

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes October 12, 2016

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

Managers Absent: Dave De Vault

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer and Meghan Funke (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD), Rich Burton (Big Marine Homeowners Association (BMHA)) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

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

2) Minutes from September 13

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Stedman. 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 6-0.

4) Public Comments

Mr. Burton attended on behalf of BMHA to discuss aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Big Marine Lake including potential new threats such as starry stonewort. He stated that again in 2017, BMHA will be getting grant money from the Heritage Council to treat Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). But those funds are specifically for EWM. He further stated that BMHA hopes there will be fewer acres to treat in 2017, cannot get county funds for treatment, would like to partner with the District, and cannot contribute money for treatments but will help with labor. Additionally the association feels it would be very helpful to have inspections at boat launches. Mr. Burton noted that Hubbard County has an aggressive inspection program. In 2016 the county spent \$300,000 on inspections and no AIS have been detected in any of the county lakes.

Discussion included: MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is arranging and WCD is conducting inspections, WCD is working with Washington and Chisago counties on AIS rapid response protocols, the county is discussing training its 16 seasonal officers in AIS inspections, but currently none has training, the District added \$7,000 for additional Level 1 inspectors last year, and currently EOR inspects lakes on a five-year rotation. Mr. Burton suggested that five years is too long to wait for inspections. It was agreed that the District will revisit this policy. Other issues

discussed were concern that seasonal officers are too busy to do inspections, the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of inspections from actually finding AIS to the educational aspect of getting boaters talking about AIS, bilge water carrying AIS, the need for boat redesign and additional funding for AIS prevention. BMHA is now a 501(c)3, tax exempt organization and plans to seek a grant for AIS from the Initiative Fund. Manager Tuenge thanked Mr. Burton and stated that the District will support BMHA's efforts.

Manager Stedman moved to temporarily suspend the monthly meeting. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

5) Public Hearing - Revisions to CMSCWD Rules Dated March 2010

Mr. Almer stated that the public comment period ends on November 1. If there are no comments, the Board can adopt the rule revisions at the next meeting. If there are comments, EOR will provide responses and, if nothing is substantive, the revisions can be adopted at the next meeting.

Manager Polasik moved to close the public meeting. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

6) Project Updates

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported that there is a stump in the middle of the ramp that will be removed. He and Neal Soltis will meet with DNR staff to discuss a simpler ramp design. The city of Scandia excavated a shallow depression in the landing parking area to capture stormwater. Although the depression has not solved the entire erosion problem, it shows the problem can be reduced.

b) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that he asked the county about its willingness to add the District stormwater project(s) to its road bid. The city of Marine and Washington County are willing to buy some property for these projects, which is included in a District grant proposal.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that two grab samples were taken from the project site in the last two weeks and he will report on the results at next month's meeting.

d) Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Isensee reported that he is still working with an adjacent owner to the project site on a trespass waiver. He is also working on a final design and construction bid packets for bidding in January or February.

e) Lake Assessments

Dr. Funke presented results of the summer assessments of Terrapin, Mays and Clear lakes. Results are being used to update the individual lake management

plans and revise lake goals. The diagnostic study looked at aquatic plants, fish communities and in-lake water quality. All three lakes were found to be high quality with healthy plant and fish populations.

The aquatic plant survey found both a high quantity of plant species—36 in Terrapin, 27 in Mays and 24 in Clear and an overall high quality of plant species. Plant species are rated from 0-10 on the Floristic Quality Index (FQI). Species with a value of 0 such as curly-leaf pondweed are non-native and indicate a highly disturbed environment. Terrapin received an FQI score of 32, Mays a 24 and Clear a 27. A separate DNR study of 41 Minnesota lakes across the state yielded a maximum FQI score of 30.

Fish surveys, conducted by the University of St. Mary's collected seven fish species (totaling 278 individuals) from all three lakes: black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, golden shiner, largemouth bass and northern pike. Compared with previous surveys in 1979 and 1991, the abundance of bullhead species has decreased in both Mays and Clear lakes, suggesting an improvement in the fish communities and water quality.

Based on the survey results, EOR recommends more stringent water quality goals than the 2010 Water Management Plan. Management activities for all three lakes: annual aquatic plant surveys, fish surveys every five years, partner with Warner Nature Center and Wilder Foundation for protection of the land surrounding the lakes through conservation easements, and pursue placement of the lakes on the DNR List of Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance. For the chain of lakes and especially Terrapin, it is important to work on Long Lake to prevent AIS from spreading and to implement watershed BMPs.

Discussion included: talking with Ron Lawrenz and Scott Alexander about groundwater flows, working with Long Lake Association on AIS, pursuing funding—grants and possibly bonding and/or long-term loans from the county—for easements.

7) **New Business**

a) **Permits**

Mr. Almer reported that he did a round of inspections in September and will do one more round this fall. He completed the final inspection on Permit 16-006.

Manager Lindberg moved to return the surety on Permit 16-006. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

b) **Cost Share**

Administrator Shaver stated that in the past there was a BMP Committee. When Jed Chesnut left, the committee stopped meeting. Is there value to reestablishing a committee? Mr. Isensee reviewed and presented the following projects.

i. **Arcola Mills**

Bryan Pynn of WCD has been meeting with Arcola Mills (AM) staff about improving drainage and functioning of the catch basins and raingarden. Mr. Isensee researched past projects and cost shares. He recommended installing flexible water bars (not currently in cost share standards, but in DNR design standards) to disrupt flows and divert them to existing catch basins. Issues identified: the District cost-share rules include innovative approaches, the road is low traffic, the raingarden was not funded through a Water Management Organization cost share, maintenance going forward is an issue and a maintenance agreement will be needed, using MCC crews can lower the project cost and the economies of scale do not warrant using clay-enhanced gravel for the road. Ms. Torseth stated that because Ray Marshall is the current AM president and a retired partner at Lawson Law, she could have a conflict. It was agreed to move forward with a project design.

ii. Dory Anderson – 10079 Norell

After conducting a site visit of the Anderson property in the Silver Creek Watershed, Mr. Isensee identified potential cost shares for buckthorn removal and forest restoration along the streambed and prairie restoration in a pasture. This is a three-year project. The effectiveness of buckthorn removal and the method of removal were discussed. Manager Polasik recommended splitting the projects because he questioned water quality benefits of prairie restoration on a flat pasture. It was agreed to have Mr. Isensee move forward on a restoration plan.

iii. Echlund- 16090 Pilar

A site visit was conducted on the property that is within the Falls Creek catchment. A grade stabilization structure is being proposed to stop bank erosion resulting from a collapsed covert crossing. The project is estimated to reduce phosphorus by five to eight pounds per year. WCD has some Clean Water Fund grant monies for gully projects protecting the St. Croix River that could be used. All agreed to absolutely move forward.

The Managers liked this cost-share process and appreciated having projects correlated to the management plan.

c) Liability Coverage Waiver

Manager Tuege moved to not waive the District limits. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

d) Newspaper Articles

Manager Johnson stated that he has been talking with a Stillwater reporter about covering District projects that affect the St. Croix River. Manager Polasik stated that the District should get more recognition for its work. It was agreed that Manager Johnson will follow-up with the reporter on the 197th Street ravine reconstruction and the Sand Lake iron enhanced sand filter projects. These projects will be on the October 22 fall tour from 9 a.m. to noon and the reporter

will be invited. Administrator Shaver will contact the local papers and invite the Citizen Advisory Committee.

8) Old Business

a) Permit 15-006 Mike White

Administrator Shaver reported that the water levels need to go down before re-vegetation can occur. Manager Polasik noted that rivulets of sand are washing down the beach at Big Marine Lake Park and a diversion is needed. Administrator Shaver will investigate.

b) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Update

Administrator Shaver, in a follow-up to the community meeting and letter from Commissioner Miron, stated that he has created a maintenance log that is posted on the District website. Monitoring information and a Turtle Lake weir log are also posted. At last measurement, water was 9 inches above the weir and the weir is full. It is the culvert that is dictating the water level. Administrator Shaver talked with two residents along the channel and he and Roger Rydeen cleared some vegetation in the channel. The culvert at 155th St, which needs maintenance, is controlling the water level of the wetland. A community follow-up meeting will be held on October 27.

c) Internal Controls Manual - Revisions

Administrator Shaver provided revisions.

d) MAWD Conference

Administrator Shaver stated that he will make reservations for himself and Managers interested in attending.

e) Warner Nature Center Education Contract

Administrator Shaver reported that he was expecting a contract, but it is not yet available.

9) Reports

a) Stream Erosion/BMP

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Jay Riggs went out on a site visit of a white pine cut down where stream erosion is threatening a white pine as the stream enters the St. Croix. Mr. Isensee is investigating this for a possible BMP.

b) Septic System Replacement

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Managers Tuenge and Johnson met with county commissioners. Commissioner Kriesel asked why the Valley Branch Watershed District is not replacing or fixing septic systems to solve bacterial issues with some of its property owners but not all. It was explained that the district does not solve problems county-wide, but rather prioritizes and solves issues on a watershed district level where lakes are impaired and the septic

systems are contributing to the problem. Commissioner Kriesel asked to convene a meeting to discuss the issue.

c) Channel Maintenance

Administrator Shaver reported that DNR and Mr. Grogen agreed that a no trespassing sign would be posted to deter hunters from accessing Mr. Grogan's property. Mr. Grogan also agreed to allow access to his property for channel maintenance.

d) October 18 Conferences

St. Croix River Research Rendezvous and Minnesota Water Resources Conference.

e) Test Well

Administrator Shaver reported that DNR and Stu Grubb are looking for a test well at Big Marine Park to study the effects of groundwater on Big Marine Lake.

10) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Stedman moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$24,874.82. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

11) Next Regular Meeting is November 9, 2016

12) Adjourn

Manager Polasik moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates