

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting April 5, 2010**

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, John Bower, Richard Caldecott, Thomas Polasik, Victoria Dupre, John Lennes and Jason Husveth.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Dan Fabian (EOR), Ray Marshall (attorney), Sally Leider (Watershed Wisdom), Amy Carolan (WCD), Mike Blehert, Jeff Dahlberg, Craig Johnson, Gene Anderson and Doug Salmela (Big Marine Lake Association) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

1. Approve April Agenda

It was suggested that the Watershed Wisdom presentation be moved to item 6b. Manager Bower requested adding item 10d channel maintenance water level.

Manager Dupre moved to approve the April 5, 2010 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Approve March 1st Minutes

Manager Caldecott moved approval of the March 1, 2010 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Approve March 29th Minutes

Manager Caldecott moved approval of the March 29, 2010 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Treasurer's Report

Manager Dupre moved approval of the April 5, 2010 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Bills to be Paid

Manager Dupre moved the April bills to be paid in the amount of \$15,231.67. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Education

a. Sally Leider & Watershed Wisdom

Sally Leider presented an overview of the 2010 education program designed to link St. Croix Valley fifth graders at Scandia and Marine schools with educators, artists, scientists and naturalists to inspire stewardship of the St. Croix Watershed. This is an experiential education model where learning about one's own backyard builds a lifelong commitment to preserving watershed health. This is the tenth year of the program. The Watershed Wisdom Web site (www.watershedwisdom.com) has been updated. It is now more accessible, offers a connection to more resources and provides opportunities for students to post their work. Ms Leider is always looking for projects to provide students with hands on experiences. She invited managers to attend a class session. Manager Polasik suggested adding Withrow and

Stonebridge schools, which Ms. Leider is willing to explore if there is additional funding. To explore expansion opportunities, Ms. Leider will talk with Warner Nature Center staff, surrounding watershed districts, the principal at Marine and Angie Hong. Students will be at Millstream Days with dragonfly bingo.

7. Public Comments—Big Marine Lake Owners

Mike Blehert, president of the Big Marine Lake Association (BMLA), introduced members of the association and summarized the Association's responses to issues raised at the March Board meeting. He noted that the Association cannot apply for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding to control Eurasian watermilfoil until April and hopes to receive \$1,000 to \$2,000. The total cost to treat the infected areas is estimated to be \$4,000 to \$6,000. The Association requested up to \$6,000 from the District. The Association has approached other groups—Girls Scouts, Vets Camp and Washington County Park—but has yet to have any success. To date about \$550 has been raised (\$15/household) from resident contributions. Association members are doing a plant survey that will be spot checked by the DNR. The data will be used to update the Lake Management Plan. If the Association receives a grant and permit to treat the milfoil, it will get more than one quote for treatment. Nonresident lake traffic appears to be the cause of the milfoil because of its concentration in the public boat launch areas. The Association is concerned that the milfoil will spread to other lakes. Managers Lennes and Caldecott noted that 100 percent of homeowners are assessed \$200 and \$125 per household per year respectively by their lake associations. This compares to the BMLA at \$2 per household. Manager Lennes asked if the District should and would fund his and other associations. Manager Husveth praised the work of the BMLA, but noted that invasives such as curlyleaf pondweed are equally as large an infestation on Big Marine. He also suggested challenging the DNR's resistance to treat 100 percent of the milfoil. **Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the Big Marine Lake Association funding request of up to \$6000 to treat Eurasian watermilfoil in 2010 because the group took time to form an association, received approval from the DNR for its lake plan and presented a limited request. Second by Manager Bower.**

Various questions were raised. Should the District fund associations and if so should it be a limited request, a cost-share or an assessment? Should the Legislature be encouraged to establish an invasive species program? If the District funds associations, will the levy need to be increased? Is that feasible? Concern was raised about the DNR's uncertainty in how to treat milfoil. Association members expressed concern about getting contributions from the Girl Scouts, Vets Camp and Park, as residents are the minority on the lakeshore.

Manager Caldecott called the question. The motion carried 7-0. **The motion to fund the BMLA in 2010 then carried 6-1.**

8. Engineer's Report, Permits / Violations

Dan Fabian presented two action items.

a. Permit 08-003: Tiller Corporation Scandia Mining Operation

The District has not received a cash surety of \$5,000, which has been outstanding for two years. Tiller would like to combine the District surety with the City of Scandia's, though Scandia has declined this proposal. The Managers discussed options including revoking

the permit, continuing discussions, asking for the surety with the proviso that if Scandia is willing to combine the surety the District will provide a refund, giving Tiller 30 days to provide the surety or the permit will be revoked, suspending the permit pending payment and/or informing Scandia that Tiller does not have a current District permit. The Board instructed the Administrator to write a letter requesting the outstanding surety within 30 days stating that if Tiller is successful in persuading Scandia to include the District's sureties with theirs that the District will refund their surety.

b. Permit 10-002: Tilly Property

The District provided comments on a setback variance request, which was granted by Washington County. The variance triggers District rules for stormwater, erosion control and buffers. The application is not complete and options for meeting the rules are being discussed. **Manager Dupre moved to authorize the Administrator to issue the permit per the Engineer's recommendations. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.**

9. BMP

a. Hadland Application—Board Action Required

Evaluation criteria were discussed including a goal to encourage behavior change. Manager Dupre will bring this and other suggestions to the Subcommittee. See item 8b.

b. Asa Parker House—Board Action Required

Manager Lennes moved to approve the Hadland BMP cost share for \$5,000 and the Asa Parker house BMP cost share for \$2,800. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

c. Jason Husveth—Board Action Required

This is a request for technical assistance. **Manager Lennes moved to table the Husveth request until May. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 5-0-1.** Manager Husveth recused himself.

10. New Business

a. Environthon Support- Board Action Required

Manager Polasik moved to approve funding an Envirothon team. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Board Term Expirations—Discussion

Manager Husveth volunteered for a two, rather than three-year term appointment to allow for staggered terms. It was suggested that managers wishing to be reappointed send letters of interest to their respective cities/townships.

c. Office Lease Extension – Board Action Required

Administrator Shaver reported that the lease has remained the same—\$406 per month plus a proportion of the property taxes. **Manager Dupre moved to renew the office lease. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.**

d. Channel Maintenance—Water Levels

Manager Bower provided a list of locations needing maintenance such as the Carrol Lake outlet and May Ave. at the Cole property. He reported that there is a lot of water in the wetlands but the lakes are low. The Big Marine weir is a foot down on the north side and three inches down on the south side of the weir and the District is following its management plan.

11. Old/Other Business-

a. Rules Notification Re-Authorization—Board Action Required

Administrator Shaver reported that the \$2,500 quote for publishing the rules was from the Messenger, which is not the paper of record. The quote from the Valley Press, which is the paper of record, is \$3,600 for one and \$6,700 for two printings. Until the rules are published, Administrator Shaver proposes issuing permits under the new rules on a voluntary basis, but with the old fee schedule. **Manager Caldedott moved to publish the rules in the paper of record at a cost of \$6,700. Second by Manager Husveth. Motion carried 6-1, with Manager Bower opposing.** It was noted that the District should encourage a legislative change to allow publishing/posting rules online.

b. Gary Rydeen Feedlot Status

Administrator Shaver reported that Gary Rydeen is not going through with the feedlot project because he plans to stop milking in two to three years. Manager Bower stated that something about this operation needs to be done as there is no feedlot plan. Administrator Shaver will contact the MN Pollution Control Agency.

c. Square Lake Quote—Board Action Required

Administrator Shaver presented the revised quote for the interpretive elements at Square Lake Park. **Manager Caldecott moved to approve the Square Lake Park proposal for two outdoor reading rails and one icon sign for a total of \$15,000. Second by Manager Bower. Motion carried 7-0.**

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

- St. Croix Basin TMDL plan is being completed. Because the state agencies do not have the funds for a part-time administrator, Jay Riggs is drafting a proposal for funding from the area watershed districts.
- St. Croix River Conference in River Falls on April 8 will be attended by Managers Caldecott, Polasik, and Lennes and Administrator Shaver.
- Comments on the draft Water Monitoring Report should be sent to Administrator Shaver. The final report will be presented at the May meeting.
- Water Consortium meeting will be held on April 7 at the Woodbury Environmental Center, 40389 Cottage Grove Dr.

13. Next Meeting, Adjourn

Manager Dupre moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP