

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular and Annual Meetings August 14, 2013**

Managers Present: Steven Kronmiller, Thomas Polasik, Kristin Tuenge, Richard Caldecott and Andy Weaver.

Managers Absent: Dave DeVault and Victoria Dupre.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Sheila-Marie Untiedt (Stillwater Township), Eric Lindberg (resident), Stephanie Souter (Washington County) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

1. Approve August 14 Agenda—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to approve the August 14, 2013 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approve July 10 Minutes—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the July 10, 2013 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. 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 Caldecott. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violations

a. P-13005 Johnson Garage Application Cancellation and Return Fees

Administrator Shaver reported that upon review of the application for a garage in the Bliss Addition it was determined that the permit was not required. The Johnsons are removing enough impervious surface to counteract the garage. The permit fees will be returned.

b. Nature's Gate Subdivision Permit Approval—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that Dan Fabian (EOR) recommended permit approval with stipulations.

Manager Caldecott moved to approve permit #P13-004 Nature's Gate Subdivision with the stipulations noted in the Engineer's memo dated July 26, 2013. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Project Status Update

a. Engineer's Report

Mr. Almer reported the following:

i. Sand & Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership Implementation

The work plan is being drafted and will be posted on the District Web site.

ii. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership

Early results look promising with big Daphnia present in large numbers and clear water. Administrator Shaver noted that the county added plants and provided maintenance in the demonstration rain garden. The District is considering adding more plants in the garden.

iii. Assessment Tool

A demonstration is being planned for the September meeting.

iv. Cost-Share Implementation Assistance

A swale design for enhanced drainage at Bliss Addition was prepared.

v. Impaired Management Project Assistance

A site meeting with Great River Greening explored funding opportunities for Goose Lake and Loghouse Landings.

vi. 2013 AIS Reconnaissance

The multiple lake survey was completed. The second macrophyte survey of Carol and North Twin Lakes will be completed in August.

vii. General Engineering

Following a meeting with the Marine Planning Commission and Council, the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) was revised. The Council agreed to move forward and asked legal counsel to review the draft MOU.

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

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

i. 197th St. Ravine

Per Board instruction to move forward with the project, Administrator Shaver had Wenck do additional survey work to answer National Park Service (NPS) questions about impacted areas at the base of the ravine, no net loss of wetlands and trees for removal. The survey work will be part of the final project design.

Manager Weaver moved to approve paying Wenck Associates \$4,500 for design work on the 197th St. ravine project. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.

ii. NPS Ravine

Administrator Shaver submitted a request to the NPS for participation in the ravine project in Stillwater Township. Local NPS staff are excited, but must circulate the request to regional offices. Approval is not expected until next year.

iii. Kiwanis Scout Camp

Mr. Almer and Administrator Shaver, on a site visit, discussed potential stormwater retrofits paired with an EMWREP educational session(s).

iv. Fairy Falls

Manager Polasik suggested doing restoration projects at Fairy Falls and organizing a tour with Stillwater Township of potential sites.

Manager Polasik moved to temporarily adjourn the Regular Meeting. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried. 5-0.

7. Public Meeting and Annual Meeting

Manager Kronmiller opened the Public and Annual Meetings at 7:10 p.m.

a. Approve Agenda

Manager Polasik moved to approve the agenda. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Approve New Sub Contractor/Consultant Appointments

i. Auditor—Tautges-Redpath Engagement Letter

Administrator Shaver stated that at last year's annual meeting, Tautges was selected as the auditor for a cost of \$10,050 compared to the previous auditor's bid of \$4,500. Although the cost was significantly higher, Tautges did a great job and met deadlines. Options for lowering audit costs next year are contracting with the auditor Brown's Creek Watershed District used and/or working with the County and watershed districts to pursue a joint watershed district contract.

Manager Tueges moved to contract with Tautges-Redpath for the 2013 audit. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Election of Officers—Executive Committee Report

Manager Kronmiller stated that he has served, as president for five years, but with current time commitments is no longer able to do so. The Executive Committee met on Monday for the Nominating Committee. Discussion included adding a vice president, the pros and cons of having a revolving position for president, the difficulty watershed districts have finding managers and Manager Tuenge's willingness to serve as president, but only for two years.

Manager Kronmiller moved to nominate Manager Tuenge to serve as President. Second by Manager Polasik. Manager Caldecott moved to close nominations. Second by Manager Kronmiller. Motion Carried. 5-0. The vote to elect Manager Tuenge as president then carried 5-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to nominate Manager Kronmiller to serve as Secretary/Treasurer on a temporary basis. Second by Manager Polasik. Manager Caldecott moved to close nominations. Second by Polasik. Motion carried 5-0. The vote to elect Manager Kronmiller as Secretary/Treasurer carried 5-0.

d. Budget Presentation and Public Meeting

Manager Kronmiller stated that the District received comments about the draft budget, the District plan identifies budget items, he will push for a plan amendment to reflect newly identified projects, the Board will take further public comments and then act on the budget and levy. Administrator Shaver stated that the Board often waits until the September meeting to adopt a final budget. He noted that the 14% levy increase is restorative. The levy from 2008-2013 has decreased or stayed the same, except in the merger year. For example, the 2009 levy was 8.6% lower than in 2008 and the 2011 was 3.8% lower than 2010. The proposed projects address water quality and there is a possibility to leverage \$60,000 in Clean Water Grant funds for the Goose Lake Landing project, which would affect the budget total but not the levy. On October 8 there is a meeting with watershed districts and the County Board to review district budgets. Ms. Untiedt stated that her constituents do not know about the watershed district or what it does. She believes the District spends money wisely, but suggested improved public education and outreach, such as meeting with cooperating boards, tabling at events, getting testimonials, investing in high quality waters and using You-Tube. Manager Caldecott suggested that the CAC be changed to the Citizens Advisory and Advocacy Committee (CAAC) to include advocating for District projects. Manager Tuenge stated that Goose Lake residents support water quality projects and four property owners sent letters of support. It was agreed that the District will continue to take public comments and adopt a budget in September.

Manager Kronmiller moved to close the Public Meeting and adjourn the Annual Meeting. Second by Manager Weaver. The motion carried 5-0.

8. Continue Regular Meeting

Manager Tuenge took over chairing the meeting.

9. Cost Share Program Update

a. Kuhar Application—Board Action

Mr. Chesnut reported that since the last meeting, one cost share application was received. Ms. Kuhar, provided a letter outlining her landscaping goals. One of her landscaping projects has been completed because of erosion. The other—Project A—is proposed to add native prairie and help reduce pollutants downstream. Mr. Chesnut estimated the load reduction and noted the property is highly visible as a demonstration project.

Manager Weaver moved to support Project A—the uncompleted project—for a cost share of \$2,500. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Chesnut will send a letter to Ms. Kuhar.

10. New Business

a. Randall Simonson Beaver Baffler—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that Mr. Simonson has been managing beavers on his property for three to four years, but despite his efforts the channel is still blocked. He suggested the District remove the dam and install a baffler.

Manager Kronmiller moved to fund the removal of the beaver dam and install a beaver baffler for a cost not to exceed \$2,000 from the 2013 Channel Maintenance line item. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Purple Loosestrife

Manager Polasik moved to direct the Administrator to investigate contracting for propagation and distribution of beetles to eradicate purple loosestrife. Second by Manager Kronmiller. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Jed Chesnut Potential Conflict of Interest

Mr. Marshall reported that, per Administrator Shaver's request, he reviewed Mr. Chesnut's letter about a potential conflict of interest. This is a potential issue for all managers and elected officials. While this is a potential conflict of interest, it is not a conflict of interest. The potential conflict has been disclosed and acknowledged. No further action is needed.

11. Old/Other Business

a. Outlet Pipe Inspection Report—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that although Mr. Fabian reviewed the report, the report was missing the inspection information for a portion of the pipe.

Manager Polasik moved to approve payment to Visu-Sewer in the amount of \$11,811.89 for the video inspection of the outlet contingent on the Engineer's review of the updated report. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

b. May Township Local Water Plan Extension Comments

Administrator Shaver reported that the District has not received the Township's final draft plan and will request an extension from the Metropolitan Council to submit comments.

12. Discussion Points

a. Goose Lake Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that the plants are filling in nicely, making a maintenance contract unnecessary, at this time.

b. County Groundwater Plan

Ms. Souter reported that the Groundwater Plan will be presented to County Board, hopefully, in late September. The County is seeking comments from the Technical Advisory Committee and local governments.

13. Bills to Be Paid

Manager Caldecott moved to pay bills in the amount of \$64,782.83. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0. It was noted that check number 6446 was deleted from the total.

14. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

a. New Manager

Mr. Lindberg was introduced. He was highly recommended by Stillwater Township for appointment to the District Board to replace long-serving Manager Caldecott. The appointment is expected by next month.

b. Low Impact Development Symposium

The symposium is the week of August 19. Administrator Shaver and Mr. Almer will attend.

c. Clean Water Summit

Sponsored by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the summit will be held at the Arboretum on September 12-13.

15. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting is Monday, September 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Scandia Community Center.

Manager Weaver moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP