

**CITY OF LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH
16455 20th STREET SOUTH
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SPECIAL WORKSESSION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING
COMMISSION**

February 29, 2016

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom McCarthy, Michelle Kline

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mary Ashby, Linda O'Donnell, Nancy Truax

STAFF PRESENT: John Parotti, Susan Schuler, Amy Truhlar

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Isensee, (WMO), Jay Michels (EOR), Bruce Albrecht

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor McCarthy at 5:08 p.m.

REVIEW THE DRAFT ORDINANCE UPDATE FOR THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL "MIDS" WITH THE MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (WMO)

Mike Isensee, Administrator of the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization (WMO), introduced himself and Jay Michels, with Emmons & Oliver Resources, who have been creating much of the technical writing for the MIDS ordinance updates. As part of the WMO's 10-year plan update, they talked to many cities and residents and found that many people felt the previous standards were too complicated. The WMO was asked to simplify the standards to make them more flexible and easier to understand and follow. That was when they discovered and investigated Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS), which was also being developed at the statewide level. He noted that although this is a statewide effort, enforcement occurs at the local level.

Traditional stormwater management focused on conveyance and storage to prevent flooding. This was ineffective at protecting water quality. MIDS will protect water quality by preventing runoff from minor rain events (one half inch rain or less), while existing traditional techniques will still help to prevent flooding for larger rain events (one inch rain or more). He noted that ½ - 1 ½ inch rain events/storms are responsible for 75% of stormwater pollution.

There was discussion whether this would be affected by the change of some properties in Lake St. Croix Beach moving to the Valley Branch Watershed District. Mr. Isensee noted that part of the goal of MIDS was to gain consistency throughout all watersheds and WMOs, and Valley Branch Watershed District has already adopted MIDS. He also explained that Valley Branch Watershed District has its own permitting process, they issue permits for projects, and they have the authority to enforce their regulations. The WMO only reviews applications and provides comments because they do not issue permits. This was part of the agreement made when the WMO was set up. The city permit does not affect either the watershed permit or the WMO comments.

Jay Michels, of Emmons & Oliver Resources, explained the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process of ensuring water quality in the St. Croix River. He then reviewed the draft MIDS ordinance. Specific problem areas in the city, especially along the bluff, were discussed. It was explained that the next step in the process will be for the Planning Commission to hold a Public

Hearing. After that the City Council will adopt the ordinance.

John Parotti, City Engineer with SEH, explained that he thought the ordinance was a great tool to help with clarity for the residents. It also provides additional ways for residents to get credit for stormwater management other than raingardens. He pointed out that this was different from the zoning code, which deals with impervious surface.

City Clerk-Administrator Susan Schuler reported that the Public Hearing on the MIDS ordinance would be held by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The worksession was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Tom McCarthy, Mayor

Susan Schuler, Clerk-Administrator