

Minutes of the meeting of the Poplar River Management Board

Date: Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Time: 1:00 pm

Venue: Lutsen Mountains

Chaired By: Charles Skinner

**Present:**

Cliff Bentley, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources/Waters

Mike Davies, Superior National Golf Course

Melissa Dressely, Caribou Highlands

Scott Harrison, Lutsen Resort

Bruce Martinson, County Commissioner

Tom Rider, Lutsen Mountains

Don Sivertson, Cook County Soil and Water District

Wayne Seidel, Cook County Soil and Water District

Charles Skinner, Lutsen Mountains

Curt Sparks, North American Wetland Engineering

Andy Woodrick, Caribou Highlands

The meeting commenced with the handing out of an agenda of items to be discussed, a copy of which is attached.

The first agenda item was approval of minutes from the prior meeting of the Board. By unanimous vote, the minutes of the meeting of the Poplar River Management Board meeting held on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 were approved.

A draft copy of a proposed Purpose Statement and Goals for the Poplar River Management Board was circulated for review and discussion. There was a consensus that the adoption of Goals be postponed to a future meeting and to focus on the Purpose

Statement. Following discussion and several revisions, the attached Purpose Statement for the Poplar River Management Board was approved by unanimous vote.

A description of the ongoing scientific investigations and stormwater projects being undertaken by Lutsen Mountains was presented by Charles Skinner, Jr. and Curt Sparks that included the following topics:

- Delineation of the this sub-watershed: the lower Poplar River from the waterfalls above Lutsen Ski Area to the mouth of the River
- Surveying of size and location of riverbank slumps
- Historical photographic analysis
- River Morphologic Investigation (elevation, soil characteristics, height and steepness of surrounding terrain)
- Possible “paired river” analysis
- Fisheries research
- Current and planned Lutsen Mountains stormwater projects

Mr. Sparks moved then to an explanation of the process for establishing a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for the Poplar River. There was a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of having a numerical based TMDL versus a “best management practices” TMDL. Emphasis was placed on the importance of this Board of landowners and other stakeholders being involved in this process in order to expedite the process of establishing a TMDL for the Poplar River. The question was raised whether if a BMP TMDL approach was taken as to how it would be determined whether the goal for sediment in this portion of the River would be evaluated.

Mr. Skinner summarized some of the general principles of environmentally sensitive land use planning and regulation (sometimes called “Smart Growth” principles) that can reduce impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff issues including: minimizing land used for parking by creating on-street parking, minimizing land used for buildings by increasing building heights and reducing buildings’ footprint size, reducing the width of roads, and incorporating pedestrian ways and bike paths to lessen vehicular traffic. Board members were encouraged to attend the Subdivision Ordinance Hearing on Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. to promote incorporation of these general principles into the new Subdivision Ordinance.

There was a brief discussion of possible funding sources for future work on stabilization projects for the Poplar River.

There was consensus that until the Board and its advisors was further along with their investigation of the various issues that it would be premature to contact media regarding the Board’s work.

The next meeting of the Poplar River Management Board was scheduled for Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 12:00 p.m. at Caribou Highlands Resort (in their conference room). Lunch will be provided at the meeting.

