

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Minutes January 28, 2015

Managers Present: Dave DeVault, Tom Polasik, Steven Kronmiller and Andy Weaver

Managers Absent: Kristin Tuenge, Victoria Dupre and Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Pam Smith, Ross Stickler, Ben Edgar and Anna Swanson (residents)

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

1. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Previous Minutes and Treasurer’s Report- Table to Feb. 11—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller moved to table the January 14, 2015 minutes and Treasurer’s Report to February 11, 2015. Seconded by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Public Comments /Log House Landing (LHL)

Administrator Shaver provided background on the project and stated that the intent of the discussion is to provide initial feedback from the Board and residents to Scandia. Manager Kronmiller stated that at the final meeting, the committee scored four design options provided by Washington County. Although the Scandia fire chief wanted Option D (20 foot-wide paved road), the committee selected Option C (13 foot-wide paved road), as did the Planning Commission and City Council, with a few design changes. Although the minimal design option met the criteria for most, Option C was recommended to meet the need for erosion control. About a day after the final committee meeting, committee members received more information about a bonded aggregate surface. A group of citizens—including some committee members—talked to an expert about the product, which is not widely used but might be better than asphalt. The group is asking the city to consider this product.

Ms. Smith stated that there is strong public sentiment to leave the road alone. She further stated that while District discussion has focused on erosion, a number of city council members would be happy to hear District suggestions on all aspects of the project. The LHL committee did not have time to investigate many issues such as cost saving aspects, stormwater treatment on the upper and/or lower sections and the need (or not) for curb and gutter. For process, Manager Kronmiller recommended that comments from citizens be sent to the city, with a copy to the District. Manager Weaver stated that without design and budget details, the Board is not able to make a decision. It is anticipated that details will be available for the February 11 meeting.

Mr. Almer stated that full boat access was explored in various forms by the committee. When comparing EOR’s original design concept with Option C, Option C is narrower and has a bit more impervious surface. The 30-foot pullout provides the needed area required by the fire

chief. He recommended that the District question unit costs and consider locations associated with BMPs. Manager Kronmiller stated that the design details should address the number of mature trees to be lost, culvert and detention ponds, curb and gutter and the steep slope down to the creek. Administrator Shaver presented a proposed formula for apportioning the cost share portion of the project. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant covers 50% of the project up to \$400,000 and excludes the boat landing materials. Excluding the boat ramp, paving and actual road paving and prorating materials by 67%, Administrator Shaver proposed the District cost share 50% of the remaining expenses. Based on the County's estimate, the cost share would be about \$56,000. Adding half of the boat ramp costs and a 10% contingency brings the total amount to \$77,000. When asked for his input, Mr. Almer stated that stormwater management BMPs need to be identified; BMP materials need to be included; paving, in this instance, is a BMP; the unit costs are based on three-year-old estimates and are low; wetland restoration needs more explanation; re-vegetation activities are not included; and means to prevent informal parking should be identified. Manager Polasik asked why the district would be paying for site clearing. He favors paying for extra stormwater quality improvements. Manager Kronmiller felt it was not worth nitpicking. Managers Weaver and Kronmiller liked the funding approach presented. Administrator Shaver stated that there are imaginative solutions for infiltration and stormwater and he has been talking with the city engineer about them. The next steps are to get updated information from Scandia and then respond. The Board authorized Administrator Shaver to share the funding formula with Scandia without dollar amounts. All agreed that the Washington County engineers did a wonderful job and were responsible for a successful committee process.

Ms. Torseth reviewed a draft letter of intent to Scandia prepared by Administrator Shaver. Because negotiations and project details are still needed, she suggested having conversations with Scandia first and sending a memorandum of understanding once agreement has been reached. In response to Administrator Shaver's request for direction, **Manager Kronmiller moved that the CMWCD will share in a percentage of the net cost, after grant funding, with the city of Scandia of Log House Landing project components related to stormwater management, temporary and permanent erosion control, sediment reduction and boat ramp improvements and will prepare with the city of Scandia a memorandum of understanding, which defines those costs and other responsibilities for a cost share agreement between the parties. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Manager Polasik then moved to amend the motion to insert: based upon the review and approval of the city of Scandia's design. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Upon votes, both the amendment and motion passed 5-0.**

4. New Business

a. Cost Share Request from Marine on St. Croix

Administrator Shaver reported that since 2008 the District and WCD wetlands specialists have been meeting with the city and residents between Judd Street and Hwy 95 about options to reduce flooding and alleviate wet basements. The project is in the District's 10-year plan, but was never acted on by the city. The city has now received bids to clean out the channel and has asked the District to cost share for a one-time cleanout. Property owners will be responsible for maintenance in the future. Mr. Almer added that the

clogging is converting the channel to a shallow marsh and is killing black ash trees. Manager Kronmiller stated that this is channel maintenance. The Managers agreed to a one-time cost share for this maintenance.

- b. Big Marine Lake Association Request**
Manager Polasik moved to provide a letter of support for the Big Marine Lake Association's grant proposal. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Old Business

a. Plan Amendment

Administrator Shaver stated that ultimately he would like the board to authorize him to distribute the plan amendment for the 60-day review, but not necessarily at this meeting. Major changes are with the concepts in Section III, the capital improvement program and aquatic invasive species (AIS). Manager Weaver Andy stated that by his reading, this is a decent first blush: it helps us define where we spend our money and our priorities, but does not hamper us from working on other projects. A job well done. Manager Kronmiller stated that in general he is comfortable with the plan, but hasn't gotten comfortable with the finances.

ii. Review of Revisions and Additions

In Section III, Manager DeVault asked for clarification on the following issues:

- Page 6, paragraph 2: How is monitoring data being used? Mr. Almer stated that the average of 10 years of data is being used to show water clarity trends. Rewording was agreed to state: The District will compare the average June to September total phosphorus concentration or secchi disk readings for the preceding 10 years. Manager DeVault stated that with this analysis we can show improvements due to our actions.
- Page 9: points 1 and 2 under stream assessment for invertebrate data. Manager DeVault suggested that either more detail be provided, such as who does the grading or the details be deleted. Mr. Almer stated that the stream protocols are in Section V and can be referenced here.
- Page 10, third bullet: validation of numerical goals. It was noted that state standards are being developed. Manager Polasik stated that goals, strategies and action items are not being used correctly. For example a goal might be to clean up streams. Action items are to address the goals.
- Should a timeline be included for diagnostic studies to be consistent with other sections?
- Manager Weaver stated that the acronyms throughout the section are confusing. Mr. Almer stated that there is a separate section for acronyms and definitions.

The Managers had no comments on Sections II. Manager Tuenge has proposed some changes to Section IV, which will be discussed in February. Administrator Shaver stated that lake plans are being updated. For the review, example plans will be provided with reference to all the plans, which will be posted on the District website. In Section V on page 11, Manager DeVault noted an incorrect statement about

suspended solids, which Mr. Almer will review and correct. The Managers expressed approval for Sections II, III, V and the lake plans.

Mr. Almer stated that to have the management plan approved before the next BWSR grant cycle on October 1, 2015 the following timeline is required:

- February 11: the Board authorizes the distribution of the plan for a 60-day review, which is followed by a 90-day review
- September 9: the Board adopts the plan.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is February 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia Community Center.

7. Adjourn

Manager Weaver moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates