

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting February 19, 2014**

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Eric Lindberg, Dave DeVault, Victoria Dupre and Andy Weaver.

Managers Absent: Steve Kronmiller and Thomas Polasik.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Ray Marshall and Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Leif Hembre (Hamline University), John Bower, Don and Joanne Josephson, Jerry and Linda Wohlers, Lon Pardun, Bob and Kathy Iverson, Paul and Karen Leverentz (residents) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the February 19, 2014 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve December Agenda—Board Action

Manager Dupre moved to approve the December 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Approve January Minutes—Board Action

Manager Dupre moved to approve the January 8, 2014 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Dupre moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Project Status Update

a. Square Lake Monitoring Update—Leif Hembre

Mr. Hembre summarized the first year's results of the effects of a three-year trout stocking moratorium in Square Lake. Mr. Hembre, with assistance of Hamline undergraduates, collected data to assess interactions between zooplankton (*Daphnia pulicaria*) and their predators (trout) on the water quality (clarity and algae levels) of Square Lake. Sampling occurred three times in winter through the ice. Once the ice was out on May 3, sampling occurred two times per month through October. The expected effects of the trout stock moratorium were:

- i. Increased abundance of zooplankton (*D. pulicaria*) compared to premoratorium. (First year sampling supported this.)

- ii. More pronounced “spring clear water phase” as a result of greater *D. pulicaria* densities in spring. (First year sampling supported this.)
- iii. Less hypolimnetic oxygen depletion because of decreased sediment and decay of phytoplankton. (Sampling results are inconclusive.)
- iv. Plateau or improvement in chlorophyll levels and secchi transparency compared to historical trends. (Sampling supported this, though not statistically.)

In response to questions, Mr. Hembre explained that trout cannot reproduce in the lake so fishing and predation should eliminate stocked trout by summer. The last stocking was spring of 2012. At some point *D. pulicaria* will reach its carrying capacity. The deep water anoxia will decrease over time if organic matter decreases. Chloride levels should not impede lake turnover because road salt runoff is not a significant factor in Square Lake. Mr. Hembre will be sharing the data with the Department of Natural Resources.

b. Engineer’s Report

Administrator Shaver presented the Engineer’s Report. He and Carl Almer will begin meeting with Sand and Long Lakes property owners. The National Park Service (NPS) is reviewing the proposal for the NPS ravine project in Stillwater Township. The NPS also received the District’s memo on the Fairy Falls project and will send it to the regional office for review.

c. 197th St. Ravine Project

Administrator Shaver reported, per Board direction, that he met with city of Scandia administrator Kristina Handt to request that Scandia contribute \$30,000 (1/2 of the project overage) to the ravine project. Historically, Scandia assumed the District would cover the project cost. Ms. Handt stated that a \$30,000 expenditure would need to go through the city’s capital improvement budget process, though the city could possibly contribute \$10,000 through its road budget. Manager Dupre asked if Scandia is statutorily required to budget for this project because it is in the city’s comprehensive plan. The Board agreed that this project could not be delayed because of water quality implications and directed Administrator Shaver to seek a \$10,000 contribution now and try to get a commitment from Scandia to contribute to future projects.

7. Cost share

Mr. Chesnut presented an application from Kraig Johnson of Stillwater to convert three acres of agricultural land to prairie. The property is a large drainage area that flows to North Twin Lake, through a chain of lakes to the St. Croix River. The estimated cost for a contractor only project is \$14,500. It is estimated that the project will provide a total phosphorus load reduction of almost 7 pounds/year and total suspended solids reduction of 4.67 pounds/year. Although Mr. Johnson is unable to pay \$10,000 —his estimated portion of the cost share— he is willing to do some of the work and extend the length of the cost share contract. Discussion included exploring a temporary easement, a longer cost share contract and/or assurances on the title; the cost-benefit of the project; ensuring Mr. Johnson is capable of doing the necessary work to install a prairie; integrating the assessment tool into the BMP program and investigating other installation options. It was agreed that Mr. Chesnut will work with Administrator Shaver and legal counsel and continue negotiations with Mr. Johnson.

8. New Business

a. One Watershed-One Plan Request for Proposals

Administrator Shaver reported that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has distributed a request for interest in participating in a pilot program to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach. This program is based on the work of the Government Roundtable—a group composed of BWSR, counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts formed to address legislators' concerns about duplication of services. After discussion about the pros and cons of the program, the Board agreed to monitor the process, but not apply to be a pilot project.

b. Scandia Lilleskogen Garden and Dewatering

Administrator Shaver reported that the city of Scandia is planning to install a rain garden next to a recently installed small parking lot at Lilleskogen Park. A District cost share is possible for water improvements beyond those required by District rules. Scandia also requested permission to use water from the wetland for two years to establish the garden plants. According to the District engineer, this will require a variance and oversight to ensure that a minimal amount of water is used.

c. 2014 Budget Revised with Carry Forward—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that over the last five years, he has been working to improve the budget carry forward process. Previously, unspent funds were carried over as reserve funds. A more transparent approach is being proposed with unused 2013 funds from Plans, Programs and Project expenses.

Manager DeVault moved to revise the 2014 Budget carrying forward unused funds as follows: \$13,000 in the monitoring account, \$35,000 in the 197th St. Ravine account and \$12,500 in the NPS Ravine account. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver also stated that in the past the reserve was used to keep the levy down. He suggested establishing a Plan Implementation Fund to carry forward the unspent levy, which is allowed by state statute.

Manager Dupre moved to direct the Administrator to create a Plan Implementation Fund with the assistance of the District auditor and accountant per state statute with a balance to be determined and approved by the Board. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver reported that the District did not receive funding for the Marine on St.Croix stormwater and TMDL implementation projects. He and Manager Tuenge will meet with Mary Peterson of BWSR to get feedback on the proposals. The budget will be revised to reflect the lack of funding. Applying for LCCMR grants is another option.

d. WCD Service Contract—Board Action

Manager Dupre moved to authorize the signing of the 2014 Service Agreement with the Washington Conservation District. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

e. 2014 Work Plan

The work plan discussion was tabled until March.

9. Old Business

a. Marine Local Water Management Plan—Board Action

Manager Dupre moved to adopt Resolution 14-02-001 as amended to approve the Marine on St. Croix Local Surface Water Management Plan. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver noted that the District will need a memorandum of understanding with local governments for wetland implementation.

b. Employee Handbook—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the employee handbook as revised. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Discussion Points

a. Future Meetings Calendar

Administrator Shaver asked the Managers to inform him if they cannot attend a meeting.

b. Plan Amendment—Comments and Next Steps

Administrator Shaver reported on the plan amendment kick-off meeting and plans to discuss with Mary Peterson (BWSR) a new approach to getting input from the Technical Advisory Committee.

c. Legal Fees

Mr. Marshall stated that Lawson Law adopted a new fee schedule, which had not been changed since 2008.

Manager Weaver moved to accept the scale increase of \$10 per hour. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

d. Meeting Minutes Distribution Process

Mr. Marshall advised that it is OK to circulate draft minutes—clearly marked as drafts—to the Board for input prior to the Board meeting.

11. Bills to Be Paid—Board Action

Manager Weaver moved bills to be paid in amount of \$41,276.79. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is March 12, 2014. The February 26, 2014 is canceled.

13. Adjourn

Manager Dupre moved to adjourn. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates LLP