

**CITY OF BAYPORT  
CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
December 15, 2014  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order by Mayor St. Ores.

**ROLL CALL**

City Council: Mayor St. Ores, Councilmembers Goldston, Carlson, and McGann

Planning Commission: Commissioners Ritzer, Kelly, Abrahamson, and Richtman

Staff: City Administrator Logan Martin and Assistant City Administrator/Planner Sara Taylor

Consultants: Mike Isensee, Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO)  
Ron Leaf and Crystal Raleigh, Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH)

**INTRODUCTION TO MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4) AND MINIMAL IMPACT DESIGN STANDARDS (MIDS)**

Administrator Martin noted the workshop was to introduce two new stormwater management programs, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). Representatives from SEH and the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management District were introduced and provided a background on each program.

Ron Leaf, SEH, explained that the city has been notified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) that it is now classified as having a “municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)” and will be required to comply with applicable stormwater management regulations and apply for a permit. An MS4 is a system of stormwater conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, storm drains, etc.) that is owned or operated by a public entity and is used for conveying stormwater. The MS4 General Permit program is administered by the MPCA and is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and pollution that enters surface and ground water. Stormwater discharges associated with MS4s are subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS). Through the MS4 General Permit, the system owner is required to develop a stormwater pollution prevention program that incorporates best management practices applicable to their MS4. The city is already doing many of the activities required by the program, but will also need to review and update ordinances, standards and procedures to comply with these new requirements. Discussion followed on how this new program may impact individual private property owners, as well as public infrastructure projects and anticipated costs that the city would incur to administer the program.

Mike Isensee, MSCWMO, explained that the city is being asked to participate in the voluntary Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) program. MIDS is a flexible stormwater management framework developed to help communities meet state and federal water quality standards, such as those required by MS4. MIDS was developed over three years by a diverse group of Minnesota stakeholders (including the League of Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition) to identify state-wide science-based standards, credits and flexible treatment options that are easy to implement at the local level. The MSCWMO applied for and received a Clean Water Fund grant to provide assistance to communities interested in implementing MIDS. This grant provides technical assistance to review and modify local ordinances in collaboration with the City Council, Planning Commission, and city staff. The MSCWMO is proposing to utilize these grant funds to take a comprehensive look at our ordinances

and to provide professional assistance in rewriting certain ordinances to better address stormwater management. It is anticipated that a number of the ordinance changes proposed through the MIDS process will address requirements imposed upon the city via its designation as an MS4 community. Discussion followed on the benefits of implementing the MS4 and MIDS programs simultaneously. It was the consensus of the City Council and Planning Commission to have city staff work with SEH and MSCWMO on the next steps toward implementing these programs.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Kelly to adjourn the workshop at 7:15 p.m.