

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting June 11, 2014**

**Managers Present:** Kristin Tuenge, Dave DeVault, Eric Lindberg and Steve Kronmiller

**Managers Absent:** Victoria Dupre, Andy Weaver and Thomas Polasik

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Lawson Law), Cindy and Harold Johnson, Craig and Sue Wilcox, Paul Johnson and Robert Peterson (Marine on St. Croix), Lisa Schlingerman and Craig Christensen (Scandia) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

**1. Approve Agenda —Board Action**

**Manager DeVault moved to approve the June 11, 2014 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2. Approve May 14 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager DeVault moved to approve the May 14, 2014 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 3-0-1 with Manager Kronmiller abstaining.**

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

Manager Kronmiller presented the Treasurer’s Report.

**Manager Lindberg moved approval of the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

**4. Public Comments**

**a. Channel Maintenance—Bliss Addition**

Residents in the Bliss Addition attended to address the Board on channel maintenance. Cindy Johnson stated that the District assumed responsibility for maintenance in the 1990s. This is an important fish spawning area. Because of the unusually high water level the channel is navigable now. Sue Wilcox felt that four years ago the District promised to keep the channel clean. (This would need verification by a review of those minutes) She suggested restoring the vegetation. Paula Johnson noted that there are bass tournaments, so it is more than just residents using the lake. Manager Tuenge questioned whether this fits into the District’s mission. Manager Kronmiller noted that the channel slopes are very narrow. With the last dredging, the District intended to figure the original slopes and depth. Manager Kronmiller also stated that he doesn’t want any lake to become stagnant and would like to see water flowing from the channel to the lake to ensure good water quality. This is channel maintenance and it fits with the District’s mission. Administrator Shaver reported that he tried to determine the why the District assumed responsibility for the maintenance by interviewing the Johnsons, Dan Fabian (former District engineer) Molly Shodeen (Department of Natural Resources (DNR)) and Lynn Steiner (former Manager). He determined that lake resident Mr. Miller originally held the DNR permit to dredge. For an undetermined reason the District assumed the permit in 1991. Harold

Johnson noted that illegal dumping of sand into the lagoon caused the sediment problem. Shaver noted that the DNR opted not to pursue the matter at that time and again in 2010 and the District agreed. Several residents stated that this is a natural channel. It was agreed that Ms. Meister will review the 2010 minutes to find the discussion/decisions about the maintenance and Administrator Shaver will provide interpretation of how the maintenance fits with goals, objectives and other maintenance work in the District.

**b. Log House Landing**

Craig Christensen stated that he read about the proposed project and grant and tried to get more information from Scandia about how the project will impact the neighborhood. It is an exorbitant amount of money for a 1400-foot road. Mr. Christensen suggested controlling the runoff from the current road and not widening it. As a volunteer stream monitor of Gilbertson Stream, he noted that the transparency (2013 data) is 100 cm, which is better than the three other District streams. This might indicate that the stormwater runoff issue is being overplayed. He further stated that he is not against plans to improve the road, but opposes the scope. Widening the road will require cutting down a number of pine trees that are 150-200 feet tall. Those trees are mitigating runoff and shading the trout stream. He also questioned the efficacy of the proposed infiltration sites, considering one site is wet all year. Manager Tuenge responded that the District is a partner in the project. The District's role is erosion and stormwater management. A further goal is to foster a working relationship with the city. Manager Kronmiller acknowledged that while the District can suggest limiting the pervious surface, it cannot stop the city from widening the road.

Lisa Schlingerman asked about DNR criteria for the project. Administrator Shaver responded that a DNR permit is required and the District will be asked for comments. He added that the National Park Service (NPS) is potentially a project partner. Scandia, the District and possibly the NPS are holding a joint workshop on July 2 at 6:30 p.m. Issues the District will put forth are: the environmentally sensitive and historically significant nature of the area and recommendations to reduce impervious surfaces, preserve the old-growth trees and reduce sediment-nutrient loads especially from the gravel. Mr. Almer noted that he is researching least obstructive ways to manage the road.

**5. New Business**

**a. Oath of Office**

Manager Lindberg took the oath of office.

**b. Lonnie Holmgren Cost Share Proposal—Board Action**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to approve Lonnie Holmgren's request to participate in the District's Buffer Grant Program. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

**c. Arcola Mills**

Mr. Marshall reported that expanded cultivation on the Rydeen Farm in Stillwater Township might be compromising the gravity pipe that is on the property and crosses Hwy 95. As he recalls, requirements of the project were to not cultivate over the pipe and

provide a buffer strip. Mr. Almer will review the original plans and easement requirements.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Surety Returns—Board Action

**Manager Kronmiller moved to return the following sureties: Permits 06-006, 06-011, 06-015, 04-016, 03-007, 01-021, 04-038, 03-012, 03-020, 02-059, 03-018, 02-002, 06-003 as requested as of May 31, 2014. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

### b. National Park Service Ravine in Stillwater Township—Board Action

**Manager DeVault moved to proceed with the ravine construction project on NPS land in Stillwater Township as per the plans, specifications and budget prepared by Washington Conservation District. Second by Manager Kronmiller. Motion carried 4-0.**

Administrator Shaver reported that construction will be done by MN Conservation Corp (MCC) the second week in July.

### c. 2013 Annual Report—Board Action

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the 2013 Annual Report as amended and distribute it to state agencies and local and regional governments. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 3-0-1 with Manager Kronmiller abstaining.**

### d. Salt and Pepper Cover Crop Contract Revision—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that since approval of this project and following the completion of the first season of cover crop, the owners want to transition to certified organic farming, which takes four years. Instead of a cover crop, the owners want to plant hay and either graze the land or cut the hay in summer. The hay would serve as a perennial crop. The revised request is for the District to pay for the hayseed this year and infill as needed. Manager discussion included: this more than fulfills the intent of the original contract to reduce phosphorous by preventing erosion, however, it changes the intent of the program to demonstrate the viability of cover crops; overall the cost would be less; the District funded a similar project on Carnelian Creek; this will help the District understand the potential of organic farming, which could serve as a model project.

**Manager Tuenge moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to revise the contract to support a year-round crop as a transition to organic farming with the overall intent of reducing phosphorous and retaining nutrients without using herbicides. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

## 7. Reports

### a. Operations

#### ▪ Summer Intern

Administrator Shaver reported that Roseland Nelson of Scandia is interested in serving as an intern. An initial project is to scan the permit file.

**Manager DeVault moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to hire an intern on a week-by-week basis at \$10/hour. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.**

**b. Education/Communications/Outreach**

▪ **Website**

Administrator Shaver presented draft redesigns and asked for comments.

**c. Monitoring**

Brian Karns will lead a monitoring workshop on June 25th.

**d. Cost Share**

▪ **Committee Update**

Mr. Chesnut reported that the committee did not meet this month, there were no applications and the committee will meet to draft changes to the program.

▪ **Kiwanis Scout Camp**

Administrator Shaver reported that he, Jed Chesnut, and Angie Hong met with Dave Denn to propose the building of a rain garden with the scouts on Camp Kawanis in a highly visible location for water quality and education purposes.

▪ **Willow Brook**

Administrator Shaver reported that he has been talking with residents in the area. Residents are concerned with the impact Hwy 95 could have on the stream and have asked for a restoration plan. This could be a Cost Share project. Mr. Almer stated that sand is eroding from the road, the sump in the catchbasin needs cleaning and is below standard and the MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has elevated road repair to a higher status. Mr. Almer also stated that he is not sure the road is the problem and an assessment should include an upstream survey and profile.

**e. Maintenance**

▪ **130<sup>th</sup> St. Lane and Ozark Trail**

Administrator Shaver reported that the District and May Township hired MCC for maintenance work along Ozark Trail and Carnelian Creek.

**f. Projects**

▪ **Goose Lake Ravine**

Administrator Shaver reported that Kevin Biehm (EOR) conducted the project inspection noting dead trees and a small drainage issue. Roger Rydeen will regrade the area and replace the trees. The project closeout should take place next month. Administrator Shaver and Mr. Chesnut are assessing other properties for restoration projects.

▪ **197<sup>th</sup> St. Ravine**

Administrator Shaver reported that Wenck has prepared legal descriptions for the temporary and permanent easements. He asked Wenck for a cost estimate of a computer-generated image of the tree loss.

- **Marine Stormwater**

Mr. Shaver reported that Marine on St. Croix is interested in pursuing a BWSR grant and asked the city to prioritize potential projects.

- **Plan Amendment**

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Sonya Carel and Carl Almer (EOR). Ms. Carel is working on the draft plan amendment.

- **133<sup>rd</sup> St. May Township**

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with James Landini (WCD) to discuss concept ideas for an infiltration basin to address the road erosion. Mr. Landini has made some inroads with a property owner on an easement that would be held by May Township. The project is in the 2014 budget.

**h. Water Levels**

Administrator Shaver reported that Little Carnelian Lake is up 6 ½ feet this year, Big Marine Lake is 4 inches over the weir, all logs are out at the Turtle Lake Weir and the system is flowing.

**i. Other Issues**

- Manager Kronmiller noted two potential violations on the pond on the east side of Norell south of the railroad tracks. Administrator Shaver will investigate.
- Administrator Shaver noted that Joe Matt on the east bay of Big Marine Lake needs an after-the-fact variance for buffers.
- Manager Kronmiller reported that Scandia cut down every tree in the right-of-way on 188<sup>th</sup> St. because of visibility around the road. He suggested the city revegetate.

**8. Bills to be Paid—Board Action**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to pay bills in the amount of \$24,397.82. Second by DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

**9. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported:

**a. 17 Springs**

Property owner Tim Pabst met with Shaver and the DNR about making his trout ponds more productive.

**b. Mill Stream Day**

Enviroscape was a hit at the event.

**c. Scandia Wetlands**

Tim Keefer asked about lowering water levels in several wetlands where the high water is threatening the integrity of city roads. Shaver will tour the sites with Engineer Almer

**d. Salt & Pepper Farm Cover Crop Workshop, June 10**

e. **Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts** Summer Tour, June 18-20.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is a workshop on June 25. The next regular meeting is July 9 at 6:30 p.m.

**11. Adjourn**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister