BIG EAU PLEINE TASK FORCE
Minutes
September 15, 2011

Members: John Small, Jim Burgener, Andy Johnson (Conservation, Planning and Zoning–CPZ); Mike Paul (Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization–BEPCO); Scott Watson (DNR); Dave Coon (WVIC)

Others: Ken Dorshorst (BEPCO); Peter Weinschenk (The Record-Review)

1. Call to Order.
The presence of a quorum, the agenda being properly signed and posted chair Small called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department Large Conference Room, Wausau, Wisconsin.

2. Introductions and Statements from Audience.
No statements were made.

3. Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2011 Meeting.
Motion / second by Paul / Coon to approve the August 18, 2011 minutes. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Announcements/Reports.
A. Water Quality Assessment Update - Watson.
Watson reported funding for entering the data into the model has not been set and a report on Mill Creek will be shared when the draft has been reviewed. Strong support has been expressed to the DNR for the meeting held in March 2011 and attempts may be made to coordinate a similar meeting in the future.

B. WVIC’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Look-In.
No report was made.

The draft Operation and Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) had been received by Coon from Bob Hujik, DNR. Coon proceeded to outline the MOA between the DNR, as owner of the facilities, and WVIC, as resource manager, to deal with annual operation/maintenance issues excluding electrical costs:

- This was a 50/50 cost share agreement
- Operation of the aerator – when to turn it on
- When to erect the fence
- General Maintenance
- Log operations
- Monitoring of DO, BOD, DOB
- Replacement motors
  - Estimated at $1,800 for a new motor; if supplier does not have in stock, it should be available within 24 hours
- Replacement blowers
  - Estimated up to $11,500 for a new blower; current blowers were rebuilt on site at a cost of $2,500/each (total $5,000)
- Appendices to include:
  - Model numbers for blowers and motors
  - Replacement/rehabilitation costs
  - Potential funding sources for electrical costs – DNR, WVIC, Marathon County, BEPCO, any other interested party (potentially towns)

Coon stated that the MOA had the support of WVIC’s president but was uncertain of whether or not WVIC’s board had to approve the agreement. He has edited the agreement and Hujik is now reviewing it. The agreement would be distributed upon completion of this review.
Coon proposed a second MOA, open to all parties, to deal with electrical costs and capital investments. DNR ownership and registration will make these facilities eligible for DNR capital projects funds. This MOA would:

- Identify the distribution of the electrical costs, estimated to be between $100-$120/day when the aerator is running – DNR will not participate as the DNR owns the facilities
- Replacement motors
  - Estimated at $1,800 for a new motor; if supplier does not have in stock, it should be available within 24 hours
- Replacement blowers
  - Estimated up to $11,500 for a new blower; current blowers were rebuilt on site at a cost of $2,500/each (total $5,000)
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Discussion followed that the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) would have a policy discussion to determine the extent of the County’s involvement, whether any financial support would be an appropriate use of the ATC funds, responsibilities of all parties are identified in the strategic plan, and running the aerator for 2 years to determine operational costs and line efficiencies. Consensus appeared to be reached that the term of the MOAs should be 5 years.

6. Review of the Strategic Plan.
Johnson reported on his meeting with Taylor and Clark County representatives and their intent to attend the October meeting. Discussion of the draft strategic plan followed:

- Final plan is to be balanced and easily understood by the audience (public officials / general citizenry)
- Plan is to recognize that even though agricultural activities may result in 90-95% of the problems, other contributions include sanitary systems, municipal WPDES permits, and water management
- Levels of responsibilities will be identified
- Appendices will include references
- Stressing the process and participation – appreciation was expressed for the participation of the ag producers and their insight
- The “Conclusion” should be moved to before the “Recommendations”
- “Framing The Partnership Process” may be broken into 2 sections
- “Introduction” to outline that the Eau Pleine is part of the Wisconsin River system

Members were to verify their roles as listed on pages 6 and 7, Burgener was requested to review Adams County’s ordinance regarding runoffs and ordinance violations, and comments were to be sent to Johnson.

Paul noted he would be stepping down and Dorshorst would be representing BEPCO. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate.

7. Next Meeting Date: October 20, 2011
Consensus reached to that the next meeting will be held on October 20, 2011 at 1:00 pm.

8. Adjourn.
There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.