

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

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, Kristin Tuenge, Richard Caldecott and Andy Weaver.

Managers Absent: Victoria Dupre, Thomas Polasik, and John Lennes.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Melissa Lewis (BWSR), Jason Husveth (resident), Jessica Pilarski (Washington County) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

1. Approve October Agenda—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the October 10, 2012 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve September 10 Minutes—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the September 10, 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.

Manager Weaver moved approval of the October 10, 2012 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the October bills to be paid in the amount of \$21,636.74 contingent upon the Tilley and Johnson cost share reimbursements discussion and approval. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Public Comments

Jason Husveth requested a copy of EOR's scope of service to inventory aquatic invasive species (AIS) on District lakes. Manager Tuenge provided a copy and clarified that the contract with EOR only covered District lakes not previously surveyed.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violations

Mr. Almer presented one action item.

Manager Weaver moved to authorize the Administrator to issue the Holmgren Permit 12-009 pending a review and addressing buffer plans and other recommendations of the District Engineer. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrator Shaver reported that Nick Arnt of BTG & BTF-II had some confusion regarding the District's permit and Wetland Conservation Act requirements. He informed May Township that the recent District permit approval was for an original application from 2008 and was extended to 2017.

6. Project Status Update

Mr. Almer provided a project status update including: a scheduled meeting on October 11 to refine trout stocking suspension criteria for Square Lake; Goose Lake ravine stabilization construction to begin on October 15 with an anticipated completion date of November 15; a Clean Water Legacy grant application submitted to fund the 197th Street reconstruction project and a joint District-EOR presentation on Square Lake at the MAWD conference.

Manager Kronmiller stated that the Scandia road construction project has no erosion control next to a wetland and rain is anticipated on Saturday. Administrator Shaver stated that he will talk to the city about this.

7. Cost Share Program Update

a. Van Hoos Status

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Jay Riggs regarding the payment dispute with Peterson Trucking. Mr. Riggs will work with the contractor to resolve the dispute.

b. Reimbursements—Tilley, V. Johnson—Board Action

Manager Caldecott moved to authorize cost share reimbursements to Tilley for \$1,500 and V. Johnson for \$2,500. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

c. New Projects

Mr. Chesnut reported that the Cost Share Committee reviewed five projects and recommends funding all.

Manager Caldecott moved to approve the following cost share projects: Mellgren for \$1,459.63, Meyer not to exceed \$2,500, O'Conner for \$2,500, Rossi for \$1,393.75 and Johnson for \$598.75. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

d. Buffer Grant Contractor Selection

Administrator Shaver stated that the Cost Share Committee reviewed three bids for four buffer projects and recommended contracting with Prairie Restoration. Mr. Chesnut clarified that though Prairie's bid of \$16,235 was \$3,000 more than MNL's, it included a seed mix of 75% native species and a successful plant establishment over three full growing seasons.

Manager Weaver moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to enter into a contract with Prairie Restoration for four buffer projects. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

e. Committee Meetings

Administrator Shaver reported that because it has been difficult to schedule committee meetings with all three board representatives, cost share projects are being delayed. He and Jay Riggs reviewed other watershed districts committee operations and recommended conducting meetings with one manager, if others are not available. Discussion included bringing more project information to the full board and reviewing bylaws before changing the committee makeup. Administrator Shaver will review the bylaws.

8. New Business

a. Permit/BMP Web Data Base—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that as part of the Water Consortium's collaborative effort, Washington Conservation District solicited and received two proposals for a web-based permitting and BMP project tracking system. Administrator Shaver recommends contracting with Flat Rock for these services. Discussion included adding District specific information including data EOR currently has, having levels of access (board/public) on the site and the cost of adding additional data.

Manager Tuenge moved to support WCD efforts to contract with Flat Rock Geographics for web mapping and project tracking services. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Old/Other Business

a. AIS Committee Report

Administrator Shaver reported that the committee met, outlined some activities and criteria and recommended elevating AIS to a program. He noted that the District has a policy on invasives in its plan, EOR will provide a more complete AIS assessment next year and the committee—as does the Board—continues to wrestle with providing matching funds to homeowner associations for AIS control. Ms. Lewis stated that working on AIS requires a plan amendment and that most watershed districts—except for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District—are not spending significant resources on AIS. Asked for his input, Mr. Husveth recommended taking a narrow approach to AIS control with biodiversity being the focus, talking to experts and refining what is to be accomplished. He also expressed most concern with curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian milfoil, narrow-leaf cattail and reed canary grass because of biomass and biodiversity.

Issues discussed included: the need to slow down and get more input; the affect of a new AIS program on the District budget and plan; AIS impact on the recreational value of our waters and resident concerns about this; the need to define how AIS relates to water quality; the impact of some natives (i.e. water lillies), hybrids and nonnatives on lakes; education including working with the DNR and/or co-sponsoring programs on invasives; and the District's role in addressing AIS in relationship to the DNR, to other government agencies and to other District priorities. It was agreed that the next steps are to meet with Ms. Lewis to determine what is allowable under the current plan and explore involvement with the state AIS advisory committee.

b. Sheffield Lane Garlon Request

Administrator Shaver stated that the minimum amount of Garlon/Element for consumer purchase is 2.5 gallons at \$250 and retailers are not willing to divide this up for sale to individuals. The Cost Share Committee discussed treatment options and suggested reimbursing the homeowner some amount for treating his and his neighbors' properties. Manager Caldecott stated that there are higher priorities than buckthorn. Other comments included buckthorn removal does not affect water quality and though the District dispensed Garlon in the past, it was a mistake to do this. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will tell the homeowner the District will not fund the purchase of Garlon.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

a. Joint Meeting with Stillwater Township

Administrator Shaver and Managers Kronmiller and Polasik attended. There was good dialog and an agreement to meet annually prior to the District budget process to identify joint projects.

b. Washington County Budget Presentation

Jessica Pilarski presented watershed district budgets and projects on behalf of the watershed districts. The presentation went well.

c. Draft Audit

The draft audit was received. After reviewing the document, Administrator Shaver will send it to the Managers and include it on the November agenda.

d. Minnesota Water Resources Conference

The conference is October 16-17 at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Managers Dupre and Tuenge plan to attend.

e. St. Croix River Research Rendezvous

The rendezvous is October 16 at the Warner Nature Center.

f. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Conference

The conference is November 29-December 1 in Alexandria. Managers Caldecott, Lennes, Tuenge, and Weaver and Administrator Shaver plan to attend.

g. Goose Lake Landing

Administrator Shaver will meet with Scandia staff and Jay Hill (EOR) to brainstorm mitigating erosion at the ramps at Goose Lake and Log House landing.

h. Gullies on St. Croix

Plans are to move forward with gully projects, with or without grants.

i. District Tour

Administrator Shaver will organize a district tour for new and interested managers on an upcoming Saturday.

11. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting is on Wednesday, November. 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Scandia Community Center.

Manager Weaver moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP