Discussion: Pritchard will review and provide a final version of this agreement to all Coalition Members for their review. For the next meeting we will discuss a second agreement: renewing an agreement between Marathon County and several Coalition members in Marathon County.

7. Review possible renewal of Strand-Stormwater Group contract for engineering services related to TMDL.

Discussion: Discussion occurred among members relating to their approval of Strand's work. About \$2,000 was spent in 2017 for these services. This renewal would continue to only relate to engineering review of the Wisconsin River TMDL.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Turner/Vergara to extend the Strand contract with the Stormwater Coalition for 2 years. Motion carried.**

8. Review how League of Municipalities-Stormwater Group is reacting to the Wisconsin River TMDL.

Discussion: Vergara noted that the League put together the draft letter to the DNR related to the TMDL (see attached to these minutes). Discussion occurred among members relating to the letter, and that the topics discussed are what the Stormwater Coalition supports too.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Vergara/Turchi to support the League of Municipalities-Stormwater Group letter to the DNR related to the TMDL, and that this support be provided to the League in these draft minutes due to the letter needing to reach Madison DNR before the next Stormwater Coalition meeting. Motion carried.**

9. Consider approving a second Wisconsin River clean-up event in 2018 – Paddle Quest in Stevens Point.

Discussion: Heider noticed this event advertised in the City Pages recently and sought clarification from the event director about the river clean-up portion and what sponsorship levels existed.

Hero level-\$250

Website/Facebook representation and inclusion on event banner

MASTER level-\$500

Aforementioned benefit plus event map inclusion, social media inclusion

Executive, event sponsor - \$2,000+

Aforementioned benefits plus video representation and Barge naming with other naming as well.

Action: **Moved/Seconded by Wodalski/Bonack to sponsor 2018 Paddle Quest at the \$500 level (shown above). Motion carried.**

10. Consider approving an educational display for Farm Tech Days.

Discussion: Turchi noted that Farm Tech Days will be July 10-12, 2018, just outside of Marshfield where 50,000 people (mainly farmers) are expected. Discussion occurred among members relating to either have their own booth or to go in with Marathon County CPZ to co-sponsor their booth and have Coalition members present with CPZ staff at the booth and on panels. The Coalition would like to show how municipalities and farmers are part of the Wisconsin River TMDL. This will be brought up at the next Coalition meeting.

Action: **Turchi will continue contact with the Farm Tech Days organizer to see what is possible.**

Action: **Pritchard will contact Paul Daigle (Marathon CPZ) to see what type of booth cooperation is possible for both groups.**

11. Announcements

Discussion:

- None.

6. Next Meeting Date & Agenda

- May 17, 2018.
- Review renewal of 2 agreements: 5-year Stormwater Coalition agreement, and Marathon County MOU.
- Consider approving an educational display for Farm Tech Days

7. Adjournment.

Motioned/seconded by Turner/Bonack to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Fred Heider
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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April 19, 2018

Mr. Kevin Kirsch
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RE: Comments on the Wisconsin River TMDL Draft Report

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

On behalf of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities (the League), we are submitting the following comments on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) February 21, 2018 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Total Phosphorus in the Wisconsin River Basin Draft Report.

The League is made up of 190 cities and 398 villages in Wisconsin. Some of these communities have MS4 responsibilities and will be significantly impacted by the Wisconsin River TMDL. The League greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on the TMDL Report at this stage in development.

The League has the following comments and concerns.

I. Nonpoint Source Pollution

The TMDL seeks to impose extremely restrictive limits on point source dischargers, despite the fact that baseline phosphorus loadings in the Wisconsin River TMDL area are dominated by nonpoint agriculture sources. Point sources have already removed a substantial amount of phosphorus from their discharges. Reducing phosphorus discharges from point

sources to the level proposed in the TMDL will not result in significant water quality improvement.

Chapter 7 of the TMDL discusses reasonable assurances for reduction of phosphorus from nonpoint sources. Such efforts have, however, been historically ineffective. The League requests further explanation from DNR as to how DNR plans to achieve the proposed reduction in nonpoint source phosphorus pollution.

II. Phased TMDL Implementation

The League requests that DNR strongly consider a phased (or adaptive or staged) TMDL implementation. A phased TMDL would allow for achievement of interim milestones and waste load allocations while allowing time for achieving important nonpoint source reductions. A phased implementation process could include initial load reductions followed by monitoring and modeling, and resulting modifications to the TMDL. Without a phased approach, point sources would be forced to meet final allocations over a short timeframe as compared to nonpoint sources. And, as discussed above, such allocations will not result in significant water quality improvements.

The authority to implement a phased TMDL approach exists under the Clean Water Act. US EPA has issued several guidance documents that discuss the permissible use of phased or staged TMDLs. *See Guidance for Water Quality-Based Decisions: The TMDL Process*, Environmental Protection Agency (1994); *Memorandum: Clarification Regarding "Phased" Total Maximum Daily Loads*, Environmental Protection Agency (2006). The League requests that DNR provide further evaluation of a phased approach to the Wisconsin River TMDL.

III. Site Specific Criteria

The League is supportive of the fact that DNR will be pursuing site specific criteria (SSC) for lakes Petenwell, Castle Rock, and Wisconsin. However, the League requests further information on the process DNR plans to use to pursue an SSC and how the SSC will align with the TMDL progress. In particular, it is not clear from the report that DNR plans to secure an SSC, which requires adoption by rule, prior to finalizing the TMDL. To the extent that DNR is proposing to move forward on finalizing the TMDL prior to successful completion of the SSC process, the League objects to that process. The TMDL should **not** move forward unless and until completion of the SSC.

IV. Reserve Capacity.

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The League request that reserve capacity allocations should be specifically noted in the TMDL for use by point sources and not for nonpoint sources. In order to achieve water quality improvements, nonpoint source reductions from the baseline conditions must be met in order to achieve water quality goals. Changes to point source allocations, on the other hand, would have an insignificant impact on water quality. Thus, the reserve capacity should be limited to use by point sources.