

## **Steering Council Meeting Minutes February 22, 2007**

### **Meeting Called to Order 7:03PM**

#### **Roll Call**

Members in Attendance – Robert Livingston, Tom Porps, Corinne Krebs, Jamie Smith, Vytou Barcus, Bryan Neal, Tony Migon

Others in Attendance – Trustee Mike Moran, Special Guest Craig Helker, WI-DNR

#### **Special Item**

Robert began the meeting by introducing Craig Helker, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource Water Resources Biologist for the Root-Pike Water Basin to the Steering Council. He then briefed Craig on the history of the Lake District, budgets, projects, etc. Tony added that the Steering Council invited Craig in to provide guidance on projects and if the District was moving in the right direction.

Craig responded by first addressing the grant score for the district.

He stated that having a DNR approved boat launch providing public lake access dramatically affects a grant score. At the time we applied for grant funding, the Mad Dan's boat launch was still under negotiation and Lake Elizabeth did not have the scoring it needed for lake access as stated earlier.

Secondly, the Esch Road project would have more success obtaining grant funding from a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant and an Urban Non-Point grant than the Lake Management Protection Grant. The project targets runoff water that could damage lake quality rather than directly influencing water quality of the lake.

Third, grant scores that have a greater chance of being implemented will receive higher scores. Craig stated that the State wants to allocate funds to projects that will likely be installed within a year of being rewarded the funds.

Fourth, during project review, a test is done to determine how much phosphorus will be eliminated by the project design. Currently, the Esch Road project has a 19% reduction in phosphorus and the district needed an additional 1% to receive a higher score on phosphorus reduction. This particular item would help scoring on a Lake Protection Grant. Council members explained that the village has implemented an ordinance on use of phosphorus-free fertilizers and asked if this had any impact on obtaining a higher grant score. Craig informed the members that grants are more specific to the project itself rather than accounting for outside activities. Regardless, he commended the Council on implementing such standards in the area.

Fifth, the review committee looks at how much the project reduces flow rates in comparison to other project sites or proposed activities. Robert explained that this particular site, as determined by the Village Stormwater Management Plan, showed some of the highest flow rates in the Village and influenced the decision to pursue a project at the site.

Sixth, involve as many layers of government as possible and demonstrate community-wide support for the project. This support is seen as monetary contributions, volunteer labor, equipment availability, material allocations, etc.; anything that will assist in getting the project implemented. Craig suggested obtaining letters of support from the County, the Village, neighbors to the project, contributing members, etc. He cautioned the Council members that letters alone do not constitute support; they need to have some other contribution to back them up.

Seventh, solidify the project. Having final drawings, statements of intent, and details all help in showing the review board the seriousness of the project and improve scoring.

Finally, being that the Lake District is applying for the grant already demonstrates a community wide awareness and acceptance of the project. Craig maintained that the Lake District has a greater chance of obtaining funds than the Village because it extends out to the watershed. Council members thanked Craig for his insight regarding the first round of grants for the Esch road project and requested his input on potential future projects, specifically the Bayview Channel Drawdown. Craig stated that the District can gain points for innovative projects, but that they also require more background/basis information. He stated that a compaction test should be done on the bed of Bayview Channel to determine how long the project solution would help the area.

He also stated that educational components can help in scoring on grant funding, but it is not a major component of the grant score.

He finished by explaining how grant funds are distributed throughout the state; the review board rewards funds to the top ten scoring projects. From there they determine if every region of the state had received funds. If not, they would put "token" money toward a project in a region that did not fall within the top ten ranked projects. Then they go back to award what ever funds are left to the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>.....ranked projects until funds run out.

Again, the Council members thanked Craig for his insight, time, and suggestions. Once Craig left, the Council members talked about concerns regarding the quality of the grant application submitted, the money already spent on attempts to obtain grant funds, and the amount of time that has passed with no results. Members were concerned that the District will begin to lose community support for the project if results are not being produced soon. This lead to discussion about funds spent in good faith with Northern Environmental and the lack of forward progress on the project. Some members felt the state had written off the Southeastern Region due to its aggressive development, which the District and its leaders cannot do much about. Others felt Northern Environmental had not done everything they could to ensure a better score for the grant. Robert stated that he felt bad about the lack of results and asked if the members wanted to continue with Northern Environmental as the District engineering firm. Some brief discussion followed. Everyone agreed that Bob Elkin and Andy Nelson from Northern Environmental should come in to talk with the Council about this issue before a decision is made.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 29, 2007 at 7:00pm in the Twin Lakes Village Hall.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:05PM**