

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting June 6, 2011**

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

Managers Absent: John Lennes.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Dan Fabian (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Amy Carolan (WCD) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

1. Approve June Agenda—Board Action

Manager Caldecott moved to approve the June 6, 2011 agenda as presented. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Approve May 2 Minutes—Board Action

Changes to items 5b and 7 (the second bullet point) were suggested.

Manager Caldecott moved approval of the May 2, 2011 as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 3-0-3.

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

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report and bills to be paid.

Manager Polasik moved approval of the June 6, 2011 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$25,989.32. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Shaver noted that Mill Stream Day was canceled and might be rescheduled. The two rain barrels purchased for a drawing at the festival could be used for a drawing at another event. Manager Dupre suggested donating a rain barrel to a Marine business as a high-visibility demonstration display. Administrator Shaver clarified that there were contractor expenses associated with preparing the 2010 Annual Report and administrative expenses to send and post the District minutes. BWSR requires annual reports be submitted within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

Administrator Shaver reported that the Wick property was red tagged by Stillwater Township. The extensive excavation of a pond for a geothermal system was deemed by the Township to be an unpermitted gravel operation.

Mr. Fabian presented two action items.

a. Permit 08-001 BTG & BGTII May Township Mining Operation

Permit materials received on April 18, 2011 were again incomplete. Administrator Shaver sent a letter on April 27 advising the applicant of this and followed up with a phone call on June 2. The application materials have been incomplete since 2008. **Manager Tuenge moved to direct staff to turn the project over to legal counsel if completed application materials are not received by June 17, 2011. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0.**

b. Permit 11-002 Nelson Hillside Estate

After concept materials were reviewed, Administrator Shaver sent the applicant a list of permit needs. The permit materials were received on June 27 and are under review. **Manager Caldecott moved to authorize staff to approve the permit after the review is completed and accepted by staff. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0.**

6. Project Status Update

Mr. Fabian reported:

a. Phase III TMDL

There is still time for Manager input before edits are finished and submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Mr. Fabian, Administrator Shaver and Jay Riggs met with MPCA staff about TMDL implementation plans.

b. 2011 Strategic Projects

Carl Almer will present the prioritization framework at the July meeting.

c. Marine on the St. Croix Stormwater Plan

Administrator Shaver presented more detailed subwatershed data to the planning committee. This information will be incorporated into the overall stormwater plan.

7. Cost Share Program

a. Chestnut/Goose Lake Gully Proposal

Ms. Carolan reported that the property owner requested and received a site visit. She and Administrator Shaver deemed the project as too large for the District's regular cost share program. Pete Young (WCD) drafted two concept plans—a rock check system with a native plant buffer for a cost of approximately \$28,200 and a 24-inch HDPE pipe with seeding and a native plant buffer for a cost of approximately \$55,700. Mr. Young recommended the pipe system. Manager Huvseth stated that the per pound estimated cost of phosphorous removal is within the accepted range for both options. A BWSR Clean Water Fund grant could be applied for in August. Other discussion issues included:

- The project options seem to treat the symptom not the problem, which is runoff from other properties. If other property owners voluntarily participate, should it be with a BMP cost share and, if so at what percentage? If other owners are involved it will take longer and be harder to implement.
- The Chestnuts are willing to address the runoff.
- The City of Scandia owns the right-of-way, the street is concentrating the water and it is unlikely that Scandia will participate in a cost share.

- Surface water should not be dropped into a pipe.
- This project requires restoration and maintenance.
- The amount of phosphorous reduction into Goose Lake can be calculated and will fit with the TMDL implementation plan.
- This raises the policy issues of cost sharing with cities and/or moving forward to improve water resources with or without cities providing financial matches.

It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will meet with the landowners and Scandia staff about the project and report back to the Board.

b. Other Proposals

Administrator Shaver stated that Angie Hong’s presentations have generated much more interest in BMPs this year than was anticipated. If all the Subcommittee’s recommendations are approved, the budget for cost share projects will be exceeded. In that case, Administrator Shaver recommended using contingency funds for additional cost share projects and possibly looking at moving funds from other accounts. Ms. Carolan presented four projects for approval.

Manager Polasik moved to approve the four projects for a total cost share of \$4,410. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

8. New Business

a. 2012 Budget

i. Project and Budgeted Projects as a Percentage of Overall Budget

Manager Husveth stated that he has been talking with Administrator Shaver about the budget and thanked him for providing the 2005-2011 YTD Expense Report. As the Board prepares to adopt its 2012 budget in September, he stated that now is the time for discussion. He has been on the Board for three years, serving in the midst of updating the plan and rules. As a board member and ecologist, he agreed to serve because he wanted to see projects implemented. In 2012, he recommended allocating 40 percent of the budget for in-the-ground projects, with the goal to reach 50 percent in coming years. If projects do not account for 40-50 percent, he recommended reducing the levy. Although a watershed-wide assessment needs to be completed, the District should begin implementing projects based on the best current information such as the amount of phosphorous reduced.

Manager Kronmiller stated that, in addition to BMPs and channel maintenance, permits should be allocated to project expenses. Philosophically, he agreed with Manager Husveth and added that he would like to see the Board define project areas, for example groundwater and surface water and what is getting into the St. Croix from up regions (the orphan area). He stated that the District has already identified a number of projects, as well as impaired lakes, and can move forward with those. How do we kick those off?

Manager Caldecott stated that projects should be written up with objectives and procedures. He recommended brainstorming projects such as gully erosion and some specific areas to work on.

Manager Polasik noted that municipalities have levy authority and, perhaps, should cost share in projects. He stated that some projects have been identified such as the Chestnut project. Another approach would be to use these projects as examples of what municipalities should be doing.

Manager Dupre stated that the District mission supports a focus on projects. To accomplish this, she recommended identifying projects and budget for them first, then move backwards for the rest of the budget. This approach can be used with the 2012 budget process.

Administrator Shaver stated that the TMDL analysis provides the concept for this approach and the tools (the loading map for the District) are being developed.

The Board was in agreement with Manager Husveth and agreed to hold a workshop (or two) to develop criteria for selecting projects, identify projects for this year (such as the 100th St. Deer Trail and Chestnut) and identify projects and costs for the 2012 budget. Manager Husveth agreed to work with Administrator Shaver to develop selection categories. Administrator Shaver will post the meeting notice.

b. Grant Applications

i. Gullys

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Carl Almer (EOR) met with Melissa Lewis (BWSR) about grant applications. Plans are to resubmit two gully projects—197th in Marine and one in Stillwater—and possibly another two projects, if time permits.

ii. Others

Administrator Shaver asked for input on funding septic system replacements on impaired lakes. Manager responses ranged from shut failing systems down, to have the County shut them down, to review replacement on a case-by-case basis, to provide a match, to concern about possibly creating a situation where people will not fix their systems because the District will pay.

c. July Budget Workshop and August Meeting Date Change

Administrator Shaver stated that the first budget workshop is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on July 18 and will be noticed to the public. He has received some comments that the public would like to be involved early in the process. Manager Kronmiller stated that the first workshop should follow-up with tonight's discussion.

The August Regular and Annual meetings will be held on Thursday, August 11.

9. Old/Other Business-

a. Policy Discussion

Administrator Shaver reported that he did not receive any comments on the policies. Legal counsel drafted resolutions for

i. Conflict of Interest

ii. Public Data

iii. Administrator Job Description

Manager Kronmiller moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest, Public Data and Administrator Job Description resolutions. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Marshall clarified that setting the fee for providing documents can be done administratively.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- Manager Dupre was reappointed to the board for a three-year term. The County did not reappoint Manager Caldecott, but asked him to serve until a qualified replacement is found. Manager Caldecott agreed to serve.
- The MAWD Policy Committee will be issuing more policies next month.
- Dan Fabian plans to attend the MAWD Summer Tour.
- Water levels are up including in Little and Big Carnelian Lakes. The Big Marine Lake weir is one inch down on the north side and five inches below the weir on the south. The stop logs will be put in when the water level is seven inches below the weir. Beavers are back in Little Carnelian. Carnelian Creek at County Rd. 7 is flowing, but is slowing. The May Ave. culvert is also flowing, despite the beaver dam. Mark Palas is trapping beavers. Shaver will ask Molly Shodeen of DNR for formal permission to perform maintenance on the section of Carnelian Creek from Cty Rd 4 through May Ave. to Tatge's.
- The District is in need of a camera. Manager Polasik offered to donate a Cannon digital.
- Manager expenses are due by July 1.

11. Next Meeting, Adjourn

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall.

Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP