

Stormwater Steering Committee

January 18, 2007

Metro 94 Facility

Attendees: Nick Tiedeken, Nate Duoss, Anne Gelbmann, Steven Pedersen, Erik Silvola, Scott Anderson, Randy Neprash, Jim Hafner, Alan Rindels, Barb Loida, Paul Burns, Don Jakes, Doug Snyder, Judy Sventek, Jack Frost, Mike Findorff, Gary Obertz, Cindi Kahrmann, Lisa Frenette, Steven Colvin, Steve Klein, Cliff Aichinger, Brian Livingston, Randy Ellingboe, Brett Troyer, Dwayne Stenlund, Jason Moeckel, Roger Clay, Joel Schilling, Andrea Hendrickson, Keith Hanson, Lisa Thorvig, Carol Nankival.

Chair Report: Steven Pedersen called the meeting to order. He will compile notes from the brown bag meeting that took place prior to the SSC meeting and forward to SSC members.

Steve reported that he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Clean Water Council. He asked the SSC membership if representation from the SSC to the Clean Water Council is still needed. If so, a representative needs to be found. It was discussed, a motion made, seconded and passed that Cliff Aichinger will be the representative to the Council.

Andrea Hendrickson stated they are seeking large financial contributors to the TP40 fund. Steve asked that all SSC members discuss with their individual agencies the possibility of contributions to TP40.

The letter on the emerging chemicals issue was delivered to Paul Hoff and Steve and Brian met with Paul to discuss this issue. Anne is working with various other staff within the MPCA on this issue. She will provide an update at the next SSC meeting. She also announced that Mark Schmitt has taken a new position within the PCA and that Don Jakes is acting section manager and Brian Livingston is acting supervisor for the stormwater policy and technical assistance unit management.

Work Group Reports:

Manual Work Group – A contract was awarded to EOR for Version 2.0 of the Manual. The group decided on topics to include in the manual update. The manual survey had only 50 responses. Most are using the manual and say it is a good tool. Discussion followed on the validity of the manual as it relates to TP40 if the hydrology estimates of TP40 are not accurate for today. Andrea felt the manual did a good job with the information available and working within budget constraints. It was felt that the manual could not be put on hold for one item or several items that may need to be researched more thoroughly, due to time and budgets. Things need to keep moving forward.

Watershed Approach Work Group – Gary Obertz reported that they have begun to look at watershed based management planning. They have held five focus group meetings, each about three hours in duration, to listen to the various interested parties in order to gather input on the permitting process and the legal aspect of the plan. Selection will be made for two pilot watershed sites to implement the process.

Monitoring and Research Work Group – Bruce Wilson was not available to provide an update. Alan Rindels from MnDot’s Local Road Research Board, provided a handout on the Local Road Research Board activities and suggested that members of the SSC should encourage city and county engineers to apply for projects from the Board. The Board supports funding for research to improve design, construction, and maintenance of roads. MnDOT has an extensive library of valuable information that is available for anyone to use.

Industrial Work Group – Keith Hanson stated they have had two meetings a month and have a wide variety of interests amongst the members of the group. They are seeking concerns and issues for the group to look at relating to the industrial permit. There are four major areas they are looking into: Monitoring, Non-degradation, TMDL, and regulatory and data issues. He submitted a workplan but stated that it was a “work in progress”. They hope to draft proposals by June. Cindi sees the workplan as a 15 year plan to get the industrial program to where it is most effective.

LID Work Group – Anne reported for the group. John Jaschke has stepped down as chair and Julie Westerlund has agreed to take over. They are looking at the charter and have defined the scope and membership of the group. New members have been added to the Work Group. Anne or the chair will present the charter at the next SSC meeting. They are working to develop relationships between LID, non-deg, rules, etc. Barriers to LID were discussed and will also be presented at the next meeting.

Compliance Construction Work Group – Brian Livingston spoke for the group. Findings and causes are being discussed. A supplemental survey, to the existing BATC survey, will be taken. Data needs have been identified and they hope to present a set of recommendations within about six months to the SSC. Joel will email the survey to the SSC membership. Steve questioned whether there should be a stronger link between the other workgroups and this group. The issue was raised on expanding the scope to less than one acre developments; however, Cliff felt that smaller than one acre sites should be handled by the local government units through their SWPPPs, that the group should focus on sites larger than one acre in size.

Nondegradation Rule – Carol Nankivel reported that she is in charge of the nondeg rule making process. She handed out a schedule and explained the rule making process.. It will be a three-plus year process to completion. Don Jakes discussed how the Select 30 MS4s will play into the nondeg rules. Joel asked if there may be a need to resurrect the nondeg subcommittee of the SSC. Carol thought it would be best to work directly with the SSC membership for right now, but thought that a single meeting with the nondeg group could be helpful and informative. Steve asked Joel to pull the former group together to have a one time meeting with Carol. The meeting would serve as an information session, providing an exchange of ideas and information.

On-Line Construction Stormwater Application – Dan McLean addressed the group. The MPCA has started to market the on-line application process for construction stormwater. Dan distributed a handout that will be done as a mailing to promote the on-line process. He stated that the on-line method reduces errors. One must pay by credit card as it helps the PCA process

applications in a more timely manner. Dan asked for feedback from the SSC membership once the promotional mailing information goes out.

Lisa Thorvig, Director of Municipal Division, distributed a handout (Minnesota's Stormwater Management Direction and Needs) and gave a brief history of the General Industrial Permit and the backlog of enforcement issues. She posed several questions to the SSC group as to how the stormwater program should operate in Minnesota, how local units of government should be utilized, what should the role of the municipalities look like, and how can the goal of achieving water quality within the constraints the MPCA encounters. What do we want and how does it get funded? Duane Stenlund talked about enforcement and fines. Pilot projects should continue in all parts of the state and we should celebrate successes. It could help with much need monies for funding. If the SSC looked at the enforcement issues it was felt that other issues that the committee deals with would need to be set aside. How can the program achieve enforcement to achieve an efficient program? Steve suggested setting aside an hour at the next several meetings to work on this project, but wants a facilitator there to help keep the process on track, to help converge ideas, views, and come up with a finished product. Lisa will be part of this process. Randy suggested it would be helpful for the PCA to develop a process map as a starting point or the group may flounder. Two viewpoints were debated: to let the work groups finish their work (especially the construction and watershed workgroups) and then begin this process or to forge ahead with the SSC and PCA starting the discussions. The topic will be discussed at the next OPS meeting. The PCA should proceed with mapping the stormwater management process.

Urban Tree Forestation – Randy Neprash distributed a handout on trees and their role in stormwater management. He discussed the Cornell Structural Soil Applications and the idea that tree BMPs should have standards developed and be put into the stormwater plans just as NURP ponds are included. Credits could be given for using trees in urban areas for control of stormwater runoff (similar to rain gardens). He is planning to hold a seminar on the topic in March. The MnDot Local Road Research Board has a manual on tree forestation. MnDot Library is available to do extensive research.

Meeting Adjourned – 4:00