

Chippewa River Watershed Project Committee Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2004

Sunburg Community Center, Sunburg, MN

Present: Kenneth F. Koenen, Chippewa Co Commissioner; Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D; Larry Dalen, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop; Ronald Stager, Pope Co COLA Director; Keith Naig, Pope Co Commissioner; Jennes Swenson, Grant Co Commissioner; Glenn Matejka, Douglas Co SWCD/WesMin RC&D Council; Clinton Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor/Prairie Country RC&D Council; Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co Commissioner; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Larry Paulson, Pope Co resident; Rob Spitzley, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD; Betsy Anderson, Kerkhoven; Mindi Simmonds, Willmar; Diane Shuck, Sunburg; Shirley Simmonds, Brooten; Amanda Liesinger, CRPW Intern; Jennifer Hoffman, Kyleene Olson, CRWP.

Introductions

Kylene called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Extra agendas and meeting minutes were distributed. Kylene announced that hard copy meeting notices and minutes will be phased out as a way to conserve the budget. Meeting notices will be emailed in the future, be sure to update your email address with CRWP staff. Requests for mail notices will be honored. Minutes will also be posted on the website.

In-Kind Contributions: Kylene reminded all partners of the importance of recording and reporting in-kind contributions. In-kind reporting forms were made available.

Monson Lake State Park: Larry Paulson, recently appointed chairman of the Monson Lake Association (MLA) gave an update on the happenings of the lake and park. Larry is originally from the Sunburg area and has recently returned to the area. He brings a wealth of experience back with him. He holds a degree in biology from UNLV and a PhD in Limnology from the University of California, Davis. He was instrumental in setting up the Lake Mead Limnological Society at UNLV and has studied many lakes, reservoirs and hydrologic systems in his career.

In addition to this being a State Park there is a Monson Lake Association which is membership based, with about 70 members and a board of directors. The MLA had a request in the omnibus bill for \$25,000 to install electrical hook-ups, water, RV dump station, and some paving but it was not funded due to the state budget. There is still a lot of support for this proposal and the MLA will continue to move forward funding park improvements. Currently the understory of the woods has become quite overgrown and many feel this prohibits more frequent use of the park. It is only 2 miles west of Sunburg, stop by this State Park after the meeting.

CRWP Updates:

“Celebrate the Chippewa” Open House Picnic on Sunday, July 18 at the Swift Falls Park. We will be serving food from 11-1 pm. Rick Gronseth and Dean Shuck volunteered to help with the grilling. Advertisements for the event were sent to local churches, newspapers and radio stations. Flyers were distributed and everyone was asked to display it at their work place or local establishment in their town.

Other upcoming events:

July 10 Lake Leven-Villard-Amelia Association Annual Meeting

July 12 Butterfly Garden Tour and Class

July 16 WCROC Summer Tour Day

July 18 Sustainable Farming Association Summer Meeting, Forbord Farm
July 22 Ammonia TMDL Public Meeting, Montevideo Community Center 7 pm
August 12 Pope SWCD Field Day

A suggestion was made to put information from the Bonestroo Study on Judicial Ditch 4 in Pope County and information regarding the Fecal Coliform TMDL on the website.

A question was raised regarding the latest happenings at the Montevideo Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWTP). Not all details are known but it appears that the MWTP is not in violation but are awaiting a new permit from MPCA. The new permit would not have a discharge limit of phosphorus at 1.0 mg/L for another 7-10 years with incremental upgrades during that time. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy is objecting this permit and threatening litigation unless the issued permit requires immediate upgrade to allow for reduced discharge of phosphorus. More information will be made to group as this situation unfolds.

County Fairs: CRWP will be sharing booths with the Swift SWCD and Chippewa Land & Resource Management offices at their respective county fairs. If any other counties would like materials or staff time to host a booth/display please contact Jennifer.

Partner Updates:

Jean Diggins announced Chippewa SWCD would host a ladies night August 10 at the LQP Refuge Headquarters featuring native plants and wild flowers. She also announced that Jane Link, Education Coordinator, will be retiring from their office in August.

Rick Gronseth announced that Swift County has adopted a living tree fence policy. The SWCD has been working with both the county and MnDot to find and establish appropriate plots for this BMP.

Rob Spitzley reported that two of Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project's lakeshore restoration sites would be featured in a Kandiyohi Garden Tour. The next meeting of SCHP will be July 15, 10:00 am at the Prairie Woods Environmental Center. Everyone is invited.

Larry Dalen, SMSBC, announced a tour highlighting the nutrient management research being done by the beet sugar plant is in the works. He will inform the group of the date when it is announced.

Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D announced that the Know Zone Class that built the 3-D Shakopee Creek Headwaters Watershed model was nominated and awarded the Outstanding Group Award by the MN Association of RC&D's (MARCD). A special presentation will be made at the MARCD Summer Meeting in September.