

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting April 4, 2011**

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

Managers Absent: Jason Husveth and Kristin Tuenge.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer, Andrea Plevan and Dan Fabian (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Jay Riggs (WCD), and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

1. Approve April Agenda—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller requested adding approval of the Executive Session minutes.

Administrator Shaver requested adding Marine stormwater project.

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

2. Approve March 7 and Executive Session Minutes—Board Action

Manager Lennes moved approval of the March 7, 2011 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Lennes moved to approve the Executive Session minutes. Second by Polasik. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Fabian clarified that he will be working with legal counsel on outstanding permit fees.

Manager Polasik moved approval of the April 4, 2011 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Bills to be Paid—Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the bills.

Manager Caldecott moved the April bills to be paid in the amount of \$24,994.60. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

Mr. Fabian reported that additional information for permit 08-001 BGT I and II has still not been provided. If in one week the information has not been received, Administrator Shaver will send a letter stating that if information is not received in one week the District will turn the permit over to legal counsel.

6. Project Status Update

Mr. Almer reported that he and Administrator Shaver will schedule meetings with Sand and Long lakes residents in late May or early June to discuss BMP designs and implementation

opportunities. Administrator Shaver will send letters inviting targeted watershed residents to an April 12 workshop on rain gardens and shoreline buffers. Square Lake Clean Water partners will be reviewing the biological and groundwater data analyses. Two managers are encouraged to attend this meeting. The final Activity-Based Rule guidance document was presented. Administrator Shaver will notify local governments that they have two years to revise their local water management plans to conform to the District's.

7. Public Comments

a. Ozark Ave., May Township

Administrator Shaver reported that a neighborhood group asked for help dealing with an erosion problem on the northwest side of Big Carnelian Lake. Based on a quick inspection, it appears that road runoff is the major problem. May Township will need to pave the road before rain gardens or other BMPs will be effective. Administrator Shaver suggested he attend the Township meeting to begin discussion about working collaboratively to address the runoff. Manager Caldecott reported that he heard homeowners are willing to pay for improvements.

8. TMDL Comments and Questions

Administrator Shaver distributed notes from the stakeholder and TAC meetings. He reported that the District entered into a contract with the WCD and the MPCA for the multi-lakes TMDL Implementation Plan. Mr. Riggs stated that this has been a long process because of a gap in MPCA funding. Once the TMDL plan is approved, it will be integrated with the District Management Plan. The TMDL plan quantifies what needs to be done to improve water quality. Unless a community has an MS4 permit, implementation is voluntary. Manager Lennes stated that it is crucial to talk with the farming community and key organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Riggs stated that the TMDL plan is complicated because it combines 10 lakes. The plan takes a new approach by providing more information—land covers, stressors, load reduction and primary areas for reductions. Mr. Riggs and Ms. Plevin addressed the Manager's questions.

- Will reaching our goals help us reach goals for Lake St. Croix? In some lakes yes, in some lakes in part and in land-locked lakes no. Lake St. Croix goals are for all the contributing watersheds. As yet, the MPCA has not developed an accounting system for load reductions on lakes. Many factors affect the loads such as seasonality, type of drainage and proximity to the lake. The District will need to prioritize reduction projects.
- What accounts for the variability in water monitoring data? Overall, there is actual variability in lakes and variability in monitoring. Each year means and errors are calculated and monitoring data across years are compared. It is the long-term averages that provide an indication of water quality.
- Will large amounts of snowmelt help or hurt efforts? In this watershed, snowmelt will not have an overall affect because there is not a lot of land application of manure or other nutrients. If that changes, the WCD should be notified. Each lake has its load reduction goals.

The challenges will be to sell the District BMP Program, develop a structure to provide incentives in target areas and improve infrastructure such as failing septic systems. The District Capitol Improvement Plan provides a budget, while the TMDL Implementation Plan provides quantifiable goals. Both plans are crucial for applying for grants. Mr. Riggs requested comments be submitted by next week. Manager Caldecott stated that the TMDL plan is a masterful document.

9. Cost Share Program

a. Beaver/Muskrat Control Inquiry

Hugo resident Chuck Hass requested a grant from the District to help purchase 5 to 6 culvert grates to keep muskrats and beavers from plugging the culverts. The Managers agreed that grates will not prevent plugging and recommended he get a DNR permit to shoot the muskrats and beavers.

b. Buckthorn Grant

Administrator Shaver reported that a DNR matching grant for buckthorn removal is due April 8. About \$10,000 would be needed to treat about 20-25 acres along the St. Croix. The grant would cover 50% of the cost, while the District and residents would each provide 25%. It was agreed that Amy Carolan will draft a proposal and a maintenance plan to present to the BMP Subcommittee.

10. New Business

a. 2011 Overflight for Septic on Impaired Waters—Possible Board Action

The Managers discussed the overflight proposal and agreed that an overflight identifying failing septic systems would be useful. Administrator Shaver will clarify the proposal for an overflight on the 10 impaired lakes.

b. Rain Barrels for Mill Stream Day

Manager Dupre suggested getting a few rain barrels to raffle at Mill Stream Day. Administrator Shaver will get some barrels.

c. Policy Discussion—Plan for Review, Comment and Adoption

It was agreed that the Managers will read the policies and provide comments to Administrator Shaver.

d. New Probe/Sensor for Streams, \$1,000—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to buy the necessary probes. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Auditor Engagement Letter—Board Action

Manager Lennes moved to authorize the Administrator to sign a letter of engagement for the audit. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Old/Other Business-

a. Marine Stormwater Project

Administrator Shaver recommended laying the groundwork for a stormwater project with Marine.

Manager Caldecott moved to authorize EOR to provide a hydrologic study to lay the groundwork for a potential joint CMSCWD-Marine stormwater project not to exceed \$2,000 from the erosion control budget. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 4/1.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported that:

- No legislators attended the MAWD Reception and Legislative Breakfast. He and Manager Lennes attended.
- St. Croix River Conference is on April 5. He and Managers Lennes, Polasik, Dupre, Caldecott and Kronmiller plan to attend.
- Cost share meeting is on April 6.
- Shoreline buffer and rain garden workshop for focused watersheds is on April 12. Managers Lennes and Caldecott plan to attend.
- Metro MAWD meeting is on April 19.

Other issues discussed:

- Manager Polasik reported that Jeff Wick asked about the size of the fees required (\$500 fee and \$1,000 surety) for a geothermal project on his landlocked property. Manager discussion included: the fee structure is intended to cover District inspections costs, Administrator Shaver has made several inspections at the site, this project triggered a higher fee because more than one acre of land is being disturbed, and a drawing of the pond and impervious liner is needed to assess infiltration and the potential for a stormwater permit. Manager Polasik asked if sureties can be reduced, if there are no triggers. Mr. Almer stated that the District does not ask for additional if fees if the permit fees are exceeded. Administrator Shaver suggested gaining further experience with permits and associated fees before revisiting the issue of fee reductions.

13. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall. **Manager Caldecott moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP