

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting July 10, 2013

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Andy Weaver, Dave DeVault and Richard Caldecott.

Managers Absent: Victoria Dupre.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Ray Marshall (Legal), Stu Grubb and Carl Almer (EOR), Jessica Collin-Pilarski (Washington County) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Approve July Agenda —Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the July 10, 2013 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approve June 12 and 26, 2013 Minutes—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the June 12, 2013 minutes as presented. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager Polasik moved to approve the June 26, 2013 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager Weaver moved to authorize the Administrator to renew the certificate of deposit. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

a. Permits: Socha Simple Subdivision and Johnson Garage

Administrator Shaver reported that the Socha project is a simple lot split and the Johnson project is a garage in the Bliss Addition.

Manager Weaver moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to approve the Socha and Johnson permits pending the district engineer's review. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Gruber Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the lot has been stabilized with weeds. Boulders for retaining walls will be delivered and must be installed before vegetation can be planted. Mr. Gruber and his contractor know September 5 is the date for completion.

6. Project Status Update

Mr. Almer presented the following:

a. Sand & Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership

The contract has been signed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

b. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership

The Diagnostic Study and Implementation Plan was submitted to the MPCA. Next steps are to respond to MPCA final comments, if any, before paperwork is closed out. Though it is too early to draw conclusions, several residents have reported that the lake is cleaner.

c. Assessment Tool

Phase II is complete. Enhancements could be considered for 2014. Managers suggested having a map at meetings to help with project discussions and implementation decisions.

d. Goose Lake Ravine Stabilization

The as-built survey and shoreland plantings have been completed. Next steps are a final inspection, a punch list of recommendations for board approval and the closeout. Prairie Restoration proposed doing maintenance to control reed canary grass. Administrator Shaver will ask about cost. All agreed that if reed canary grass in the surrounding areas is not being controlled, treatment in the ravine will not be effective.

e. Goose Lake and Loghouse Landings

Phosphorous and suspended solid load reductions were calculated for Goose Lake and cost estimates for three options for Loghouse were refined. Scandia suggested that the two projects be separated. The city intends to make Loghouse landing a full public access. Wayne Ostlie of Great River Greening (GRG) contacted the District about GRG funds for restoration of boat landings in Upper Washington County and suggested a meeting with the District to explore funding for Goose Lake and Loghouse landings. Administrator Shaver will investigate potential funding for water safety vehicle access at Loghouse.

f. Little Carnelian Outlet Pipe Inspection

The inspection report was received yesterday. Any significant findings will be reported next month.

g. 2013 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Reconnaissance

The report, for all but Carol and North Twin lakes, found nothing of concern in the lakes, though all are infested with reed canary on the perimeter.

h. General Engineering

A field investigation on 6th Street to illustrate stormwater BMPs in delineated subwatersheds identified about 12 raingarden and two iron-sand filter locations. These

projects, potential grant funds and joint projects beyond rule requirements, will be discussed at the Marine/CMSCWD workshop in July.

7. Cost Share Report

a. Johnson Project Payment

Manager Polasik moved to approve the cost-share reimbursement of \$598.75 to Jeneen and Ray Johnson. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Review and Approval of Projects: Miles--\$2,500, Virginia Johnson--\$2,500, Berkley-\$2,500

Administrator Shaver stated that because the subcommittee has been unable to meet, he suggested reviewing three projects this evening. Manager Polasik suggested that in the future if there are more than three projects, the subcommittee could meet after the regular meeting to review projects.

Mr. Chesnut presented the three projects.

i. Susan Miles Cost Share

Ms. Miles is applying to convert from turf grass to prairie. She intends to eliminate fertilizer and minimize runoff. Manager Polasik recommended only paying for projects or portions of projects that improve water quality.

Manager Polasik moved to approve the site preparation and seeding prairie grasses for a cost share not to exceed \$612.50. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

ii. Virginia Johnson Cost Share

In 2010 Ms. Johnson applied for and received cost share funds for three raingardens and native plantings on a hillside. In 2012 she requested assistance from the WCD to help with severe erosion and associated problems with the raingardens. The WCD deemed the project beyond its capacity because the boulders, which were not part of the cost-share project design, could fail and would require an engineering solution for stabilization. Ms. Johnson submitted a cost-share application in 2013. A site visit revealed an unplanted gravel hillside, a retaining wall with no erosion control, a channel and a wide, steep gravel driveway that contributes to the runoff. Manager Kronmiller stated that the Johnsons did not complete the 2010 cost-share project as it was designed.

Manager Kronmiller moved to deny cost-share funding to Virginia Johnson and direct the Administrator to begin action directing Ms. Johnson to complete the 2010 cost-share project as originally designed or reimburse the district for cost-share payments. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Shaver will send a letter to Ms. Johnson.

iii. Sarah Buerkley Cost Share

Ms. Buerkley's landscape business is on the on western portion of the watershed. The cost-share project, of two basins and a culvert, is proposed to collect sediment flowing from the site down a gravel road into a ditch along Manning Rd. and into the

Turtle Lake drainage. Manager Polasik stated that this site reflects poor business practices and the site improvement is part of the operating cost of the business. Administrator Shaver stated that he does not think erosion rules are triggered and the District has no regulatory control in this area.

Manager Polasik moved to deny cost-share funding because it is an operational cost of the business. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

c. Review of Heins Project/Potential Joint Project with Scandia

Administrator Shaver reported that Scandia Maintenance Supervisor Tim Keiffer requested that the District consider a cost-share project with the city and a private property owner in the Bliss Addition to alleviate a sedimentation problem draining directly to Big Marine Lake. Mr. Chesnut made a site visit, took elevation shots and talked with the property owner.

Manager Weaver moved to approve a joint cost-share project with the City of Scandia and the Heins not to exceed \$2,000. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.

8. New business

a. Results of Groundwater Study—Stu Grubb

Mr. Grubb presented results of the study prepared for Brown's Creek Watershed District to help with its TMDL for thermal impairment. The study used synoptic water monitoring to look at groundwater changes over time. The study was in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources. The results—changes over time from 2002-2012—show an average decline of about 6.8 feet. The next steps for BCWD to better understand groundwater flow for better management decisions and effective TMDL implementation:

- * Investigate pumping wells
- * Continue synoptic water level measurements
- * Install piezometers in Brown's Creek to measure vertical gradients
- * Dye trace to measure groundwater inflow directly
- * Inventory seepage points

b. Pay Equity Report Approval

Administrator Shaver reported that while doing pay equity research, he discovered that the District had not filed a report as required in 2012.

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the information as listed on the Minnesota Pay Equity System Jurisdiction #2353, 2012 DATA and authorize the Administrator to sign and submit the form to the Minnesota Office of Management and Budget. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Discussion Points

a. 2014 Budget Update

Administrator Shaver and Manager Kronmiller reported on changes made to the budget and noted that the proposed 2014 budget reflects a levy increase of 14% and a budget increase of 10%. Manager Kronmiller recommended that the budget show the cost of the 10 year plan spread over 10 years. Manager Weaver noted that the budget is restorative based on five years of spending down reserves. Mr. Marshall suggested Administrator

Shaver publish the draft budget and stated that the budget can be changed based on public input.

Manager Caldecott moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to publish the budget for the public hearing. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting, August 14th

Administrator Shaver reported that at the annual meeting the board will not need to appoint consultants, but should elect officers. The employee handbook will be completed and there might be bylaw amendments. Manager Kronmiller stated that he will not run for president and he and Administrator Shaver suggested a revolving presidency for two- or three-year terms.

c. Citizens Advisory Committee – Board Social Meeting Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the Kronmiller's will host the gathering on Sunday, July 21 from 3-7 pm. It is a family picnic and consultants are invited.

d. Sand and Long Lakes Association Meeting

A meeting is set for August 28th to review the lake reports and get input on the Clean Water Partner implementation work plan from the residents of the subwatersheds and local governments.

10. Bills to be Paid—Board Action

Manager Tuenge reviewed the bills to be paid.

Manager Tuenge moved to pay bills in the amount of \$31,634.26. Second by Manger Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

11. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

a. Water Levels/Channel Maintenance

Water levels are sufficient in most of the lakes. Little Carnelian is up 4 ½ feet. Two Big Marine Lake residents are concerned about the high water levels and one complained about low water levels. Roger Rydeen is scheduled to remove an obstruction and the wooden bridge—owned by Washington County Parks—near Kelly Farm and the Grunhoffers.

b. St. Croix River Boat Tour

East Metro Water Resources Education Program is cohosting the tour. Scandia Planning Commissioners and City Councilmembers will be represented. Manager Polasik and Administrator Shaver will attend.

c. Variance applications in Scandia and Stillwater Township

A property owner of a small vacation cabin is seeking a variance to install a mound septic system to replace a self-composting toilet. Administrator Shaver recommended an iron-sand mix under the septic system. Manager Polasik noted that to be effective, the iron-sand mix must dry, and while it might be a great option for a vacation home, these homes

often become permanent residences. Administrator Shaver will get more information about project options and costs related to a potential cost share.

- d. **Scandia/CMSCWD Workshop** was held on July 9.
- e. **Budget**
Ms. Collin-Pilarski will convene a meeting with watershed district administrators to discuss consistent reporting of administrative expenses on budgets.
- f. **Interstate Park/River Awareness** was a featured article in the *Country Messenger*.
- g. **MAWD Summer Water Resources Tour** was held on June 20-21.
- h. **Low impact Development Symposium in St. Paul**
Mr. Almer recommended this symposium.
- i. **Manager Caldecott** has agreed to remain on the board until a new manager is appointed.

12. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The July 24th regular meeting has been canceled. The next meeting—the annual meeting and budget meeting—is August 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Scandia Community Center.

Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister
MMC Associates