

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District  
Regular Meeting February 6, 2012**

**Managers Present:** Steven Kronmiller, Kristin Tuenge, Jason Husveth, Thomas Polasik, Richard Caldecott and Victoria Dupre.

**Managers Absent:** John Lennes.

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (Administrator), Dan Fabian, Jay Hill and Andrea Plevan (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Amy Carolan (WCD), Bruce Goldstrand, Scott Alexander, Bev Petrie, Rich Commings, Bob and Kathy Iverson and Dean Tharp (residents) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

**1. Approve January Agenda—Board Action**

**Manager Dupre moved to approve the February 6, 2012 agenda as amended.**

**Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**2. Approve January 9 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Dupre moved approval of the January 9, 2012 minutes as presented.**

**Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report. It was clarified that the auditor reviewed the surety accounts last year and determined that not all of the accounts are active.

Administrator Shaver will follow up with the auditor on this.

**Manager Caldecott moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Second by**

**Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Manager Dupre moved approval of the January 9, 2012 bills to be paid in the amount of \$52,179.41. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.**

Administrator Shaver stated that if there are substantial questions about the new accounting reports—Budget vs. Actuals, Transactions, and Balance Sheet—the accountant can attend a meeting to help explain them. Manager Kronmiller suggested reviewing the reports and contacting Administrator Shaver with comments. Administrator Shaver will update the accounting procedures to specify the new reports recommended by the auditor.

**4. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violations**

Mr. Fabian reported that there are no permits requiring board action. He provided an update on the Xcel Energy project to move utility poles along Hwy 95. Mr. Fabian requested that Xcel offset the poles by 10 feet to avoid District pipes. Xcel will respond to this request and understands it cannot proceed without District approval. Discussion focused on the District

easement and other easements—both public and possibly private—that are located in the project area. Mr. Marshall stated that the easements fall under drainage and utility easements. He and Mr. Fabian will investigate the project area and the associated easements.

## **5. Public Comments**

Scott Alexander introduced himself as a member of the Square Lake Association. Bruce Goldstrand of Stillwater Township thanked the District for helping him install rain gardens through the Cost Share Program and stated he has comments and questions on Loon Lake. Both residents attended to hear the Square Lake study business item.

## **6. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership Study Presentation—Andrea Plevan**

Ms Plevan provided an update on the diagnostic testing of Square Lake, one of a few cold-water lake fisheries in the Metro area. Square Lake has had a decline in water transparency over the long term, an increase in chlorophyll in the last 10 years, but no drastic change in phosphorus levels. Expanding on earlier studies, an attempt was made to determine what is driving the decrease in transparency. Potential land stressors, groundwater and the relationship of Daphnia populations in the lake and their relationship with fish populations—especially rainbow trout and bluegill—were explored. The results provided enough data to recommend that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suspend stocking rainbow trout for three years and evaluate whether there are significant changes in water clarity in the lake and a change in the food web structure.

Ms Plevan suggested next steps: authorize distribution of the study report to the DNR, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Square Lake Association; continue to work on the implementation plan; convene a stakeholder meeting on March 26; continue to talk with the DNR; complete the study report this summer and monitor zooplankton from February to September to collect more base-line data.

Manager Husveth asked what magnitude of water clarity improvement is expected by removing the trout. Ms Plevan responded that she is not able to predict a magnitude, but would expect to turn around the trend on transparency. If improvement is seen, a no-stock extension could be requested. She also clarified that land issues including the Ozark Trail housing development and other potential stressors were explored and eliminated, the DNR is doing a fish survey this year and Leif Hembre (Hamline University professor and EOR consultant) could possibly provide examples of changes in water clarity due to trout. Manager Polasik stated that the DNR has legislative authority to start and stop stocking, generally holds a public meeting on controversial issues and homeowner input on stocking suspension will be most important to the DNR. Manager Kronmiller suggested that if the stocking suspension is approved, the District could defer implementing BMPs until after the study to help determine if trout is the main stressor.

Dean Tharpe, former member of the Marine MWO and current president of Square Lake Association, stated that Trout Unlimited supports the stocking suspension and the DNR has no requirement to study the impact of stocking. He and the Association appreciate this study

and the science it brings to the DNR. Scott Alexander expressed appreciation for the District and other watershed districts across the state for implementing BMPS and land management practices that are helping to improve water quality.

**Manager Dupre moved to accept the report and authorize EOR to distribute the report to the appropriate agencies and organizations with a cover letter stating that the Board is reviewing the report and will adopt the report following a public hearing. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.**

**a. Zooplankton Monitoring Budget**

Andrea presented a budget to monitor zooplankton on Square Lake on a monthly basis from February to September. There is \$5,000 remaining in the Clean Water Partnership grant fund. The MPCA has given tentative permission to use those funds for zooplankton monitoring. If monitoring is approved, EOR would contract with Professor Hembre to collect the samples and identify the species. The point of this monitoring is to collect more baseline data in preparation for suspension of the trout stocking. Monitoring would be recommended through the three-year stocking suspension and grants could be applied for to help offset the costs. Administrator Shaver stated that there is about \$4,000 left in the monitoring account that could be used for 2012 monitoring.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve \$4,000 for zooplankton monitoring on Square Lake in 2012. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.**

**7. Project Status Update**

Mr. Fabian presented the update. Administrator Shaver stated that Mr. Almer would like more input from the BMP Subcommittee on the BMP assessment tool. If there is time, this will be discussed at the February 27 workshop. If not, a subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for the first week in March.

**a. Goose Lake Timeline Review**

Mr. Fabian presented four primary and three additional design options and estimated costs, along with a qualitative assessment and ranking for the ravine stabilization project. Design considerations and discussion included the steep slope that limits equipment access, maintenance with the rock checks, pipe maintenance especially because of scouring, loss of vegetation and saving trees, slowing water flow, flattening the slope to slow flow and reduce scouring, challenges of revegetation, selected canopy thinning to help with revegetation, the invasiveness of each option, the need for an easement and EOR's suggestion to use logs from tree thinning to stabilize the shoreline and provide habitat, which requires landowner and DNR approval.

Manager Kronmiller stated that the primary options being considered are trying to clean up the mess rather than solve the problem. A pond on the other side of the road on top of the hill would solve the problem. Manager Husveth stated that this is what we should be doing to fix the problem and then add rock checks below. Administrator Shaver stated that there are two landowners across the road that would need to approve the project and

one of the owners expressed willingness in the past.

Additional discussion focused on should the city and/or District hold the easement(s) and provide project maintenance. Mr. Marshall stated that it is his experience that the city will not see this project as theirs and maintain it in the way it needs to be maintained. If the District is committed to this project, it should be committed to maintaining it. Further issues discussed included: the city has the equipment and staff to maintain the project, to ensure the city maintains the project pursue this as a BMP cost share, use levy funds for maintenance, levy more for maintenance, set up a maintenance account for this and other projects.

The Board expressed appreciation for the assessment chart and directed Mr. Fabian and Administrator Shaver to investigate the rate control option with reduced rock checks along with maintenance costs and landowner willingness to participate.

## 8. New Business

### a. Invasive Species Inspection Grant

Administrator Shaver reported that the District has the opportunity to apply for a grant to defray monitoring costs on public land. The grant pays \$7,750 for 1,000 hours of DNR inspection time and requires a \$7,750 match from the District. **Manager Caldecott moved to apply for the Invasive Species Inspection grant. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

### b. Buffer Grants

Administrator Shaver reported that he directed Ms Carolan to draft a DNR Conservation Legacy grant proposal to install shoreline buffers on the District's impaired and focused lakes. The grant pays 90% of the cost. **Manager Caldecott moved to apply for a DNR Conservation Legacy grant. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.**

### c. Watershed Outlook Monitoring Partnership (WOMP) Grant Amendment

**Manager Caldecott moved to approve a one-year extension of the current WOMP grant to include monitoring of Silver Creek. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.**

### d. Monitor District Groundwater Levels to Update North Washington Groundwater Study

Administrator Shaver reported that Stu Grubb suggested updating the District groundwater level monitoring. He will get information about the cost and input from Comfort Lake-Forest Lake and Brown's Creek watershed districts and report back to the Board.

## 9. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

- a. Attended a watershed district administrator meeting in Sauk Rapids that looked at streamlining governance.
- b. Attended the Water Consortium meeting with Manager Caldecott.
- c. Attended the BCWD and Stillwater Township joint workshop. BCWD is trying to work collaboratively with LGUs and to update LGUs on current rules, permitting, BMPs and other district projects of interest. A workshop such as this could be held by CMSCWD, but requires a commitment from the Board.
- d. Next week he and Manager Dupre will meet with Cecilio Olivier for a performance review.
- e. MN Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Conference will be held on March 8-9 in Nisswa.
- f. MAWD Breakfast and Day at the Capitol is March 7-8.
- g. Will be out of town on March 8-15.
- h. Square Lake stakeholder meeting is schedule for March 26 in Marine.
- i. Sand and Long lakes workshop is scheduled for February 27 at Scandia City Hall.
- j. Beginning in April, it is proposed that the Regular Board meetings be held on the second Monday of the month with an optional workshop on the fourth Monday. This will be on the March agenda for approval.

## 10. New Business

### a. Personnel Committee

Manager Kronmiller stated that the Personnel Committee will meet for the annual administrator review. **Manager Caldecott moved to revise the Personnel Committee to comprise Managers Kronmiller, Polasik and Tuenge. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0.**

Manager Tuenge noted that she will be gone for the next two meetings.

## 11. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting is on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall. **Manager Dupre moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP