

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

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

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer and Pete Young (EOR), Ray Marshall and Susannah Torseth (Legal), Jack Warren (Marine Planning Commission), Andy Kramer (Marine General Store), Peter Mott (Washington County Parks), Doug Salmela and Mike Blehert (Big Marine Lake Association), Melissa Lewis (BWSR), Sally Leider (Watershed Wisdom) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. Approve February Agenda

Manager Caldecott moved to approve the March 7, 2011 agenda as presented. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Approve February 7 Minutes

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the February 7, 2011 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager Kronmiller stated that he will provide a summary of the February executive session.

3. Treasurer's Report

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

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

4. Bills to be Paid

Manager Dupre moved the bills to be paid in the amount of \$50,164.75. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Public Comments

a. Marine Street Improvement Subcommittee

Administrator Shaver reported that businesses and the City of Marine on the St. Croix formed a subcommittee on street improvement. Andy Kramer, as a business owner and member of the subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee is addressing water management issues including stormwater runoff that is causing erosion and damage to village center buildings. The subcommittee came to the District for its expertise on mitigation. Marine would like help understanding the problem and, in the best case, help with engineering solutions. The subcommittee hopes to incorporate landscaping and beautification into the mitigation solution and to have substantial plans in place before the City's August budget process. Land boundary surveys have been done. Carl Almer stated that EOR has done some work on area water volumes. Administrator Shaver added that the District has funds in its 2011 budget to complete a hydrologic survey of Marine and the orphan area.

Before a cost-share decision can be made, Managers requested answers to the following: what are the statutory stormwater and historic requirements for Marine, how is Marine going to address these requirements and what were, if any, the District's comments on Marine's management plan. Other issues included approaching MnDot to help correct erosion problems associated with its rebuilding of Hwy 95, verifying the area hydrologic model, which Mr. Almer estimated would take one to two days and, possibly, providing design work. Next steps outlined are: Administrator Shaver will review the Marine Management Plan, any comments the District provided and EOR resources available to help. He will contact Mr. Kramer about possibly attending the upcoming city council meeting.

b. Big Marine Lake Owners—Board Action

Mike Blehert reviewed the Lake Association's November discussion with the Board about its fall survey of Eurasian watermilfoil, a request for funding spring milfoil treatment and District policy about funding lake associations. The Association treated 19 acres in 2010 with funding from the DNR and will need to treat 15-19 acres in 2011. The treated areas are patchy, which indicates the treatment is making headway. The Association now has 104 paid members. The Washington County Park Board intends to contribute to the Association this year and the Girl Scout and Vets camps have been approached. From these memberships, the Association expects to raise \$2,500, with plans in the future to raise membership dues to \$50 and expand outreach to other organizations such as fishing associations. A grant request is also being made to the DNR for spring treatment. The cost to treat the milfoil is about \$400-\$500 per acre or about \$7,000-\$9,000 in total. The Association expects to be \$3,000-\$4,000 short, but stressed they can't afford to miss a year of treatment. Because the timeline for getting a DNR grant to completing the milfoil survey to treating the lake, is so short, the Association is asking for a District pledge. Manager Husveth encouraged the group to keep doing what it is doing and, as it evolves, to think of short- and long-terms goals and develop a five-to 10-year management plan. Manager Lennes stated that because the invasive problem was a condition of the DNR imposing a ramp on Big Marine Lake, this Association is more deserving of District funding. Further discussion included the need for managing milfoil indefinitely, eventually funding treatment through lakeshore owners and other partner contributions, establishing District policy for invasives and using license fees/surcharges to raise funds for treating invasives. Mr. Blehart then requested the District again pledge \$3,000 for the treatment of milfoil in 2011.

Manager Tuenge moved to renew the District's past pledge to contribute \$3,000 to the Big Marine Lake Association for treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil in 2011 as a trial to determine how successful this project is, to help the District set future policy on invasives and funding lake associations and with the note that milfoil was imported into the lake with the installation of the public dock. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 7-0. Administrator Shaver recommended using funds from budget item Lake Homeowners Association Support.

6. New Business

a. Conservation Partners/WCD—Peter Mott—Board Action

Peter Mott outlined the partnership project with WCD, Washington County Parks Division and, hopefully, CMSCWD to protect and enhance the threatened Blanding's turtle population and habitat in the Big Marine Parks Reserve. A Conservation Partners Legacy Grant is being submitted to the DNR for Phase I. The CMSCWD is being asked to join as a partner. Phase I outlines five activities: 1. Create drift fencing in the park to direct the turtles to the culverts for safe crossing, 2. Create nesting habitat in the park. 3. Track turtles with radio telemetry, 4. Provide education and outreach to the community and 5. Report findings to the DNR. In response to Manager questions, Mr. Mott clarified that because there is good anecdotal information about the turtle locations, tracking need not be done before Phase I begins. The fencing can be moved to ensure safe upland passage, monitoring will be done on the pinch point in the south bay to mitigate trail and fishing impacts. Radio monitoring batteries are small and last up to two years. A volunteer component will be looked at as the program develops.

Manager Tuenge moved to become a partner with Washington County Parks and contribute \$500 to the project. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0. Manager Shaver suggested using the funds from budget line-item Education.

7. Education

a. Watershed Wisdom—Sally Leider

Ms. Leider presented the 2011 Watershed Wisdom Program, linking fifth graders with educators, artists, scientists and naturalists to inspire stewardship of the St. Croix Watershed. Using the Socratic model, students are challenged to think, respond and solve problems. The program will serve five classrooms and 150 students at Marine, Withrow and Scandia schools this year. Marine and Scandia classrooms will be working with visual artists. Marine will create an interactive sculpture with runoff as the theme and Scandia will focus on dragonflies. The artwork will be displayed at Millstream Days. Another focus of the program is to get kids out of the classroom experiencing nature. Warner Nature Center and Lilleskogen Park are two areas students visit. Next year Watershed Wisdom will partner with Milkweed Editions, a nonprofit publisher, to add literature, in-depth artist residencies and an author visit to the program. Watershed Wisdom can be expanded by adding new schools or adding additional grade levels at current schools. A program schedule will be provided and staff and managers are invited to attend a classroom session. It was agreed that Ms. Leider would present a budget to Administrator Shaver for an artist to work with her at Withrow this year.

8. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

Administrator Shaver reported that BTG will submit its application with supporting materials next week and Scandia Plaza sent its surety.

a. Tii-Gavo Permit Addendum—Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the review and recommendations for the revised Phase-I and Phase-II Tii Gavo permit. Manager Husveth recused himself from the discussion and voting. **Manager Caldecott moved to adopt EOR's recommendations to closeout Phase-I of Permit 06-019 once outlined items have been addressed to District satisfaction and to keep Permit 06-019 active until wetland mitigation work is**

completed and approved, rain gardens are installed and Phase-II work is completed and approved. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0-1.

9. Project Status Update

Mr. Almer summarized funding received and recent actions for the Sand and Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership. The next steps will be a complete mapping of BMPs identified and preliminary goals. The second stakeholder meetings will be scheduled for late April or early May. There were good responses from the first Sand Lake meeting.

Manager Huvseth stated that he reviewed the draft TMDL report and has comments to submit. He raised many questions and concerns about the project and process. Discussion included: the need for the District to have control of the process; the need to get answers to monitoring questions—the wide range in data from year to year, how samples are collected, why data is being collected. Does the District realistically need to do anything for these lakes (would a good monitoring year meet the TMDL) and if so, what should be collected and how should it be collected? Other questions included: are some of the bodies really lakes and are some really impaired; what are the TMDL objectives and how can answers to these questions be obtained and, if necessary, how can the direction of the TMDL process be changed? Administrator Shaver will poll the Board for additional questions about the TMDL report and schedule a time with the TMDL consultants to answer those questions. It was clarified that Administrator Shaver will compile comments on the report. He responded to the Board's other questions that, the Managers, along with LGUs and agencies, are part of the TAC, EOR collects macrophyte data and WCD provides the rest of the water monitoring and administers the TMDL grant. Mr. Almer stated that he would be willing to meet outside of this project to discuss questions and concerns.

Mr. Almer reported that he and Administrator Shaver met with community staff on February 25 about the Rules. Based on suggestions, the District will amend the activity-based Rule guidance document, which will be posted on the District website.

Mr. Almer reported that related to the 2011 Strategic Projects, WCD will be assigning a phosphorous load to grids throughout the County. This will reduce the District's scope of work on subwatershed delineation and save about \$2,000. An article in the *Country Messenger* and brochures are asking for community input.

10. Cost Share Program

There was no report.

11. Old/Other Business-

a. Revised Work Plan—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that the work plan was revised, based on manager input.

b. Managers' Appointments

In response to Mayor Voedisch's letter about manager appointments, Manager Lennes stated that there is not a statute requiring LGUs to screen candidates for watershed district boards.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported

- Attended the MN Erosion Control Association conference.
- MAWD Reception and Legislative Breakfast is March 23 and 24. Manager Lennes plans to attend.
- St. Croix River Conference in River Falls is on April 5.
- Manager Lennes provided google research on aquatic invasive species, based on last month's discuss and Ray Bohn (BWSR) provided a legislative update.

13. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall. **Manager Polasik moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP