

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting January 9, 2013**

Managers Present: Steven Kronmiller, Kristin Tuenge, Victoria Dupre, John Lennes, Tom Polasik, Richard Caldecott and Andy Weaver.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Ray Marshall (Legal Counsel), Jed Chestnut (WCD), Stephanie Souter (Washington County), Dan Fabian (EOR), Carmen Simonet (Recorder), John Bower, Jason Husveth (residents), Doug Salmela (Big Marine Lake Association), Mike Blehert (BMLA), Jeff Dahlberg (BMLA), Philip Carlson (Cranes)

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager Caldecott moved to approve the January 9, 2013 agenda as presented. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6/0.

2. Approve November 14 Minutes —Board Action

Manager Weaver moved approval of the December 12, 2012 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Caldecott. Motion carried 7/0.

3. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's report.

Manager Tuenge moved approval of the January 9, 2013 Treasurer's report. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7/0.

4. Public Comments

John Bower stated he lives on Big Carnelian Lake near the public access and made three comments. First, he requested the agenda be made available to the public by posting it on the website. Second, to facilitate the selling of his property he requested the Watershed send him in writing, a copy of permit information and any other useful information on. Lastly, Mr. Bower said stormwater management issues regarding his neighbor's property, were noted in the August 13, 2012 minutes

Jason Husveth, a May Township resident requested the Watershed rules on the website be posted in a searchable format. Mr. Husveth noted a searchable PDF, rather than the current scanned format would serve the public much better. Mr. Husveth also noted there are several plans available on the website and suggested the Lower St. Croix River Spring Creek Stewardship Plan also be made available.

President Kronmiller stated the website is a work in progress and the District will look into making these improvements. Manager Tuenge also supports the suggestions made to improve the usefulness of the website.

a. Big Marine Lake Association

Mike Belhert, president of the Big Marine Lake Association (BMLA), Doug Samela, BMLA and Jeff Dahlberg, BMLA introduced themselves. Mr. Belhert noted their goal is to inform the Watershed of their efforts to control Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Big Marine Lake and to seek financial support.

Mr. Belhert reported in 2009 BMLA formed and they began efforts to monitor and control EWM in the lake. Their approach includes educating and partnering with the parks and camps, as well as others who have an interest in Big Marine Lake. They also seek an annual MDNR grant which varies from year to year.

Mr. Belhert summarized the MDNR permit process and said their ability to control the spread of EWM at first was hindered by the permit. They now have a working relationship with MDNR and more flexibility in timing the treatments and the size of the area they can treat. Mr. Belhert provided information on treating EWM with herbicide as well as the materials they use to educate and develop awareness such as the BMLA newsletter.

Mr. Dahlberg reported they began an inventory using GIS in 2009 marking the locations of the non-native milfoil. He presented maps showing the areas in the lake where it is growing. Manager Caldecott noted the nonnative is hybridizing with the native and wondered how they knew what plant they were marking. Mr. Dahlberg said they have learned from experience. Manager Weaver asked if they thought they will get rid of EWM. Mr. Blehert said they only hope to keep it under control. Manager Tuenge suggested state representative Jean Wagenius, the chair of the environment and natural resources policy committee would be a good person to contact about this issue. Manager Lennes also suggested state representative Bob Dettmer.

Manager Tuenge asked if they have a particular amount they are asking for? Mr. Salmela provided a summary of the lake association's finances. President Kronmiller proposed the Watershed contribute \$5000. Manager Caldecott said the Board needs to determine what we are prepared to do on a continuing basis for all the lakes, not just this one. Manager Weaver questioned how can we act equitably. Administrator Shaver noted there are about eight public boat landings in the Watershed and four lake associations. The District is preparing a draft plan to address invasive species management in the lakes.

The Managers praised the work of the BMLA and being proactive.

Manager Polaski moved to appropriate \$5000 to the Big Marine Lake Association for continued Eurasian water milfoil treatment. Seconded by Manger Tuenge. 7/0 motion carried.

Administrator Shaver reported a homeowner on Big Marine Lake is seeking variances from the city of Scandia on the amount of hardcover and lake setback. Phil Carlson introduced himself said he is here to answer questions about the project. Mr. Carlson noted they have eliminated the need for a variance on hardcover by using permeable pavers and four drive tracks up to the house. The only variance remaining is for the lake setback. President Kronmiller stated the Watershed is not in favor of encroachment on the lake but if Scandia approves it than the Watershed will work with the owner to meet the rules.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize the Administrator to issue a permit contingent upon the city of Scandia approving the variances and approval of District Engineer Seconded by Manager Lennes. motion carried 7/0.

5. Permit Status Update, Permits/Violations

a. Zavoral/Tiller Mining Update

Administrator Shaver reported the Scandia planning commission has recommended to the City that it turn down the conditional use permit (CUP) for the Zavoral/Tiller Mining project. Mr. Shaver noted an environmental impact statement was done on the project and found adequate by the City Council. Mr. Shaver said he will direct EOR to review the permit application for completeness but will wait until the city grants the CUP, before going any further.

Ray Marshall, legal counsel stated, at this time, the District should be focusing on what conditions should be on the permit to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens.

b. Tii Gavo Channel Update

Administrator Shaver noted Tii Gavo is a conservation development on the Painted Turtle Lake Bay of Big Marine Lake. It is environmentally designed with lots that preserve natural open space including the shoreline and only one common dock/marina for all the home sites. The developer has applied for a permit with MDNR to dredge an additional one foot of depth on the channel between the bay and Big Marine Lake. The District has submitted comments to the DNR

Shaver also informed the Board that he is working with the County and WCD on a permit violation on Big Carnelian Lake.

6. Project Status Update

Administrator Shaver reported on a memorandum provided by EOR regarding the status of ongoing projects and programs:

The Sand & Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership final grant report and diagnostic and implementation plan will soon be submitted to MPCA. The next step is to pursue CWP grant funding for project implementation.

The Square Lake Clean Water Partnership final grant report will be submitted by February 1st. Next steps include reviewing and revising the diagnostic study and implementation plan.

The Watershed assessment tool for phase two enhancements may be ready for the next Board meeting.

Spring 2013 work for Goose Lake ravine stabilization includes plug planting, final project inspection and project closeout.

EOR is preparing recommendations for the Little Carnelian outlet pipe, manhole and downstream channel inspection.

7. Cost Share Program Update

There were no updates.

8. New Business

a. CMSCWD Plan Workshop Agenda

Administrator Shaver reported a workshop is scheduled to discuss the CMSCWD 2010 Management Plan with Melissa Lewis of BWSR on February 27th, 2013, 6:30 p.m.. The goal of the workshop is to identify problems or concerns the Managers have with the plan to help keep the document usable. Mr. Shaver asked the Managers to review the plan and identify questions that should be addressed. Both Managers Tuenge and Weaver believe it is a good idea to have BWSR staff at the workshop.

b. DNR Inspections Grant—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported the District has applied for a DNR aquatic invasive species inspections grant, subject to Board approval. As in past years, the funds help reduce the cost of inspections at public boat landings.

Manager Caldecott moved to approve application for DNR Watercraft Inspections Grant program for 2013. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. motion carried 6/0.

c. Water Consortium Rules and Permit Work—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported on the Washington County Water Consortium's efforts to achieve consistency throughout the county on water management issues, such as permitting and water quality standards. The county prepared a rules comparison matrix and a workgroup wrote a white paper, outlining three possible courses of action. The Managers discussed the three options.

Manager Lennes moved to support option 2: Accept the Stormwater Rules/Regulation Matrix and direct a new workgroup to develop suggestions for uniform thresholds for rule applicability or triggers,

sequencing and exceptions for the rule areas that are included in that document. Suggestions for uniform definitions would also be a product of this option. Seconded by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6/0.

d. Office Lease Renewal—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve renewing the District's lease with Scandia Four at \$420 per month and prorated taxes and utilities. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6/0.

9. Old/Other Business

a. Resolution for By-Law Revision for New Meeting Dates—Board Action

Manager Dupre moved to approve CMSCWD Resolution No. 13-001 to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Manager Tuenge second. Motion carried 6/0.

10. Discussion Points

Dan Fabian, EOR reported he is on sabbatical from work and enrolled in a sustainable food program in Fergus Falls where he is learning about soil health, no-till cropping and other sustainable practices. He is blogging at fave-sabbatical.blogspot.com. Mr. Fabian noted farmer's are finding the sustainable practices profitable and he believes some watersheds could reduce their total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) through implementation of these practices. Mr. Fabian believes to generate interest among farmers, watersheds could reach out through demonstration projects and provide information such as what is found on the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District website.

a. AIS Program

There is a meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013 to work on the aquatic invasive species (AIS) program.

b. WCD Changes

Jed Chesnut, WCD reported on changes coming to the Washington Conservation District. The office is moving to Oakdale. The closing date is expected to be the end of January and the move in date is projected to be the first part of May. Rusty Schmidt is leaving for new opportunities on the east coast.

c. Square Lake Plan Approval

Administrator Shaver reported the draft Square Lake plan was submitted to MPCA last summer. The next step is to submit the final plan for approval. **Manager Tuenge moved Administrator to review and accept the final Square Lake plan, before submitting it to MPCA. Manager Lennes seconded. Motion carried 6/0.**

11. Bills to be Paid—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the January bills to be paid in the amount of \$30,770.41. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6/0.

12. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

Jyneen Thatcher is retiring, an appreciation event is set for Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. RSVP to Amy Carolan.

A BMP cost share meeting is January 25, 2013, at the Capitol Region Watershed District's office. Mr. Shaver plans to attend.

Submit any last quarter expenses (use the old form) to the administrator by the end of the month. Use the new form for current expenses.

Stillwater Township has received several inquiries about dropping water levels in Little Carnelian Lake.

The District received a draft update on the May Township watershed plan.

13. Next Meeting, Adjourn

Manager Lennes moved to cancel the January 23, 2013 meeting. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6/0.

Manager Dupre moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Lennes. Motion carried 6/0.

The next board meeting is Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Scandia Community Center. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Submitted by
Carmen Simonet, Recorder