

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting October 3, 2011**

Managers Present: Steven Kronmiller, Thomas Polasik, Jason Husveth and Kristin Tuenge.

Managers Absent: Richard Caldecott, John Lennes and Victoria Dupre.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Amy Carolan (WCD), John Bower (resident) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

1. Approve October Agenda—Board Action

Manager Polaski moved to approve the October 3, 2011 agenda as presented. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve September 12 Minutes—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved approval of the September 12, 2011 minutes except for the second paragraph under item 5a, which will be redrafted for later approval. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the October 3, 2011 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Husveth. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the bills to be paid in the amount of \$23,986.15. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Public Comments

John Bower stated that he attended both the August and tonight's meetings to try to engage the Board in a joint project with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve the Big Carnelian Lake public access. Projects he proposed included resurfacing and regrading the crumbling road to drain runoff away from the lake and into the existing buffer, removing invasive vegetation and dead trees, adding rain gardens to capture road runoff and installing signage to educate the public about new rules to protect the lake. The goal would be to improve the drainage on the public access. Both he and Manager Polasik have talked with DNR staff. The next step: Mr. Bower, Manager Polasik and Administrator Shaver will arrange an on-site meeting with DNR staff to begin the discussion.

Mr. Bower stated that he thinks he is still listed as the District contact at the Minnesota Department of Revenue. He also stated that the District might need to have an unemployment insurance account with the state and unemployment insurance. Administrator Shaver will contact the Department of Revenue and discuss the insurance issue with the District accountant. Either Administrator Shaver or the Accountant will contact the state agency.

Mr. Bower reported that he is still having runoff issues from his neighbor's property, but his neighbor is doing a better job. Most of the runoff from his neighbor's driveway is getting some treatment before reaching the lake through a raingarden at the bottom of the driveway.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

a. Sandgren

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Mr. Sandgren about installing a raingarden, adding native plants on the northside of the property and installing some type of infiltration measures with his neighbor along the north property line. He also mentioned the District's Cost Share Program as a possible option. While Mr. Sandgren was amiable toward the raingarden and plantings, he pled poverty. Manager Kronmiller asked if the proposed projects would be above and beyond what the rules require? Administrator Shaver stated that the former owner's permit required installing a buffer. This was communicated to Mr. Sandgren through a letter last spring, but Mr. Sandgren sodded instead. Manager Husveth stated that this is an old permit and under the current rules the work he did would not be permitted. But regardless of the past, this could be a missed opportunity for stormwater treatment. If it is a high-quality water project, the District should be willing to collaborate. Both Administrator Shaver and Mr. Marshall stated that is hard to determine what needs to be done for compliance because it is hard to determine what amount of land was disturbed. The Board agreed to seek an after-the-fact permit and a cost share project.

b. Christ Lutheran Church

Administrator Shaver reported that because of the church's tight budget (\$18,000) and the time the District and church have already invested in this project, he asked Mr. Almer to provide a preliminary cost estimate of the stormwater treatment being proposed. Mr. Almer stated that his estimate came to \$32,000, of which half of the cost is driven by the location of the treatment on the western portion of the property and in shallow bedrock. The cost could be significantly reduced if the project covers a bigger footprint or shifts east. Using volunteers and plugs instead of potted plants and seeking donations for material could also lower costs.

6. Project Status Update

a. Set Date for Assessment Tool Follow-up

Mr. Almer reported that the BMP Subcommittee met and had ideas on how to revise the ranking. The Subcommittee will meet on October 17 at 6 p.m. at EOR to assess how the criteria will affect the ranking. Mr. Almer will draft and distribute an agenda.

b. Phase III TMDL

Mr. Almer stated that he expects to receive comments in the next month from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on the draft report.

c. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership

Mr. Almer reported that a summary was provided to the DNR for circulation to DNR staff. The Square Lake process is a bit behind Sand and Long lakes.

d. Sand and Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership

Mr. Almer reported that all modeling was completed for both lakes and the estimated phosphorus load reduction for the preliminary list of Sand Lake BMPs was completed. A second Sand Lake stakeholder meeting was held and good feedback was obtained. The Sand Lake Association has funded the use of copper sulfate a few times and stocked walleyes twice. A second Long Lake stakeholder meeting is coming up. The Board will be asked for input on the recommendations before the plan is submitted to the MPCA. In response to Manager Husveth's question, Mr. Almer stated that there have been no surprises in the studies. Because both lakes are shallow, the goal will be to prevent them from reaching the turbid state.

7. Cost Share Program Update

a. Rydeen Farm

Administrator Shaver stated that there will be an on-site preconstruction meeting tomorrow. Pete Young (WCD) and the excavator will attend.

b. Chesnut Ravine Engineering Bids

Administrator Shaver reported that Pete Young recommended delaying the ravine and Van Hoos projects until spring to prevent potential sedimentation with spring runoff and to enable completion of administrative activities, such as obtaining a temporary easement from the Van Hoose. Bids were received for the ravine project. Administrator Shaver will provide a spreadsheet comparing the bids and a copy of the RFP to the Managers by October 10. Managers should provide questions for the bidders by October 17.

c. Van Hoose

Administrator Shaver recommended not going out for bid on the Van Hoose ravine because it is not a complicated project. He did suggest establishing a policy on triggering a bid process, such as setting a trigger at \$25,000 unless it is a complicated project.

8. New Business

Administrator Shaver reported on the following:

a. MAWD Resolutions

No resolutions have been submitted.

b. Audit

Manager Kronmiller noted that in the report on internal controls there was one recommendation. He asked if there is something that can be done to address this? Administrator Shaver stated that the auditor removed many recommendations in anticipation of the Board adopting a new operations policy. At the upcoming meeting with Manager Tuenge, Dave McCord (accountant) and the auditor, he will ask if the new policies cover this.

Manager Kronmiller moved to accept the audit. Second Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

c. Log House

Mike White of the Scandia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, along with a few Scandia residents, requested the District submit a letter of recommendation to the Scandia

Parks Board in support of restricting use of the public landing on the St. Croix River to residents only. They hope this will reduce exposure of the river to invasive species. The Board discussed eliminating the access as a more equitable approach or making the access a carry-in only, but ultimately concluded that this is beyond the Board's purview. Administrator Shaver was directed to write and send a letter stating that the District is willing to work with Scandia to improve water quality, but at this time cannot support actions to limit river access.

d. Carol Lake

The Carol Lake culvert has rusted out and needs replacement. Administrator Shaver will contract with Roger Rydeen for this work.

e. November Beaver Trapping

One of the contractors recommended trapping beavers later in the year when water levels are lower and pelts are more valuable. Using funds from channel maintenance, Administrator Shaver will contract up to \$500 for beaver control.

9. Old/Other Business-

a. Budget

Administrator Shaver reported that the draft budget submitted to Washington County on September 15 requested the wrong levy amount. Instead of a levy decrease, the levy should have reflected about a 6% increase. Managers discussed using the reserve fund or accumulated carryover to keep the levy flat, instead of raising the levy. To help better understand the budget numbers, Administrator Shaver will provide further documentation indicating the changes. The levy will be on next month's agenda.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- a. St. Croix River Research Rendezvous** will be held on Tuesday, October 18 at the Warner Nature Center. Managers interested in attending can contact Administrator Shaver or register at www.smm.org.
- b. Metro MAWD** will meet on October 18 at 7 p.m. at Capitol Region Watershed District.
- c. MN Water Resources Conference** will be held on October 18-19 at the St. Paul River Centre.
- d. MAWD Annual Meeting and Trade Show** will be held in Alexandria on December 1-3. Administrator Shaver will reserve three double rooms.

11. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall.

Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Polasik.

Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP