

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting September 10, 2012**

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, John Lennes, Kristin Tuenge and Richard Caldecott.

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

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Jay Hill (resident) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Approve September Agenda—Board Action.

Manager Lennes moved to approve the August 13, 2012 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve August Minutes—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the August 13, 2012 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Treasurer's Report and Bills to be Paid—Board Action

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report and the bills to be paid.

Manager Lennes moved to approve the August 31, 2012 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Lennes moved to approve the September bills to be paid in the amount of \$28,567.69, with the payments to Roland Dant and Bonita McKinney of \$1,000 for an easement and Peterson Excavating for \$4,300 being conditional on later discussion and approval. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrator Shaver clarified that the treasurer's reports and bills will be reported on a month-to-month basis from now on instead of a meeting-to-meeting basis.

4. Project Status Update

a. Goose Lake Review

i. Approval of Dant/McKinney Easement of \$1,000—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that Mr. Dant and Ms. McKinney agreed to an easement of \$1000, which is conditional on the issuance of a Scandia permit in about two weeks. **Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Dant/McKinney easement of \$1,000 on the condition that the rest of the project is approved and moves forward. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 4-0.**

ii. Motion to Proceed with Bidding—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller reported, and Manager Tuenge concurred, that residents

attending the community meeting two weeks ago asked good questions, were generally receptive to the project and were pleased to hear they would not be assessed for the project. Administrator Shaver stated that to be able to go out for bid to keep the project moving forward, the plans and specifications need to be approved. **Manager Lennes moved to approve and accept the plans and specifications with authorization to the District administrator and engineer to amend the project to exclude work on the Goodyear property, if necessary, and send the project out for bid. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.**

b. Sand-Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership Comment/Final Draft Approval

Mr. Almer reported that the comments from the MN Pollution Control Agency were all minor in nature and District responses clarified copper sulfate education and added general implementation language on septic systems (SSTS), which leaves the window open for grant submittals. **Manager Tuenge moved to approve the final draft document with the suggested changes. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 3-1.**

Mr. Almer suggested preparing to submit an application for Clean Water Partnership Phase II Implementation funding this fall.

5. Budget Approval—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that after the public meeting, he and Managers Tuenge, Caldecott and Kronmiller met to incorporate the budget changes discussed at the public meeting on August 13. Total expenses are still slightly less than in 2012 and the end-of-year projected reserve will be \$100,000-\$110,000, an amount that is recommended in District planning documents.

Manager Lennes moved to adopt Resolution 9-10-12-01 to adopt a capital budget of \$566,700 for 2013. Second by Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Lennes moved to adopt Resolution 9-10-12-02 to adopt a 2013 levy of \$407,000. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violations

Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize the administrator to issue Permit 12-008 to the Varhallas pending review and revised plans addressing the District engineer's recommendations. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Almer noted he is reviewing the BTG and BGT-II Mining Operations conditional use permit application to Washington County for consistency with the District permit. Manager Kronmiller reported that Joseph Matt of Big Marine Lake tore down a shack and Scandia issued a cease and desist order.

8. Project Status Update

a. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership

Mr. Almer reported that a revised memo of understanding and monitoring plan was submitted to the DNR. The DNR will host an Open House on September 20. Administrator Shaver will send a notice about this to the Managers and Dean Tharpe will notify homeowners. The DNR will not stock trout this fall in Square Lake and homeowners still support the stocking moratorium.

b. Watershed Assessment Tool

Mr. Almer reported that he will complete culvert survey work in late fall and Scandia will assist with this.

c. Grant Opportunities

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mr. Almer plan to update and resubmit a Clean Water Legacy grant to fund the 197th Street reconstruction project. WCD will be submitting a matching grant application for impaired waters BMPs.

9. Cost Share Program Update

a. Vets Camp Shoreline Management Plan

Administrator Shaver introduced Jed Chesnut, the new WCD Wetland/Natural Resource Specialist working with the BMP Program and administering the Wetland Conservation Act. He and Mr. Chesnut, at a property owner's request, visited the Vets Camp and reviewed the Camp's permit and shoreland management plan. The property owner would like to remove vegetation on the bluff line within the management area to open up a view of the lake. Issues discussed included conditions of the Camp's permit require that a buffer zone be established and vegetation be retained unless it is exotic species; individual property owners should not be contacting the District directly; the intent of the permit is to control erosion by controlling access points to the lake and by maintaining groundcover; much of the vegetation in this property area is sumac with some honeysuckle and grapevines; it was agreed that honeysuckle is an exotic species and can be removed and the District should work with the Vets Camp on these issues. Administrator Shaver will arrange for a meeting with the Vets Camp to start conversations on these issues.

b. Additional Committee Member

Manager Kronmiller volunteered to join managers Lennes and Polasik on the Cost Share Committee.

c. Sheffield Lane Garlon Request

A Sheffield Lane resident requested some funding for the purchase of Garlon for buckthorn removal. The minimum purchase is two gallons at a cost of \$250. In the past the District has purchased Garlon and Manager Polasik distributed it to District residents. Discussion included purchasing the generic brand instead; purchasing Garlon and distributing or selling it for a small fee; liability associated with selling Garlon; approaching areas businesses to sell small quantities and

providing education about buckthorn and buckthorn removal. Administrator will talk to several businesses and Manager Polasik about selling/distributing Garlon.

d. Van Hoos Status

Administrator Shaver reviewed the Van Hoos erosion control project in the Silver Creek priority area, initially proposed four years ago. Because of the priority location, the District, with the Cost Share Committee recommendation, agreed to fund 100% of the project. The project grew in size from ditch checks to a larger, more natural design and in cost from \$8,000 to \$14,300. Additionally, the final bill from Peterson Excavating was for a total of \$20,000. Administrator Shaver recommended reconsidering the policy of a 100% payment for projects because the District loses leverage and a homeowner has no incentive to keep costs down. He also recommended paying the contractor \$4,300, which is the balance of the original contract.

Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize paying Peterson Excavating \$4,300. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

10. New Business

a. Extension for Communities Water Management Plans—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that he expects to receive Marine's draft Surface Water Management Plan in the next few days. The deadline for plan submissions is September 12. Only Scandia has an approved plan. The other communities — Stillwater, Stillwater Township, May Township, Grant and Hugo—will need an extension. Manager Lennes stated that LGUs are concerned about having to submit plans to a number of watershed districts and meet different requirements. LGUs are working at the legislature to get this requirement changed.

Manager Lennes moved to authorize a six-month extension for Stillwater, Stillwater Township, May Township, Grant and Hugo to submit their water management plans. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrator Shaver will talk to Judy Sventek of the Met Council about water management plans and what leverage watershed districts have. Mr. Almer noted that Clean Water Legacy funding is now open to LGUs with approved plans.

b. Meeting with Stillwater Township Thursday, September 27 at 7 PM

Administrator Shaver stated that this meeting was scheduled almost one year ago. He plans to present the annual report and current projects and entertain a discussion about projects the township would like. The Managers are invited managers to attend.

11. Old/Other Business

a. AIS Committee Report/Presentation—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that the committee met twice to look at an aquatic invasive species (AIS) policy. Before a policy can be drafted, the committee felt it is necessary to determine what invasives are present and develop a management strategy for each lake. EOR prepared a budget to survey District lakes not

previously surveyed. Discussion included: develop a matrix identifying invasives on each lake and corresponding management strategies including education; work with homeowners/lake associations on education; identify which government entity is in the best position to deal with AIS and define what the District is legally able to do; define AIS; discuss this issue at the Water Consortium including seeking DNR grant funds to hire inspectors at boat launches; investigate and publicize current research on controlling/eliminating AIS; form partnerships to work to slow the spread of AIS and use one lake as a test case to determine best actions to control AIS and protect native species.

Manager Tuenge moved to authorize a contract with EOR not to exceed \$11,250 to survey the remaining District lakes for AIS and prepare a graph showing the extent of the problem and where the AIS were found. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Almer stated that the best time to survey for AIS is in June.

b. Big Marine Lake Owners Request

At Administrator Shaver's recommendation, this issue was tabled until a policy is developed.

c. New Meeting Location

Administrator Shaver will poll the absent managers about moving the regular meeting and workshop to Scandia on the second and fourth Wednesdays respectively.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

a. MAWD Conference

The conference is November 29-December 1 in Alexandria. Administrator Shaver and Managers Tuenge, Lennes and Caldecott are interested in attending.

b. Fall Newsletter

The newsletter is being drafted. The Managers opposed including information about an organization's fundraiser.

c. Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program

Jane Harper sent a letter asking for potential locations for conservation easements. Administrator Shaver will forward the letter and encouraged Managers to talk to property owners about this opportunity.

d. Budget Meeting

The County Board will meet on October 9 at 9AM to review the District budget. A Manager is encouraged to attend.

e. Board Candidate

Stillwater Township brought forth a candidate for the District Board. Mr.

Marshall suggested responding that there are no vacancies.

f. Audit

Because the audit is still not done, Administrator Shaver will recommend hiring Tauges Redpath next year.

13. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Scandia Community Center. **Manager Caldecott moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Tuenges. Motion carried 4-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP