

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes January 11, 2017

Managers Present: Dave De Vault, Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Joel Stedman, Wade Johnson, Andy Weaver and Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD), John Bower (resident), Lon Pardun (Marine on St. Croix) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

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

1) Approve Agenda

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

2) Minutes from December 14, 2016

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the December 14, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Stedman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.

4) Public Comments

John Bower—a former manager, resident on Big Marine Lake and member of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)—stated that he has not been receiving the monthly meeting packets and is pleased to see a new CAC member. He noted that water levels in South Twin are a mystery and there are two culverts outletting to the lake. Administrator Shaver will talk with Mr. Bower about the culvert locations. As a member of St. Croix Valley Ducks Unlimited, Mr. Bower stated that the organization is trying to raise resources to restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitat and provide public education. The group is always looking for opportunities for joint projects.

5) Marine Pond Sediment Testing

Administrator Shaver stated that Sue Mason, consulting engineer for Washington County, provided a summary of the costs for the survey and testing tasks for the Upper Mill Pond. It could be assumed that the amount of silt removed since the last dredging has been kept out of the St. Croix River and is a possible reason for the District being involved in the process. If testing reveals the sediment is nonhazardous then it can be land applied. Mr. Pardun clarified that at this point, Marine does not have any commitment to moving forward with dredging. The first step is to assess the silt. Other points: the pipe is silted in, which poses a safety hazard. Marine has no assurance that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will permit dredging. However, if the pond is made deeper, it will provide winter habitat for trout

and would be looked at favorably by the DNR. Because the pond has been dredged before, there is more likelihood the DNR will allow it again.

Discussion included: The importance of trout habitat. The pond exists and as such raises the water temperature of the trout stream. Dredging to deepen the pond will improve trout habitat. Dredging will capture sediment and keep it out of the river, which is a task of the District. Manager Polasik stated that much of the runoff is natural peat flowing through and it is not the District's job to stop natural runoff. It is the District's job to stop salt and road runoff from County Rd 4. Testing to get baseline data will help assess effectiveness of future BMPs. Dredging, if it can be done, will provide needed maintenance to improve water quality. Potential safety improvements, dredging for trout habitat, sediment removal from the stream and baseline information are reasons for testing the silt.

Manager Weaver moved to share the cost of sediment testing with the City of Marine in the amount not to exceed \$4,000 with the understanding that this action does not obligate the District's participation in any future testing or sediment removal. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-1.

6) Cooperative Agreement with Washington County

Administrator Shaver reviewed the stormwater projects that were bid last summer and came in 20% over estimates. To potentially lower costs, the District and City of Marine are looking to add these to the county's \$2 million County Rd 4 reconstruction project. Ms. Torseth and Mr. Almer reviewed the cooperative agreement. Both recommended adding language to allow the District to opt out of any or all of the stormwater projects, if the bid is too high. Mr. Almer suggested a change to keep field inspection and certification with the District. Ms. Torseth recommended referencing the District's agreement with Marine and Marine property owners, which indicates the District does not intend to own nor maintain the property. It was agreed Administrator Shaver and Ms. Torseth will make changes to the agreement and bring the amended contract to the February meeting.

7) Project Updates

a) Log House Landing (LHL) Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported that a joint workshop with the new Scandia City Council to review and renew the LHL agreement is scheduled for February 1. The DNR has a new ramp proposal in lieu of pored concrete. If there is agreement, the city engineer is prepared to go out for bid.

b) 133rd St./Panorama Capstone

Based on a *Country Messenger* report, Administrator Shaver stated that May Township appears to be getting serious about paving Panorama Avenue, just south of the District capstone project. He will talk with the township about a District cost share to add some water quality improvements to the project.

8) New Business

a) Permits

Manager De Vault moved to issue conditional approval of Permits 16-017 and 16-018, pending the District engineer's approval. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 7-0.

Administrator Shaver reported that Mike Kinney of Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District is again proposing joint erosion control inspections. Inspections would be done by an intern, instead of by EOR. Administrator Shaver will follow up.

b) Cost Share

i) Van Eaton Application

Mr. Isensee reported that he worked with the landowner to include a seed mix in the revised proposal. This Minnesota Native Landscapes mix, although more expensive, was selected because it is one of the only mixes approved by the Pollinator Pledge. This project would be the first certified pollinator friendly project in Washington County.

Manager Polasik moved to approve the Van Eaton cost share not to exceed \$1,130. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.

ii) Gary Rydeen Application

Administrator Shaver reported that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cannot commit right now to a 1/3 cost share because NRCS funds have not been allocated.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Gary Rydeen 1/3 cost share not to exceed \$7,000. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 7-0.

c) Citizens Advisory Committee - Paul Richert Nomination

Manager De Vault moved to appoint Paul Richert to the Citizen Advisory Committee. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.

d) Clean Waters Partners/319 Grant Applications

Mr. Isensee reported that Minnesota Pollution Control Agency each year has pass-through grant funds from Environmental Protection Agency for implementation projects. The District's existing BWSR grants can serve as a match.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize the administrator to submit two Clean Water/Section 319 grants to supplement Goose Lake and Marine on St. Croix implementation funds. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.

e) State of MN Cooperative Purchasing Venture

Administrator Shaver reported that he is researching mileage reimbursements compared to buying or leasing a car. The state has a buying group for cars and other commodities, but membership is required to gain access to the site.

Manager De Vault moved to authorize the administrator to submit an application to join the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.

f) WCD 2017 Service Agreement

Administrator Shaver noted that monitoring is a firm price, with the other deliverables billed at an hourly rate on a monthly basis. It was agreed to modify the contract to remove the name of the cost share coordinator, add the title, change BMP Program to Cost Share Program and add mutually acceptable deliverables.

Manager Johnson moved to approve the 2017 Service Agreement with the Washington Conservation District, subject to the agreed upon contract changes. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 7-0.

9)P Big Marine and Outlet Channel

Administrator Shaver reported that he has been reviewing reports and documents. He recently met with Steve Kronmiller who helped prepare the most recent Turtle Lake Management Plan that was approved in 2004. The draft 2004 plan contained target surface elevations that were deleted in the final version in an effort to simplify the entire process. Mr. Almer upgraded the Soil and Water Integrated Model (SWIM) of the system based on historical high precipitation years. Based on this modeling, Mr. Almer stated that the Turtle Lake and Big Marine weirs should be thought of as two distinct structures that operate independently. Over the course of an entire wet season, there were only six days that water ran over lip of Big Marine Weir. It is not the management of Turtle Lake Weir, but the management of pinch points along the channel that affect water levels. Based on the new information, Administrator Shaver proposed changes to the Turtle Lake Management Plan. The updated plan, along with the SWIM report and an extensive cover letter, will be submitted to the DNR for comments.

During discussion it was noted that the wetland is at most 50 acres, compared with Big Marine Lake at about 1,600 acres. Diverting water to the wetland will degrade the wetland, without lowering the lake elevation. It was suggested that a second document explaining the physics of the situation might help residents better understand the system.

10) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Polasik moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$23,414.12. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 7-0.

11) Next Meeting is February 8, 2017

12) Adjourn

Manager Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates