

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Minutes September 10, 2014**

**Managers Present:** Kristin Tuenge, Steven Kronmiller, Tom Polasik, and Andy Weaver

**Managers Absent:** Victoria Dupre, Dave DeVault and Eric Lindberg

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Ray Marshall & Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Dan Fabian (BWSR), Pam and Michael Smith, Craig Christensen, Lisa Schlingerman, Barbara Booth, Leila Denecke, Ed Summersby and Katherine Lewis (Friends of Log House Landing, Scandia), Debbie Meister (MMC)

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and welcomed the residents in attendance.

**1. Approve Agenda—Board Action**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the September 10, 2014 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2. Approve August 13 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the August 13, 2014 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

**3. Treasurer's Report—Board Action**

Manager Kronmiller presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Manager Polasik moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.**

**4. Public Comments**

**a. Log House Landing**

Pam Smith thanked the District for attending the Scandia City Council workshop. It is important for the City to see how many people are participating. Ms. Smith has talked to several council members who are interested in moving forward with a less impactful alternative. The Friends would like to see a committee with stakeholders, including the City and District, review and vet alternative designs and make recommendations to the City and District Board. The committee will meet evenings or weekends for a short term. Until the City makes a decision, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) cannot be approached to amend the grant. Ms. Smith has gotten preliminary feedback from the DNR and County engineers. Generally the responses are favorable. The biggest issue is Quinnell Avenue, which is part of the landing access but needs to be separated from the LHL project.

Manager Tuenge stated that the main point from the workshop was the best outcome is what everyone can agree to. She also stated that she could not support a project that removes 22 trees and referred to the District Rules adopted in 2010. Mr. Marshall recommended that the city council create the committee and invite the District to

participate. The District Board would need to approve committee recommendations. Mr. Almer stated that if the District is a partner in the project, no District permit is required. He noted that he provided feedback on sedimentation/erosion in his 2012 memo. Manager Weaver stated that the price tag could be reduced by not doing things people don't like and that the District will be focusing on water quality. Managers Kronmiller and Tuenge agreed to serve on a committee, if one is formed. They will attend the city council meeting. Mr. Fabian responded that there is precedence for Districts to participate in such a committee and thinks it is a good idea. Manager Polasik stated that he might be willing to participate on the committee as a member of the St. Croix River Association and recommended that Tom Triplet be asked to participate on behalf of the Association.

## 5. New Business

### a. Permit Requests

Administrator Shaver reported that a lot of the permits have been closed and the permit status report is in a new and improved format.

**Manager Tuenge moved to issue permits 14-009 and 14-010 subject to the engineer's review. Second by Manager Kronmiller. Motion carried 4-0.**

### b. Invitation to Move Office

Manager Tuenge reported that the District received a letter from the WCD inviting the District to office in the WCD facility. Comments included: the rent is not substantially less and the office is too far outside the District. **Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize the Administrator to draft a letter for the President's signature to thank the WCD but decline the offer in favor of maintaining an office within the District. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

### c. Cost Share

#### i. Ubell-\$2500

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve a District cost share contribution not to exceed \$2,500 for a shoreline buffer project with David and Lori Ubell. Second by Manager by Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### ii. Lee - \$8,894 Subject to Receipt of Bid

Mr. Chesnut reported that this is a proposal to convert 4.6 acres of agriculture land to prairie on the shores of Hay Lake. The landowner is getting bids for installation per the District's request. Managers recommended a diverse, high quality seed mix with local genotypes and acknowledged that this type of mix is more expensive.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve a District cost share contribution from the TMDL impaired lakes budget line item not to exceed \$8,900 or one half of a bid amount to be determined for a prairie buffer for Dan Lee. Second by Manager by Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### iii. Keller Prairie

Mr. Chesnut presented the Keller cost share request to convert turf grass to prairie on the Arcola Trail that drains to Arcola Creek and then to the St. Croix River. The

applicant wants to implement the project this fall and has received clean water funds for 50% of the cost. The request to the District is for one-fourth the cost. Jason Husveth is the contractor.

**Manager Polasik moved to approve the Keller cost share not to exceed \$1,860. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.**

**d. BWSR Grant Applications**

Administrator Shaver reported that he instructed the WCD and EOR staff to improve the TMDL and the Marine stormwater project grant applications for resubmission. Due to the scheduled county roadwork, Mr. Fabian recommended the Marine project be discussed as a Phase 1 project with mention of future partners and actions in Phase 2. Both applications should tie into the District priority areas and Management Plan.

**Manager Weaver moved to authorize the Administrator to prepare and submit grants to BWSR for TMDL implementation projects and Marine stormwater projects. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

**e. Willow Brook Stream Management Plan**

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mr. Almer toured the area this summer per a request from several Croixside residents wanting help with stream improvements. Willow Brook is a designated trout stream with a two-square mile drainage area. EOR's scope of work recognizes that something in the geomorphology has changed. The work plan proposes to identify sediment sources and capital improvement projects.

Administrator Shaver clarified that there is a line item for focused watershed management assessments in the District Plan and Willow Brook qualifies for this. Completing the scope of work will result in a concept plan. Stakeholder coordination would include identifying cost share projects. Manager Polasik recommended looking at changes in forest habitat. Managers discussed other funding sources such as the Conservation Partners and the DNR's trout habitat improvement program.

**Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the plan not to exceed \$10,250 to prepare the Willow Brook Stream Management Plan. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

Mr. Fabian suggested discussing adding Willow Brook to the updated Management Plan. Administrator Shaver added that triggers would need to be identified to qualify Willow Book for the focused area.

**f. Square Lake Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Request**

Manager Tuenge presented the Square Lake Association's request for AIS funding. Manager Kronmiller noted that the District is in the second year of a three-year stocking moratorium and asked if this funding would impact the study.

**Manager Kronmiller moved to provide funding for AIS monitoring and signage for Square Lake not to exceed \$3,000. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

**8. Old Business**

**a. Approval of Budget and Levy**

Administrator Shaver reported that he responded to Mr. Palzar's letter by sending the spreadsheet showing District budget reductions over the last five years. Reductions have been accomplished through using reserve funds. He and Manager Kronmiller have been working on budget reserve issues and recommended waiting for final carryover numbers before a final budget is adopted. Mr. Marshall noted that the District cannot issue bonds, though Washington County can on behalf of the District. In the past, auditors recommended special purpose districts have one full year of anticipated expenses in reserve. It is not clear what auditors are recommending now. Administrator Shaver stated that if the District were asked to commit funds to an LHL-type project, this would have required a large increase in the levy without a reserve fund. A reserve allows partnering with local governments on their schedule.

Discussion included: what level of reserve is adequate; does this budget make sense and if it does then approve it and work to find the funds; be ready with a letter to the local papers explaining the budget as a restorative budget and strive for a full board to discuss and finalize the budget in December.

**Manager Polasik moved to approve Resolution 9-10-14-1 to adopt a 2015 Operating and Capital Budget totaling \$679,085. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution 9-10-14-2 to adopt a levy request to Washington County of \$503,085. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.**

## **9. Reports**

**a. Operations** - none

**b. Education/Communications/Outreach**

- Website—Administrator Shaver highlighted the updated website including the cost share map.

**c. Monitoring**—Byron will present a monitoring report on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Research Rendezvous.

**d. Maintenance**- none

**e. Permitting**—see item 5a

**f. Projects**

- **197<sup>th</sup> Street Ravine** —A public hearing, required by BWSR, is scheduled for Monday, September 22 to take comments on the project. Manager Tuenge will attend.
- **Marine Stormwater** —see item 5d
- **Sand/Long Implementation**—Administrator Shaver reported that he requested access to a property for the sand-iron filter project, but has not received a response.

Although the District has the right of access, Administrator Shaver will try to get permission.

- **Plan Amendment**—A revised schedule was provided. Mary Peterson (BWSR) suggested convening the Technical Advisory Committee prior to sending the draft plan to BSWR for the 60-day review. The draft should be ready for submittal in November. Washington County is developing an AIS plan template that will be helpful for the District plan.

**g. Water Levels**—Administrator Shaver reported that the level of the St. Croix River had increased dramatically and was running very fast.

#### **8. Bills to be Paid—Board Action**

**Manager Polasik moved bills to be paid in the amount of \$47,533.82. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **9. Administrator's Report**

- a. Beaver Baffler**— An MCC crew helped install the baffler that had been previously approved in the Sand Lake watershed on a channel flowing from Scandia to Sand Lake.
- b. Ditch in Marine**—Administrator Shaver met with Jason Crody, Marine maintenance manager to discuss ditch maintenance.
- c. Bliss Channel**—Administrator Shaver reported that he surveyed lakes to assess the number of potential channels the District could be asked to maintain. He found about four or five including one each on the northern portion of Big Marine Lake (Tii Gavo is required to maintain the channel), Goose and Little Carnelian Lakes. Manager Weaver stated that if the District is going to maintain channels, we should change our mission. Mr. Fabian added that currently dredging to improve navigation is not in the District plan.

#### **10. Next Meetings**

The next regular meeting is October 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall, 14727 209<sup>th</sup> Street N. A Board workshop is September 24 at 5:30 p.m. at EOR, 651 Hale Avenue N, Oakdale.

#### **11. Adjourn—Board Action**

**Manager Polasik moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Seconded by Manager Kronmiller. Motion carried 4-0.**

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates