

DRAFT

**CHISAGO COUNTY WATER PLAN POLICY TEAM
MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 10, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm, Monday, August 10, 2009 at the Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in North Branch.

Present: David Ambers, Henry Kapell, Tom McKenzie, Mike Mueller, Mike Robinson, Richard Schirber, Mary Darragh Schmitz, Craig Mell, Jerry Spetzman and guest, Rob Kravitz of Friends of the Sunrise.

MINUTES FOR JUNE 9, 2009 MEETING: Approved.

2010 BUDGET: Proposed 2010 budget which will be presented to the Chisago County Board was presented. Total expenditures are \$91,894., which is lean. Total income is projected as \$108,282. Motion by Robinson "To approve the proposed budget and recommend same to the County Board." Second by Mueller. Approved unanimously.

PROPOSED SUNRISE RIVER ENERGY STATION:

J. Spetzman presented an overview of the LS POWER proposal to construct a power station in Chisago County. He also discussed an outline of the permitting process from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Mike Mueller, DNR Area Hydrologist, discussed a technical memorandum from Barr Engineering, engineers for the proposed project, dated June 26, 2009, which described preliminary information regarding the geology and well information of the area. Mueller also discussed a more recent geological cross-section of the area developed by the Minnesota state geologist. Mueller also presented and discussed a June 12, 2009 letter from the Minnesota DNR to LS Power Development which outlines the exploration and testing which will be required by the DNR regarding the project.

Much discussion ensued regarding this complex project and approval processes. There was some discussion that LS Power seeks a lesser process than a full Environmental Impact Statement study to evaluate the impact of the project development and subsequent plant operation.

Motion by McKenzie, second by Schirber; "That the Water Plan Policy Team recommends to the Chisago County Board, all process approving agencies and all Chisago County legislators that the development process for the LS Power plant in Chisago County must include a full Environmental Impact Statement study.' With Schmitz abstaining, the motion passed with all ayes.

WETLANDS ASSESSMENT OF THE SUNRISE RIVER WATERSHED: The United States Corps of Engineers (COE) has undertaken a comprehensive inventory of all of the wetlands in the Sunrise watershed. The program is funded with a federal stimulus grant. It will provide a base of information which should help manage our wetlands.

CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL: Planning is on schedule and funding is covered.

WATER PLAN AMENDMENT: The amendment regarding rural village center community sewer systems has gone through a public hearing at the Chisago County Board and is in the hands of the Minnesota Board of Water Resources.

NORTH BRANCH OF THE SUNRISE: Have received a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$190,000 to implement the correction plan.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 12, 2009 at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Henry Kapell