

EUREKA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

DAKTOA COUNTY

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Special Planning Commission Meeting

August 18, 2014

Chair Butch Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Planning Commission members present: Butch Hanson, Lu Barfknecht, Carrie Jennings, Al Novacek. Member Phil Cleminson arrived at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Town Board Supervisors Kenny Miller and Mark Ceminsky, Brian Watson of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Mark Slavik and Mark Zabel of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO), and Town Clerk Mira Broyles.

Chair Hansen noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the management of the permitting process for implementing watershed standards currently being conducted by the VRWJPO and the possibility of the Township taking over the responsibility.

Mr. Zabel provided an overview of what would be required for the Township to take over implementation of watershed standards. He explained that an ordinance would need to be drafted that would serve as an enforceable mechanism for watershed standards. The draft ordinance would then be submitted to the VRWJPO for review and approval, after which, the draft ordinance would go before the Town Board for approval. The VRWJPO would then rescind their ordinance and the permitting process and enforcement of the watershed standards become the responsibility of the Township.

The standards of the current VRWJPO ordinance (buffer requirements, storm water management, erosion and sediment control, flood plain, drainage and wetland alteration) were discussed.

Discussion was also held regarding payment for services. Mr. Zabel noted that currently a State grant helps pay for the services. He noted that should the Township take over the management of the permitting process, an engineering consultant would have to be contracted with to review certain projects. He also noted that all townships must be consistent with the implementation of permitting fees based on individual projects.

Other discussions included possible input from the VRWJPO in regard to requirements for the installation of drain tiles; the need for updated maps from Dakota County; and water standards and testing. Mr. Watson noted there are currently no regulations by the County for drain tile, however a permit is required for encroachment into the state, county or city/township rights of way. He stated that input from local townships would be requested should a policy be

developed. Mr. Watson also noted that the Township is responsible for the enforcement of AG. Preserve zoned property maintaining soil loss at a tolerable level.

Discussion was held regarding the Dakota County mapping system in regard to wetlands and floodplains. Mr. Watson noted that the County would review a specific area upon request as a service. He noted that shoreland and floodplain mapping outdate quickly.

Mr. Zabel noted that standards for water testing are currently being evaluated.

A discussion will be held at the September Planning Commission meeting to determine if additional meetings are needed to further evaluate the possibility of the Township taking over the watershed permitting process.

Motion was made by Carrie Jennings, seconded by Lu Barfknecht, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mira Broyles, Clerk