

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting February 7, 2011**

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, Richard Caldecott, John Lennes, Thomas Polasik, Kristin Tuenge and Jason Husveth.

Managers Absent: Victoria Dupre

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

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

1. Approve February Agenda

Manager Caldecott moved to approve the February 7, 2011 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve January 3 Minutes

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the January 3, 2011 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Treasurer's Report

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Caldecott moved approval of the February 7, 2011 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Bills to be Paid

Manager Polasik moved the February bills to be paid in the amount of \$16,886.14. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Shaver clarified that MAWD dues are based on assessed property value with maximum dues of \$3,500. Manager Lennes suggested the dues structure be revisited at a MAWD meeting.

5. Public Comments

John Bower expressed concern about the spread of zebra mussels into larger lakes and the St. Croix and asked what actions the District is taking, such as working with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assess the problem and identify what can be done to control or slow the spread. Big Marine, Big Carnelian and Square Lake will probably be the first District lakes to be infected. For the District, the biggest impact will probably be to the infrastructure, specifically the need for extra maintenance on or replacement of gravity pipes. The zebra mussel, more than other invasives, will impact everyone on the lakes and will have a significant economic impact. This requires up-front planning action.

Discussion focused on:

- Watershed districts and the public are concerned about invasives. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is being more aggressive and is working collaboratively to implement education and inspection measures on Lake Minnetonka.
- Should the District ask the DNR to conduct a study on the impact of zebra mussels on water bodies in the US and other areas and on the successful eradication (if any) of the mussels or best management practices to control/slow their spread.
- Partner with other watershed districts to sponsor a research conference or sponsor research as a District.
- Engage other local units of government and agencies —county parks, DNR, cities— to work jointly to take action and educate the public.
- Survey District water bodies to assess the extent of the problem.
- Invite an expert to update the board on existing data and what can be done.
- Identify potential funds for research, planning, implementation, inspection and/or public education.

It was agreed that Administrator Shaver would find out more information about participating in a conference on invasive species, talk with Byron Karns of the National Park Service about current research and report to the board next month.

6. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

a. Tii Gavo

Administrator Shaver and Roger Tomten provided background on this subdivision permitted in 2006 for 37 lots. A substantial effort was made by Tii Gavo, the District and the City of Scandia to put in a low-impact development. Because of the economy downturn, only two lots have been sold. Tii Gavo would like to establish a Phase I construction and close out that portion of the permit. EOR provided a Phase I review and recommended closing out that portion of the permit pending several minor modifications. Scandia has requested input from the District before signing off on Phase I and requested time to review EOR's findings and the as-built drawings before the District board takes action.

Manager Husveth stated that he is a paid consultant for this project and recused himself from discussion and voting. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver would work with Mr. Marshall to draft an addendum to the permit in preparation to close out the Phase I portion of the permit subject to the District engineer's approval and send a memo to Scandia stating that the addendum is being prepared for anticipated Phase I closeout at the March board meeting.

b. Review of Old Permits

Manager Lennes moved to close out Permits 06-018 and 06-009 and return the sureties. Second by Manager Caldcott. Motion carried 5-0-1, with Manager Husveth abstaining.

Manager Tuenge moved, based on the engineer's recommendation, to close out Permits 08-021, 01-013 and 01-004. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Project Status Update

Carl Almer provided an update on Sand and Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership, Square Lake Clean Water Partnership, and the Rules. Administrator Shaver stated that because Met Council lab costs for water monitoring are increasing substantially, WCD is looking for another lab.

Andrea Plevan provided an overview of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies including an update on the District's Phase III TMDL for its 10 impaired lakes. The Federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect waters from pollution for designated uses. In Minnesota, the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) sets these standards and oversees TMDL studies to address water bodies not meeting these standards. The next steps in the District's Phase III process: 1. Draft report, which should be ready mid-February to be sent to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and 2. TAC meeting and Public Open House on February 28. Future steps: 1. Report revised by late spring, 2. EPA preliminary review, 3. Public comment period and 4. EPA final review.

Manager Lennes recommended talking to the agriculture community now about possible projects. Responding to questions, Ms. Plevan stated that the District can implement projects as other steps are being completed, a confined animal feedlot is defined as having over 1,000 animals, it is the permitting process—not the TMDL—that has the teeth, TMDLs are voluntary and the result of the TMDL study is prioritizing the easiest and most cost-effective projects to implement.

Mr. Almer presented a proposal outlining the tasks and associated costs for development of a District 2011 Strategic Plan Projects. Comments and discussion: the plan is not a static tool; a ranking and assessment should be included; Task 1 should include GIS data that can be shared; Task 2 should include quantitative data; a subcommittee—possibly the BMP Subcommittee—should work with Mr. Almer to refine the tasks; this could be a model for more than one useful tool; tasks can be worked on simultaneously with a draft completed by mid-summer; the plan will help the BMP subcommittee make decisions and can show where TMDLs could be implemented; the budget includes funds for the plan and the data should be available and usable. **Manager Polasik moved to authorize EOR to implement the 2011 Strategic Plan Projects proposal. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.**

8. Cost Share Program

Amy Carolan reported that a Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in mid-February. The structure of the Subcommittee was discussed.

9. New Business-

a. Spring Newsletter

Suggested articles include zebra mussels/invasive species, BMPs, volunteer water monitoring, buckthorn removal and a manager profile.

b. Envirothon Request

Manager Caldecott moved to approve \$150 to help fund Envirothon teams. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Lilleskogen Park Request

Administrator Shaver reported that the City of Scandia asked the District to participate in upgrading the Park parking lot from paving to impervious pavement. He will request a cost estimate from the City and report back. The District participated in the Square Lake parking lot project. Managers suggested requesting a sign and asking the City to participate in District projects. Manager Caldecott noted that the District meets at Scandia Town Hall for no charge. Ms. Carolan volunteered to run load reduction estimates based on the size of the project.

d. Watershed Assessment Tool

See 7 (above).

e. Administrative 2011 Work Plan

Administrator Shaver provided a draft work plan. Manager Kronmiller requested a timeline be added. Manager Polasik suggested that it be called an Annual Work Plan because some tasks won't be completed in one year. Manager Lennes stated that this is a nice checklist.

10. Old/Other Business

a. Lease

Manager Lennes moved to sign the lease. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- Metro MAWD will meet to discuss a stormwater minimum impact design standard.
- Presentation on the preliminary draft Lake St. Croix TMDL was held on January 11.
- First Hugo Natural Resources group meeting was held on January 25.
- MAWD Association of District Administrators met in January.
- MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol is March 24, with a reception planned for March 23 at 4 p.m.
- Permitting seminar with LGUs will be held at the end of February.
- St. Croix River Conference at River Falls is on April 5. Manager Caldecott volunteered to drive.
- MN Erosion Control Association will hold its annual conference on March 3-4 in Plymouth. It is technical, but good.

12. Next Meeting, Adjourn

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

Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn to an Executive Committee meeting. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP