

Minutes of the meeting of the Poplar River Management Board

Date: September 5, 2006, Time Noon.

Venue: Caribou Highlands Lodge

Chaired by: Charles Skinner

Present:

Wayne Seidel Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District

Tom Rider, Lutsen Mountains

Charles Skinner, Lutsen Mountains

Curt Sparks, North American Wetland Engineering

Bruce Martinson, Cook County Commissioner

Melissa Dressely, Caribou Highlands Lodge

Marland Hansen, Lutsen Township

Mike Davies, Superior National

Don Sivertson, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District

Scott Harrison, Lutsen Resort

Dave Stark, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District

1. The meeting commenced with unanimous approval of the minutes from the meeting held July 6, 2006.
2. **Update on NRRI Meeting:** The status of the lost turbidity meter was discussed. A new meter was installed and bolted to the rocks in the same location as the one that was lost. Funding for the new meter is coming from money allocated to Soil and Water. Dave Stark reported that seven water samples have been taken.
3. **TMDL:** Curt presented a draft of the MPCA work plan with his comments and suggestions. Of note is the Poplar River's classification as a cold water fishery; the river exceeds the turbidity standard for this classification during high flow. The process will define the Total Maximum Daily Load that will meet the turbidity standard under natural conditions. Natural conditions are defined as defined as "post logging." This TMDL process is a complicated one because a relationship between flow and water quality needs to be established. Curt is proposing a Best Management Practice approach to repair the slumps that are causing the excess erosion during high flow; whatever is implemented must modify behavior and set an achievable goal.
4. **Status of grant applications:** Coastal Grant: Signed and sent. Need to have a kick-off meeting to establish financial tracking, tasks, and paperwork processes. Our time in meetings should fulfill the financial match requirement but it needs to be tracked and documented. We will receive invoices from Curt, and submit them for reimbursement from the grant.
5. **Watershed Districts:** Curt presented a Power Point presentation to compare watershed districts to management boards, "Would a Watershed District serve the Poplar River Better

Than a Non-profit Management Board?” Main points were that a watershed district is a statutory unit of government, having more regulatory authority (including taxing authority) than a mgmt. board. However, as a mgmt. board, we can set up a subordinate taxing district through the County. Adding operation expenses to the amount for the AUAR (since a taxing district is already formed) was also proposed.

6. Other

Wayne announced that BWSR’s Clean Water Legacy Funding program is a possible source of funding available to the Soil and Water District. It is targeted for areas that don’t have TMDL numbers. The Soil and Water Board would need to approve an application from PRMB. Grant money would be for construction.

Dave Stark is working with MPCA on the TMDL process’ technical side. He will bring our concerns to the table during the process.

7. The next meeting of the PRMB was scheduled for October 10, at noon, at Caribou Highlands Lodge. At a later date, it was established that the group would do some field work after the regular meeting.