Kabetogama Clean Water Initiative Steering Committee

September 25, 2019

John Stegmeir Township Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. Calling in on the conference was Bob Myerson. Tim Snyder, Lee Herseth and Jeff Krueger were in attendance. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Stegmeir asked if there were any additions or changes for the agenda, there were none so the agenda was approved.

John began with stating that this project is not over by a long shot and we still need participation to see it through. First thing John wanted to talk about was what we heard at the meetings.

* Discuss Public Hearings – what we heard
* What did you hear? Key concerns.
* Seasonal use and equity.
* Cost – User Rates (metering) – obligation to connect – cost of connecting to grinders – construction disruption, disturbance – New systems, unfair inclusion into service area.
* It would be difficult for the township to incorporate metering into a rates payment system, they don’t have the personnel to administer that kind of system. The committee will include this topic when they discuss the rates ordinance. Obligation to connect comes later in the process and before construction. Individual costs can’t be identified until after the engineering has been done. Another issue that was stated was the dissatisfaction of being included is a district when the owner has a perfectly good and expensive system.
* Establishment of Districts
* CFHJ = Nov. 6. The resolution was approved at the September 3rd meeting and will become a Subordinate Service District on November 6, 2019
* G = around Nov. 30. The resolution to establish will be considered at the October 1st Township meeting.

New Business

* Discussion of Time Line going forward

On Monday the 23rd of September John attended the Joint Powers Board. He was hoping that some of the Steering Committee members could have attended. He gave a presentation to the board of the current progress of subordinate service district formation. He stated that we will need help from the Joint Powers Board to move forward. The timeline that John has laid out is just a rough sketch according to the information that he received from the JPB.

* Rough sketch of Timeline –
* May 2020: Sketch out Funding strategy (JPB)
* June 2020: Have potential treatment sites identified
* July 2020:VNP Clean Water Comprehensive Plan Update
* August 2020: Pre project engineering – define project area(s) and treatment sites.
* August 2020 and ongoing: Firm up Funding Strategy (JPB, Township)
* September 2020: Request funds for 2021 from Clean Water Fund to begin Facility Planning/Design (JPB)
* September 2020: Send out member Questionnaires and follow-up (Committee)
* 2021-2023: Facility plan and Design, next opportunity for us is 2022
* 2024-2025: Construction
* Search for potential land to site treatment facility(s)
* Develop strategy for this task
* FGH (J) only options are private land
* C only option is State land
* J, if done as a separate project, would have only State land as an option
* The committee agreed to take on the task of identifying potential private parcels over the winter for service districts FGH. The search area will be concentrated in an area of ½ mile of FGH and expand from there as necessary.
* Updating Comprehensive Plan
* The JPB will be updating the VNP Clean Water Comprehensive Plan, to be completed by July of 2020. This will be a great help to us in defining our project and getting an updated estimate of cost, which will help in securing funding.
* Developing a funding strategy
* At the direction of the JPB, the JPB consultant/lobbyist and SEH will meet to establish a funding strategy/timeline for our project.
* Potential funding sources are the Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program and the Point Source Implementation Program administered by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority, the Lessard/Sams Clean water Fund, Minnesota Rural Water Fund, IRRRC funds, and funds from the Army Corps. of Engineers.
* Pre-project engineering

The Township has briefed the JPB on the development of our subordinate service districts. We have stated that we would like to proceed with project development for all service areas concurrently. We stated that we need help in determining on how to best go forward with the most efficient/cost effective project(s). We have made a request to the JPB for funding to do some pre-project work. SEH will develop a project proposal for consideration of the JPB at a future meeting. The purpose of this project is to:

* Establish parameters of our project
* FGHJ: Do we combine these areas? If not, where is the logical split(s).
* C What is the most cost effective way to service this area?
* Identify suitable available treatment sites
* Examine proposed sites for suitability.

The next meeting will be called when necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Manninen, Clerk