

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting June 12, 2013**

**Managers Present:** Steve Kronmiller, Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Victoria Dupre, Andy Weaver, Dave DeVault and Richard Caldecott.

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Jessica Collin-Pilarski (Washington County) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the June 13, 2013 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2. Introduction and Oath of Office for New Manager Dave DeVault**

Mr. DeVault was introduced and provided background. He has lived on Big Carnelian Lake for the past six years and on the St. Croix River previously. He has retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and will be finishing some contract duties at the end of the month. He then took the oath of office.

**3. Approve May 8, 2013 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the May 8, 2013 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0-2.**

**4. Treasurer's Report—Board Action**

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

**5. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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

**a. Tii Gavo—Phase I Approval and Release of Surety—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver reported that Dan Fabian (EOR) completed a walk-through to complete the last requirement of the Phase I permit.

**Manager Kronmiller moved to accept Phase I of the Tii Gavo development as complete and authorize the Administrator to return one-half the surety totaling \$4,600 to the developer. Second by Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.**

**7. Project Status Update**

Mr. Almer reported on the following:

**a. Sand and Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership**

The Sand and Long Clean Water Partnership report was distributed and the District applied for and received a Phase II implementation grant from the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A Phase II work plan detailing wetland restoration projects, public education and outreach, pond retrofits, etc. is the next step. A meeting of the Sand and Long lakes home associations will be held later this summer to review potential projects and get recommendations for BMPs.

**b. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership**

Hamline University completed the 2012 lake monitoring to begin assessing the effect of the trout-stocking moratorium on water quality. Initial secchi disk readings indicate clearer water. After next year's monitoring, Administrator Shaver suggested scheduling a presentation to the board and to the public. The Square Lake Diagnostic and Implementation Plan was revised following staff input and will be submitted to the MPCA.

**c. Assessment Tool**

The tool is completed and on disk. A simplified version will be posted on the District website. The tool can now be used to help make funding decisions.

**d. Goose Lake Ravine Stabilization**

Roger Rydeen will repair a drain tile and stabilize the pond slope. After plugs are planted, a final inspection will be conducted and the project will be closed out.

**e. Goose Lake and Loghouse Landings**

Concept plans for the landings were presented at a joint meeting with the City of Scandia. Mr. Almer will calculate load reductions for the Goose Lake landing project. He will refine cost estimates for the three Loghouse Landing options: a public access, a canoe/kayak access or no access. Manager Weaver stated that there might be public safety funds available if the landing is used to launch water rescue boats.

**f. Little Carnelian Pipe Inspection**

The inspection report should be provided in the next two weeks. Manager Caldecott noted that there might be an obstruction at the Big Carnelian outlet. Administrator Shaver will investigate.

**g. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Reconnaissance**

Fieldwork will begin the week of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Carol and North Twin lakes will be resampled in August. A report covering all but Carol and North Twin lakes will be provided in late July.

**h. Other Projects**

**i. Marine on St. Croix Stormwater Management**

Mr. Almer and Administrator Shaver investigated retrofit opportunities along 6<sup>th</sup> St. in Marine to provide an alternative stormwater management project example. The District can apply for grants to help with projects, but it is Marine's responsibility to comply with rule requirements.

**ii. Joint Water Quality Projects with Washington County**

Administrator Shaver reported that he sent a letter to Washington County Public Works Director Donald Theisen about working together to achieve increased resource and water quality protection. As the liaisons to the watershed districts, Ms. Collin-Pilarski asked that she and Stephanie Souter be copied on these issues to help get the ball rolling.

**iii. Trout Pond on Cedar Bend**

Administrator Shaver reported that he noticed a new culvert and clear cutting around a pond that is spring fed, flows to the St. Croix River and has been used to rear trout. He suggested to the property owner that she install erosion control, mulch and seed around the pond as soon as possible. Molly Shodeen (DNR) recommended the District continue to monitor the property. As far as an after-the-fact-permit, Administrator Shaver said that because he got cooperation, he did not feel a permit is warranted. He also noted that MAWD is drafting a proposal to institute outcomes for these situations.

**8. New Business**

**a. Website Assessment Quote from MightMo Design--\$1,500-2,000—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver reported that the website could be improved and Flat Rock consulting recommended MightyMo for an assessment.

**Manager Caldecott moved to reallocate \$1,800 from the Marine Hwy 95 Wetlands account to the Website account and authorize the administrator to work with the The MightMo Design Company to assess District website needs not to exceed \$2,000. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 7-0.**

**b. Curly Leaf Pondweed Treatment on Big Marine Lake**

Administrator Shaver reported that the Big Marine Lake Homeowners Association conducted an AIS survey and submitted a cost share proposal for herbicide to treat curly leaf pondweed. The association will provide the labor. **Manager Polasik moved to reimburse the Big Marine Lake Association for the purchase of a herbicide not to exceed \$2,000. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.**

**9. Old Business**

**a. Cover Crop Proposal—Pam Arnold and Ann Bancroft—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver reported that this project was identified at the joint CMSCWD-Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District workshop for the agricultural community. He added that the districts were each charged \$2,800 for WCD's one-hour presentation and he is negotiating a fee reduction.

**Manager Weaver moved to approve a cost share incentive not to exceed \$2,484 a year for three years for the Pam Arnold-Ann Bancroft cover crop project on a 24-acre field in Section 07 of the City of Scandia. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.**

**b. Administration Authorization to Sign MPCA CWP Implementation Grant—Board Action**

**Manager Dupre moved to authorize the Administrator to accept and sign the MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant for Sand and Long Lakes. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.**

**c. Cost Share Summary**

Administrator Shaver reported that although site visits are being completed, there are fewer commitments for projects. WCD staff turnover might be a factor.

**10. Discussion Points**

**a. Distribution of Annual Report and Audit**

Administrator Shaver reported that he is very happy with the new auditor process and, for the first time, the District's annual report was submitted to BWSR on time.

**b. Preliminary Budget Discussion and Schedule Workshop for June 26th**

Manager Kronmiller stated that the draft budget prepared for the workshop is a wish list, which will be whittled down. Although the District has reduced its budget for the last five years, it cannot be done again. There are many more demands including the TMDL Implement Plan, potential projects with local governments, AIS, lake cleanups and possibly a major plan amendment. Manager Kronmiller recommended reviewing the 2000 Phosphorous Sensitivity Analysis Report by Mark Doneux then of the Soil and Water Conservation District. The assumptions are still fairly valid and could help with focused lake management. In response to questions, Ms. Collin-Pilarski stated that last year district budgets ranged from a budget decrease to a 20 percent increase. She acknowledged that administrative costs, which the county board would like to be no more than 10 percent of the overall budget, are not reported in the same way across districts. She will schedule a meeting with district administrators to develop a uniform reporting format. To help with the budget process, she can provide the district with tax information such as the change in property values.

**c. Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Update**

Administrator Shaver reported that they had a successful CAC meeting, with a good amount of the lake areas being represented.

**i. Board Liaison**

Manager DeVault volunteered to replace Manager Caldecott as the liaison to the CAC.

**ii. Informal Meeting with the Board**

It was agreed to hold an informal gathering in July at Arcola Mills.

**d. Support for AIS/Watershed District Coordinator—Cliff Aichinger Proposal**

Administrator Shaver reported that Mr. Aichinger (RWMWD) is seeking financial support from watershed districts for an AIS coordinator, potentially housed at the

University of Minnesota. Questions raised included: is there someone at a government agency already functioning in this capacity, what services/value added would this staff provide and what are the specific duties and responsibilities? The board requested more information, but expressed a willingness to explore a shared coordinator.

#### **11. Bills to be Paid—Board Action**

Manager Tuenge reviewed the bills to be paid.

**Manager Polasik moved to pay bills in the amount of \$44, 639.16. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **12. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

##### **a. District Water Levels**

There is plenty of water, except in Little Carnelian Lake. Administrator Shaver removed two boards in the Turtle Lake weir this winter, but recently added one board and removed a beaver dam. Water is now flowing. If needed, an additional board will be added.

##### **b. Joint City/Township Tours and Meeting**

Administrator Shaver and Manager Tuenge participated in a joint tour with the City of Scandia. Shaver also met with May Township and the Marine Planning Commission.

##### **c. Sand/Long Lake Homeowner Associations**

Administrator Shaver met with the Sand Lake HOA Board about a summer public meeting to get input on BMPs.

##### **d. Stillwater Township Joint Workshop**

The Township requested changing the workshop to July.

##### **e. MAWD Summer Water Resources Tour**

The tour is in New Ulm on June 20-21.

##### **f. St. Croix River Trip**

Administrator Shaver will recruit representatives from local governments to attend to hear about TMDL implementation plans. The tour is July 17 at 5-9 p.m. leaving from Hudson.

#### **13. Next Meeting, Adjourn**

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia Community Center.

**Manager Polasik moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister  
MMC Associates