

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes November 9, 2016

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

Managers Absent: Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer and Meghan Funke (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

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

1) Approve Agenda

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

2) Approve Minutes from October 12

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the October 12, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Weaver moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Project Updates

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Neal Soltis and a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representative about designing a cheaper ramp alternative, possibly by using a different plank. The original cement slab was over engineered. Different planks, possibly supplied by DNR, with a lug at the top and bottom of the slope might be the solution. Mr. Soltis is acting head of maintenance for Scandia and is interested in installing a NuRF pond, rock checks and continuing maintenance.

b) 197th Street

Administrator Shaver reported that while on tour of the project, Wenck Engineering used a drone to video the topography of the area. The video could help with the wetland and road project that Scandia is working on.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that the final paperwork for the grant was submitted. Based on water sampling above and below the drain, 88-93% of dissolved phosphorus is being captured. Administrator Shaver stated that a resident called two days ago to report water overtopping the board structure. He removed a few boards.

d) Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Isensee, having looked at a few project sites, reported that he will be scheduling a meeting with the St. Sauvers and further investigating the drain tiles discharging to the lake as the largest source of the dissolved phosphorus load.

e) Marine Ravine and Wetland Reconstruction

Administrator Shaver reported that he expects to hear about the grant application in early December.

f) Stream Bacterial Assessment

Dr. Funke presented a summary of the assessment of three impaired streams—Gilbertson's, Swedish Flag and Carnelian—for bacteria (*E. coli*). Sources of bacteria could be from humans, livestock/wildlife or growth of naturalized bacteria communities in the stream sediments. The survey looked for failing septic systems, potential livestock/wildlife fecal contamination sources and sampled for *E. coli* at six road crossings along Carnelian Creek. The most likely bacterial sources for each stream were identified and implementation recommendations for each were highlighted.

Mr. Almer stated that initially the assessment was to monitor at the molecular level for sources, but that approach is very expensive (about \$7,000). Administrator Shaver, in response to a question about monitoring intermittent streams, stated that monitoring started with these streams because they are impaired. The Board can talk about monitoring other streams in the future. Before the assessment is finalized, Administrator Shaver will talk with Dr. Funke and a horse expert.

Manager Polasik stated that Silver Creek is flowing and he is concerned that the veins installed a few years ago will blow out. Administrator Shaver stated that beaver activity plugged the Carol Lake culvert. Beavers were trapped and the dam was cleared. He also heard about plugged culverts on S Twin Lake, but could not find them. There are, however, signs of beaver or muskrat activity and Administrator Shaver called MnDOT.

g) Lake Assessments

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Dr. Funke plan to get additional data from Ron Lawrenz of Warner Nature Center.

h) Rules

Mr. Almer reported that only Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota Department of Transportation provided comments. No revisions are required based on these comments.

6) New Business

a) Permits

Mr. Almer reported that the three permits for review are all small residential projects. Administrator Shaver mentioned that Ann Torwedo recommended and Washington County commissioners accepted additional stormwater features over and above the District's requirements on the Moonlight Bay Permit 16-015.

Manager Tuenge moved to issue Permits 16-014, 16-015 and 16-016 conditional on the engineer's approval. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Cost Share

Mr. Isensee presented the following cost-share projects:

i. Myers Project Reimbursement

Manager Johnson moved the cost-share reimbursement of \$500 to Victor Myer. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

ii. Vets Camp Application

Bryan Pynn has been working with the Vets Camp on raingarden designs. Of the four proposed sites, the Vets would like to move forward with design A with a request for a 50% cost share.

Manager Stedman moved to approve a Vets Camp 50% cost-share of \$2,165.36 for a raingarden with pretreatment. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

iii. Van Eaton Application

Tom Van Eaton is proposing a 1.5-acre conversion of turf grass to prairie. The property is in the St. Croix River Basin, ties to the Management Plan by maintaining stormwater volume and peak flow rates at predevelopment levels and meets the BMP criteria. The landowner is only asking 50% reimbursement of the cost of native prairie seed. The cost share requires a 10-year contract with the District.

Issues discussed: A budget for the project has not been provided. Because the benefit of a prairie is several years down the road, a partial reimburse could be provided after seeding with a final reimbursement after the prairie is established. The District has taken the pollinator pledge. To support the pledge, the seed mix should be pollinator friendly and the District should reevaluate herbicides—such as Roundup/glyphosate—being used to prepare the site. A main goal of the cost share is to change behavior and social norms. Is it too late in the season for seeding? Mr. Isensee stated that the landowner is willing to use a pollinator-friendly mix, he will review the last prairie

restoration cost-share so projects are consistent and will provide more specifics related to Manager concerns at the December meeting.

iv) O'Halloran Application

The O'Halloran property is upstream of the Log House Landing, drains to the St. Croix River and has a small, meandering perennial stream flowing through the site. Erosion threatens an old white pine. Instead of applying for a permit for streambank stabilization, Administrator Shaver suggested a 50% cost share, which would give the District control over the project. Instead of a retaining wall, the project now proposes veins with biolags to stabilize the streambank. The rocks for the veins must be hand selected and hauled in by cart, making the project more expensive. There is a small load reduction of .6 pounds of phosphorus/year. Discussion followed: It is a special place with a wetland and an opportunity to save a white pine. The vein is not a type of riprap, but a technique to hold the toe. This is a comparable project to an original cost-share project on Sheffield Lane. The project should be tied to phosphorus reduction. Ms. Torseth advised that the District decisionmaking should not be seen as arbitrary.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the O'Halloran cost share not to exceed \$4,678. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 5-1.

c) District-wide 35th Anniversary Celebration

Administrator Shaver stated that because he did not get a clear direction from the Board about a 35th Anniversary and holiday celebration, he put together a possible December 3 community breakfast and discussion. The cost would be \$6 per person. After discussion, it was agreed that piggybacking on an existing event such as Mill Stream Days, a Warner education program or a St. Croix River Association program, would be more effective.

d) Biennial Service Providers RFP Solicitation and Recommendation

Administrator Shaver reported that an RFP for contractors is required every two years. There were no responses to the RFP posted in the paper of record. When asked, all current contractors stated their willingness to continue serving in their current capacity. Future options for RFP solicitations were discussed including establishing a committee and interviewing interested parties, sending an RFP to select service providers and/or reviewing contractor proposals submitted to other watershed districts.

Manager De Vault moved to continue for one year with the current contractors/consultants of Lawson Law, EOR, Dave McCord, MMC Associates and Peggy Moeller. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

e) Lake Monitoring Schedule Additions

Administrator Shaver reported that Erik Anderson of WCD suggested adding East Boot, Goose, Hay and Sand lakes to the monitoring list for 2017 because of recent projects. Manager De Vault spoke in opposition because monitoring for nutrients

should be done as close to ice-out as possible instead of in the summer and the monitoring does not account for zooplankton. Mr. Almer stated that the current monitoring follows Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) protocol. Administrator Shaver added the protocol aligns with the PCA Volunteer Monitoring Program and is in the District plan. Discussion: The District also leverages PCA lab work. Could the District contract with Met Council to do lab work? Can monitoring start in May? Monitoring must be consistent for comparison with past data. A discussion on monitoring is needed with PCA and other experts.

Manager Tuenge moved to add East Boot, Goose, Hay and Sand lakes to the list of lakes to monitor and increase the monitoring budget by \$8,928 for 2017. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 5-1.

7) Old Business

a) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Update

Administrator Shaver reported the lowest water levels he has ever seen at the upstream side of the Turtle Lake weir. He will get information to Jennifer Sorensen of DNR. A community meeting is scheduled in January to follow-up with residents, Washington County and DNR on proposed revisions to the management plan, if the DNR agrees. Mr. Almer pointed out that the culvert is controlling water levels more than the weir. Residents want water to leave Big Marine Lake faster and want more storage for ice out and rain events downstream. Although they think it relates to the operation of the Turtle Lake weir, it does not. Manager De Vault stated that Fran Miron suggested a v-notched weir that would not need to be managed.

b) MAWD Conference

Administrator Shaver stated that he plans to attend the conference, resolutions can be submitted and comments can be provided on the proposed resolutions.

c) One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Resolution

Manager Weaver stated that he has issues with both resolutions. He is not convinced that giving away local control is a good idea. Manager Johnson disagreed saying that talking and identifying key areas to work on at a watershed level is a good idea and sees 1W1P as another pot of potential funding to leverage into projects. But on the other hand, money might come to the District in another way without 1W1P. Manager Polasik noted that the CMSCWD boundary stops on a county line for no reason. Manager De Vault stated that the resolution says nothing more than organizations will cooperate to move forward with this endeavor. It is planning and if organizations don't like the plan, they don't have to do it. Administrator Shaver reported that Jay Riggs submitted the resolutions and feels 1W1P will be a hybrid or umbrella plan that other watershed districts can tap into. BWSR wants to find one pathway to implement 1W1P in the metro area.

d) Warner Nature Center Education Contract

Administrator Shaver reported that he has still not received a contract. Discussion continues on the Wilder property including giving conservation easement rights over some parts of the property, enabling selling parcels at a future time. A charter school is putting a proposal together for land for a school. The District was asked about moving its office to the site.

8) Other Reports

a) Financial Disclosure

It was noted that managers are required to provide a financial disclosure to ensure there is not a conflict of interest.

9) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Weaver moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$21,483.74. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

10) Next Regular Meeting is December 14, 2016

11) Adjourn

Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates