

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District  
Regular Meeting July 11, 2011**

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

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Ray Marshall (Legal), Amy Carolan (WCD), Ken Ostlund and Chuck Nelson(Christ Lutheran), Nick Arnt(BTG Mining) and Carmen Simonet (Recorder).

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the July 11, 2011 agenda as presented. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.**

**2. Approve June 6 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Caldecott moved approval of the June 6, 2011 as presented. Second by Manager Husveth. Motion carried 7-0.**

**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 July 11, 2011 Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Manager Polasik moved to approve the bills to be paid in the amount of \$18,311.22. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7-0.**

**4. Public Comments**

**a. Ken Ostlund—Christ Lutheran Parking Lot**

A retired civil engineer, Mr. Ostlund has extensive experience in municipal work. He has been the engineer for many local projects, and was involved in the initial forming of the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District. Mr. Ostlund has been working for three months with the City and the Watershed District to come up with a parking lot design for the Christ Lutheran Church in Marine and has a number of issues he needs addressed. He finds the District's rules unclear regarding ponding and the treatment of runoff and would like the District to show him an example of a project similar in scale to his for reference. In addition, the \$2,000 for plan review seems excessive for the size of his project. He asked for two variances:

1. Reduce the ponding requirement.
2. Waive the \$2,000 plan review fee.

The project site is a vacant lot owned by the Church. Church members currently park on the lot in its grass state, but when soils are wet it is a mess. His design proposes to develop about one-third of this lot as a gravel parking lot and leave the remaining two-thirds as green space. The site is on a rock ledge, the depth is uncertain, but probably

about three feet down. Manager Kronmiller said it makes perfect sense to put a parking lot in that area, our challenge is to figure out how to keep the water on site for a two-inch rainfall, two-year event.

Mr. Ostlund has had Administrator Shaver review his plan, and was told he needs more ponding areas. He looked through the rules and does not find any place where it says how much ponding. He also thinks the addition of all this ponding is a potential hazard. He also believes all this ponding requires too many existing trees and vegetation to be removed. He says the vegetation has been helping to reduce the runoff and neighbors will be upset to lose the screen. Manager Husveth said vegetation alone will not solve the problem, depressions are needed, but it's not clear to him if the trees have to be removed. Mr. Almer said the plan removes the "scrub" trees leaving the large ones.

Manager Kronmiller said it seems there is a misunderstanding of terminology. The managers agreed the word "pond" is confusing and they should not be using it. No one wants ponds, these are rain gardens. They are planted, and Ms. Carolan pointed out they can be designed to overflow. The Managers agreed, they would like to see Mr. Almer and Mr. Ostlund come up with a workable plan.

Manager Husveth and Mr. Almer thought there may be confusion about what calculation to use. They pointed out the rules are not addressing containment of effluent but stormwater runoff from hard surfaces. The rules are asking to treat a two-year stormwater event. Manager Lennes asked are we asking for no net increase or something more restrictive? Manager Kronmiller said we do not want to increase the amount of runoff that is currently leaving the site. He also asked if we know how much ponding we require, and if we know how much is running off the bedrock? Mr. Almer said we are designing for a two-year event, 13,940 square feet of area needing treatment, which amounts to 2,600 cubic feet of runoff.

Mr. Ostlund believes Mr. Almer's approach is way too expensive. He proposed using Dresser Trap rock with under-drainage to bring the water to perimeter ponds. This is the design used at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, which he has looked at, but that project includes catch basins (not an option in Marine) to reduce the ponding areas. Both Manager Polasik and Husveth were interested in hearing alternative approaches.

Mr. Almer said the most cost effective option is to grade the parking area with a highpoint down the center to direct drainage to green spaces on both sides of the lot. Followed with a combination of shallow rain gardens and swales around the perimeter. The gravel used in creating the parking lot needs to be an open graded, granitic type, like Dresser Trap. Not Class 5, which contains fines, a big pollutant. Depending on how much room there is to the bedrock, will determine how much detention, but in general, we are looking at a shallow system, with two-thirds of the property used to absorb the runoff.

Manager Tuenge asked what is the worst case scenario? Mr. Almer said they need to drawdown in 48 hours or less, pool water to 9 inch depth or with an under-drain and 6 inch depth. Manager Polasik said with a surface in course material, there is not going to

be much movement off it. In addition, the subsurface could be graded to have check dams to hold and slow down the water.

Manager Husveth said if we want this project to have less runoff then the current amount leaving the site, the Watershed District should subsidize the project. Manager Kronmiller asked, if we grant the variances what harm might happen? Administrator Shaver said they should turn down the variances and ask Mr Ostlund to keep working with the Board. He said the impact on the nearby trout stream is critical. He also said he would like the Board to authorize paying for pre-permitting work to help resolve the misunderstanding. Manager Husveth said we should provide Mr. Ostlund with examples of designs that are more concrete.

Administrator Shaver wants the Board to consider having the Watershed partner with the Church to meet the Watershed's goals and the Church budget. Manager Husveth said we should try to exceed our rules if we are going to assist this development. Manager Kronmiller agreed, if we helped this development meet the standard rules, then to be fair, we would have to help the next one.

Manager Kronmiller reiterated, we need to have a common understanding of words, so the Church understands what we mean when we say pond. We also need project examples that represent what we are talking about. It is the Board's intent to work something out, and not make this an outrageously costly project. Mr. Ostlund said he would keep working with the Watershed and would meet with the Board next month with a plan. Mr. Almer said that hand augured borings, instead of having a Geotechnical go out to the site would save money, and asked this to be part of the direction from the Board.

**b. TACOS re: Zavoral Mining EIS**

Laurie Allmann (resident for TACOS) was not present to give an update. Manager Tuenge is willing to tour the area and report back. In response to a request to have TACOS on the monthly agenda for a progress report, both Manager Lennes and Administrator Shaver said they prefer instead, an open invitation to attend meetings.

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

Administrator Shaver reported the Sandberg property on Big Carnelian and its beach issue will need enforcement. He has also been dealing with The Gruber property. This is not a setback issue, but a grading issue. They have to address the stormwater runoff coming from the structure onto their side yard. The Managers discussed the variance. The house elevation is not the same as was proposed on the drawings. The County issued the permit and will need to deal with this problem.

Mr. Almer presented two action items and one was moved.

**a. Permit 11-003 Tim Bolton - New Construction Big Marine**

The application has a few minor items, and requested Administrator Shaver to authorize the permit.

**Manager Tuenge moved to authorize Permit 11-003. Second by Manager John Lennes. Motion carried 7-0.**

**b. Permit 08-001 BTG & BTG-11 May Township Mining Operation**

The application is incomplete, and asked the Board for direction on how to proceed. Administrator Shaver referred to the Attorney for resolution.

**6. Project Status Update**

Mr. Almer reported:

**a. Sand & Long Clean Water Partnership**

Work is on hold.

**b. Square Lake Clean Water Partnership**

Work is on hold.

**c. Phase III TMDL**

A draft plan is ready for comment, but waiting for government shutdown to end before work can proceed.

**d. 2011 Strategic Projects**

Mr. Almer gave an overview of the Draft Subwatershed Delineation and Landlocked Basin Mapping project. He explained how the landlocked basin map was developed using GIS processes and hand revisions to improve accuracy and summarized the map data.

He went over the worksheet of potential subwatershed ranking criteria and explained the criteria places values and prioritizes the resources, which changes overtime. The Managers need to think about questions to ask to help make decisions on the ranking criteria.

Manager Dupre asked for definitions of legend items to make it understandable and easier to give valid input. She also would like to eventually see the data put into an accessible format on the website for the public to use.

Manager Tuenge asked if it was time for a workshop to learn how to use the data. Manager Husveth thought it was too soon and would prefer to wait until data was more flushed out. Manager Kronmiller felt it made sense to test it out by asking questions and thought maybe they should meet and try it out. Mr. Almer said he has not run a model yet, to try it out. The group discussed schedule and determined in August they will need to focus on the budget. It was left that Mr. Almer could check-in for feedback on this work, at the cost share projects meeting.

**Marine on the St. Croix Stormwater Plan**

Administrator Shaver reported he is meeting with them this Wednesday night (July 13th). It is a public meeting and he will be sharing input into the long range plan.

**Judd & Chestnut Project**

Administrator Shaver reported the project is ongoing, he is in the process of meeting people, meeting with neighbors and learning site details such as clay soils and will report back as he learns more.

## **7. Cost Share Program**

### **a. New Application**

Ms. Carolan reported the Marine Elementary School requests \$3,000 for installation work and recommends approving the request.

**Manager Polasik moved to approve the request. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 7-0.**

### **b. Schoeller Reimbursement**

The Subcommittee recommended a \$500 reimbursement and to have the Schoellers come to a Board meeting to talk about the project.

**Manager Lennes moved to approve the recommendation. Second by Manager Husveth. Motion carried 7-0.**

### **c. Scandia/Lilleskogen Request**

Administrator Shaver asked for input on how much participation by the Watershed. There is no rush on this work, lots of flexibility with how the project can be done and a schematic plan of the park is available. If the District provides a cost share, there is the opportunity to influence water quality issues. The cost of the alternative line item for a permeable pavement parking lot stood out on the cost estimate and Managers commented that it is very costly.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Administrator Health Insurance Increase from \$751.91 to \$766.95**

Administrator Shaver reported an increase in health insurance.

**Manager Dupre moved to approve the increase. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 7-0.**

## **9. Old/Other Business-**

### **a. Policy Discussion**

No discussion leaving it for next month.

### **b. 2012 Budget**

Administrator Shaver presented the preliminary 2012 budget. Managers discussed the layout and presentation of the numbers to discern if it is clear and accountable. Manager Husveth found the hierarchy somewhat hard to follow. BMP should read Cost Shares.

Manager Husveth asked why there is nothing for impaired projects. He would like to see projects implemented. Manager Kronmiller asked how people feel about a 14% increase in the budget. Not turning around projects is part of why funds were not spent. What can we do to turn them around? Suggestions included leaning on the consulting engineers and project partners to get things moving. Manager Husveth pointed out there are a lot of other firms out there that could be paired with a project to get things done.

## **10. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported:

- The draft audit will be available for review a week from today.
- Workshop July<sup>18<sup>th</sup></sup>, next meeting of the Water Consortium at the University of MN, Saint Anthony Falls Lab in Minneapolis.
- Beaver are going crazy.
- Out of town July 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **11. Next Meeting, Adjourn**

The next Regular and Annual meetings will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted by

Carmen Simonet, Carmen Simonet Design