

Denmark Township Workshop Minutes
LSCWMO 02/15/06
8:50 PM

Workshop called to order @ 8:50 PM

Board members present: John Kummer, Gary Dixon, Jim Keller, Kathy Higgins

Staff Present: Kevin Shoeberg, attorney, Cara Geheren, engineer

Clarification that attorney is representing township at this meeting. Not present in role as legal counsel to WMO. WMO has hired separate counsel in case of a conflict between WMO and township.

Purpose of workshop: to discuss Board policy direction recommendations for WMO rules making steering committee. Geheren, Higgins, Kummer are Denmark representatives to rules steering committee group. Denmark is largest portion of WMO (67%). Balance of WMO comprised of Afton, Cottage Grove, and a very small portion of Hastings.

Discussion re: what type of practices Board thinks should occur. Discussion re: WMO goal of 20% reduction in nutrient and sediment loads to the St. Croix. Impact to township of implementing this goal will be significant, both with respect to development and local street improvement projects. Consensus that board supports maintenance of existing conditions, and striving to ensure that future development does not further degrade the quality of watershed resources. 20% reduction goal would mean that infiltration basins would need to be constructed. Questions raised about this “state of the art” technology and whether or not it will be effective in the long run. Is relatively new, and yet unproven. Ongoing maintenance cost of these types of drainage systems are significant. Board consensus that current practice is acceptable. Board wants to maintain the existing level of water quality, but supports the concept of 20% reduction in nutrient and sediment loads, when proven technology is available.

Discussed maintenance of existing systems, and possibilities for future maintenance. Extensive discussion about duplication of effort between Township engineering review, Water Conservation Review, and WMO review. Board wants to minimize duplication of effort. Discussion of WMO review and permit process, and whether or not WMO review should be necessary for all projects, major subdivisions only, or exactly what criteria will/should trigger a review by the WMO. Discussion re: whether WMO should be issuing permits. To have further discussion re: same.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:03 PM

Becky Herman
Clerk/Treasurer