

Notes/Minutes from the April 15, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting

Topic:

- Follow-up from the April 1, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting
- General discussion on enforcement, partnership, and education

Attendance:

Randy Anhorn- CLFLWD Administrator
Jack Frost-Met Council
Beryl Halldorson- CLFLWD CAC/Bone Lake Association
Patrick Hollister-Chisago County
Anne Hurlburt-City of Scandia
Wade Klingsporn-DNR
Jyneen Thatcher-WCD
Lisa Tilman-EOR

Comments:

Follow-up from the March 4 and March 18, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting

Notes and minutes from the April 1, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting were highlighted as was a memo presenting summary items coming the April 1, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting which will be brought to the District's Board of Managers.

Randy Anhorn presented an altered TAC/CAC meeting schedule which included a yet to be scheduled Managers' workshop to discuss specific comments from the TAC/CAC, a follow-up joint Manager TAC/CAC meeting, and canceled the April 29, 2008 scheduled TAC/CAC meeting.

Lisa Tilman went through the summary memo and asked if the summary accurately portrayed that stated at the April 1, 2008 TAC/CAC meeting.

Wade Klingsporn

- Wade mentioned that if the District planned on providing review and comment on the shoreline alteration projects below the OHWL, the District should notify the DNR in order to get on the mailing list for such reviews.

Lisa Tilman asked the group if they thought that there were items the District has not discussed in which they thought that the District should have a rule for. The group unanimously didn't think there was anything else.

Enforcement

Specific TAC/CAC member comments:

Beryl Halldorson

- Beryl asked how the District handled enforcement now. District staff informed Beryl that because the District currently has no rules and simply provides review and comment the District did not currently get involved in enforcement. Beryl then asked what the Cities did for enforcement.

- Beryl then asked about follow-up once the permit has been signed off.

Anne Hurlburt

- Anne went through the cities permit and enforcement processes from Administrative letter, to staff stop work order, to court action and civil action. Anne stated that the best for all is to try to work with the person(s) and get voluntary compliance.
- Ann answered Beryl's question stating that it depended on the permit. Sometimes the permit includes a financial surety, while other times there may be a development agreement or stipulations attached to the deed.
- Anne said that the District needs to add a penalty clause to the enforcement section. The clause does not need to state what the penalty is (the District should maintain flexibility), but mention that there are penalties.
- Anne said that working with the communities is important and necessary. The cities can tell the applicants when a watershed permit may be necessary. Anne also mentioned that the opportunity for memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with each community to define enforcement responsibilities and reinforce partnerships so developers do not try to work the watershed and municipality against one another.
- Anne asked if there were any model MOUs between watersheds and municipalities. Nobody was aware of any (it was mentioned that while the process may be longstanding in areas, there was doubt to any official documentation), but Randy said that he would check with the other watersheds of the state through the Association of District Administrators.
- Anne said that maybe it would be worthwhile to sit down and hammer out an MOU and test how it would help define roles.

Lisa Tilman

- Lisa mentioned that if the TAC/CAC recommendations were followed, the District would only permit for stormwater management, erosion control, and watercourse and basin crossings.

Jyneen Thatcher

- Jyneen said that anything the District has a rule for, the District should be involved in enforcement. Jyneen stated that that included wetlands, the District should be a part of the enforcement process in partnership with the WCA LGU.
- Jyneen said that the District should work with the communities.
- Jyneen went thought the process for permit inspections (erosion and water quality).

Jack Frost

- Jack said that everything has different steps. Jack further stated that the Board needs to know that each rule and eventual inspection/enforcement comes at a cost. Does the Board expect the Administrator to do the enforcement, are they interested in hiring staff for enforcement, or are they looking at using a consultant, or a partnership? Jack said that the Board needs to decide and weigh all the costs, more than just dollars, if the Administrator is going to do much of the inspection/enforcement that will take away from their other duties. It would be worthwhile for the District to develop a staffing plan after the rules are completed. Anne agreed staffing needs are important.
- Jack reiterated the difficulty enforcing things that are difficult to enforce like buffers. It will be extremely difficult to actually stay up to date on buffers and this will make enforcement impossible. Education is a better mechanism to achieve what the District is striving for.

Patrick Hollister

- Patrick mentioned that Chisago County oversees enforcement in the only unincorporated area in the watershed (albeit a very small area), and although the County has no specific concerns on the District Rules at this time, they also do not want to be forced to enforce all (at the very least there should be a partnership). Patrick also stated that if the watershed wants to get involved in enforcement, they will find that they will need enforcement staff.

Wade Klingsporn

- Wade said that another partnership avenue is through the DNR Conversation Officer and area hydrologists.

Education

Specific TAC/CAC member comments:

Jack Frost

- Jack and the group discussed education for small hobby farms and past educational opportunities through the WCD on “Living on a Few Acres.” Randy mentioned meeting with Craig Mell and Jay Riggs to discuss the potential for future workshops on the responsible way to manage small animal farms in order to protect water resources. Randy also mentioned that they discussed the potential for setting up a cost-share program for helping fence animals out of wetlands; create buffers, and other things.
- Jack mentioned that it would be worthwhile for the District to sign-up with the shared education position (East Metro Water Resources Education Program) through WCD. This would provide the District with a lot of material to use within its boundaries to educate on multiple subjects.
- Jack asked about the District’s thoughts on getting involved in K-12 education. Jack stated that many watersheds were starting to increase their presence in these situations, be it the annual water festivals, area Envirothons, or working with and educating science teachers on water resource issues.

Anne Hurlburt

- Anne said that the City of Scandia does receive a lot of inquiries about the number of animals allowed, or that the caller thinks that their neighbor has too many animals, so there is always an opportunity for education be it brochures, information on websites, workshops.
- Anne also mentioned the need for articles in the local papers on water and environmental issues. Randy stated that he has already put together numerous articles and is in the process of getting a section (monthly or quarterly) of the local paper to post articles on buffers, the importance of aquatic vegetation, the connection between the storm sewer and water resources, etc...

Jyneen Thatcher

- Jyneen went through WCD’s past educational materials and workshops on small farms and that a similar program, although not very successful in parts of the Washington County, she believes would be successful in northern Washington and Southern Chisago counties.
- Jyneen encouraged getting involved in school age education. Jyneen described WCDs involvement in the Water Festival and Envirothons.

Beryl Halldorson

- Beryl asked about the proper ways to have horses without polluting nearby water resources. The group went through manure management, the need for enough space so not to overgraze, keeping

the animals on the right slopes so that runoff doesn't lead directly to a water resource and the overall number of animals on a particular sized parcel.

Patrick Hollister

- Patrick described Chisago County's involvement in the Water Festival.

Common themes

- The District will need to be able to enforce (or be a part of the enforcement) of its rules.
- The District and municipalities should work on partnerships in enforcement and should develop MOUs to strengthen those bonds.
- Education is important and often is more successful than simply requiring something.