

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting October 9, 2013**

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Steve Kronmiller, Eric Lindberg, Thomas Polasik, Andy Weaver and Dave DeVault.

Managers Absent: Victoria Dupre.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall and Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Stephanie Souter (Washington County), Todd Shoemaker (Wenck) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Approve October Agenda—Board Action

Manager Weaver moved to approve the October 9, 2013 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Introduction and Oath of Office—New Manager Eric Lindberg

Eric Lindberg introduced himself. He lives in Stillwater Township, works in real estate and is doing land management on the side. He has a degree in biology and is pursuing a master's in wildlife management. Manager Tuenge administered the oath of office.

3. Approve September Minutes—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved approval of the September 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0-1.

4. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Kronmiller moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violation

a. Joseph Matt Permit/Violation on Big Marine Lake

The Matts filed an incomplete District permit in July to build an accessory structure.

They received a variance from Scandia contingent on receiving a District permit.

Construction, within the high water mark, commenced and has been red tagged by Scandia. Scandia will revoke the variance if District and County permits are not obtained within the month.

b. Rustad Permit/Violation on Little Carnelian Lake

Administrator Shaver reported that he received complaints about construction on the Rustad property. He, Dennis O'Donnell (Washington County) and Mr. Chesnut made a

site visit and determined that the construction of a series of patios down to the lake requires a District permit. Administrator Shaver informed the Rustads about the needed permit and erosion control.

c. Gombold Violation

Mr. Marshall reported lack of progress on the Gombold property. The Township has asked the Gombolds to repair damage to slopes in the Town right-of way. May will be pursuing legal action and welcomes the District's participation. The District may need to pursue actions separately.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize Administrator Shaver and Mr. Marshall to pursue actions on the Gombold permit including working with May Township. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

d. Gruber Violation

Mr. Marshall reported that the attorney for May Township is not familiar with this property being in violation, but stated May is willing to cooperate with the District, possibly through building inspections. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will discuss this with Mayor Voedisch and he and Mr. Marshall will continue to work on this with the Township.

7. Project Status Update

a. Engineer's Report

Mr. Almer reported that the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provided minor comments on the Sand & Long Lakes implementation work plan. He will address the MPCA's comments and submit the revised work plan this week. Next month the District macrophyte survey results will be presented.

b. Other Projects— NPS Ravine, 197th St. Ravine

i. National Park Service (NPS) Ravine

The project is on hold until after the federal shutdown.

ii. Marine on St. Croix Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that Marine has proposed a process for implementing its comprehensive stormwater management plan and receiving approval on its water management plan. Administrator Shaver suggested to Marine's consultant that it might be best to separate the two plans and work with the District on a joint stormwater implementation grant proposal.

iii. 197th Street Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that he, Managers Tuenge and DeVault, and Mr. Shoemaker met with neighbors and presented two project options. Option 1 is on private property, requiring temporary work and permanent maintenance easements, which increase the cost of the project. Option 2 is on Scandia property, which facilitates the city's maintenance of the pipe and is Scandia's preferred option. The neighbors were supportive, but were concerned about the impacts—tree loss and land disturbance—and would like to better understand the solutions and recommendations.

Manager Polaski moved to authorize Mr. Marshall to talk to property owners about providing easements. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager DeVault moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to work with Wenck to review and clarify the cost estimates for Option 2. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

8. Cost Share Report

a. Susan Miles Reimbursement

Manager DeVault moved to approve the Susan Miles cost share reimbursement of \$612.50 contingent on receiving the project maintenance agreement. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Lois Coray Application

Mr. Chesnut presented the Coray cost share application for creation of a 1.25-acre native prairie. The project will add a contiguous habitat strip to the native buffer planted in 2010 and will receive runoff from an adjacent property, but will not provide additional water quality benefit. Discussion included: with the new management plan amendment there is the opportunity to add habitat to the cost share program; the District had, but discontinued, a \$500 plant grant; the proposed prairie lacks plant diversity; the project does not provide water quality benefits, is not in a visible area or adjacent to a water body.

Manager DeVault moved to deny the Coray cost share request because it does not improve water quality. Second by Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

c. Michelle Mahnke Project

Mr. Chesnut presented an erosion control project on a steep sloped property to prevent runoff into a high quality wetland and a City of Scandia stormwater swale that flows into Big Marine Lake. The project is expensive because of the steep slopes and erodible soils. Discussion focused on a District option to contribute more to the cost-share project because of the scope and quantity of the discharge, the precedent set with the Van Hoose project, the owner's interest in diverting more city runoff into the channel, the financial burden to the homeowner and the benefit to Scandia. It was noted that the project results in only a small amount of phosphorus reduction—.45 pounds/year. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver and Mr. Chesnut will talk further with the Mahnkes and with Scandia about contributing to the project.

9. New Business

a. Zavoral Mine

Administrator Shaver reported that there were two significant rain events this month. Reports covering these events have not been received yet, though four reports have been received to date and erosion control biologists were in place before the rain. Dr. Zavoral requested that the water monitoring station below his driveway be moved upstream because he is concerned about the number of people visiting his property. WCD responded that Dr. Zavoral needs to discuss this with Scandia, because the conditional

permit issued by the city requires monitoring at the baseline site.

b. Fairy Falls Concept Plan to NPS

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager Polasik met with NPS representative Jill Medland about erosion at Fairy Falls and how to proceed. Although a 2004 District report identified the need to address the erosion, nothing has been done. An initial design might help start the process.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize EOR to draft a concept design not to exceed \$2,000. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.

10. Discussion Points

a. Future Meeting Calendar

The regular meeting dates and manager attendance were discussed. It was agreed to change the February meeting to the 19th.

b. Administrator Time Use

Administrator Shaver reported that he started keeping track of his time usage, finding that 38 percent is administrative and 62 percent is planning and implementation. On the budget submitted to the County, the estimate used was 50-50. Manager Tuenge noted that Ms. Souter gave a great budget presentation to the County Board on behalf of the watershed districts, as did WCD staff.

11. Bills to be Paid

Manager Kronmiller presented the current bills.

Manager Polasik moved to pay bills in the amount of \$34,326.43. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

a. Clean Water Summit

A good conference with a good session about education programs accountability.

b. Meeting with Washington County Highway Department

A good meeting affording the opportunity to discuss joint projects and the need for District permits.

c. TMDL Meeting in St. Croix Falls—monitoring BMPs.

d St. Croix River Research Rendezvous —October 15.

e. Metro MAWD—Administrator Shaver will attend the meeting on October 15.

f. MN Water Resource Conference —October 15 and 16 in St. Paul.

**g. BMP Maintenance Web Tool Workshop—October 18 at the WCD office.
Manager Kronmiller plans to attend.**

h. BWSR Academy — October 28-30.

i. MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show— December 5-7 in Alexandria.

j. Hard copy of Management Plan

New managers and CAC members upon request will receive a hard copy of the plan.

13. Old Business

a. Assessment tool

Mr. Almer demonstrated the features of the assessment tool. Based on the 2010 aerial survey, the tool provides water resource information down to every basin with over one acre of surface area. Information includes the major subwatersheds and the subwatersheds with potential nutrient and sediment loadings and ecological sensitivity ratings. An overview of the data can be downloaded from Google Earth and the Managers can download the entire tool from EOR's website. Eventually the tool will be on the District website. Managers suggested having the tool available when cost share and other decisions are being made. Mr. Almer will provide a key and conduct a workshop after managers have had the opportunity to test the tool.

14. Next Meeting--Wednesday, November 13, 2013

The October 23rd meeting was canceled.

15. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP