

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

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

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Steve Kronmiller and Paul Richert (residents), Lon Pardun (Marine on St. Croix) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

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

**1) Approve Agenda**

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

**2) Approve Minutes from November 9**

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.**

**3) Treasurer's Report**

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

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

**4) Public Comments**

Steve Kronmiller stated that he attended to discuss Log House Landing (LHL). In 2013, Mr. Almer provided three options to Scandia for LHL access. At that time, the city selected the full access option. With a new city council, it might be possible to change the decision to closing down access. Alternatives other than full access could possibly solve water quality issues for a lot less money. The Managers agreed that the LHL access option is Scandia's decision. Ms. Torseth noted that in the original LHL agreement between the District and city, the project was to be completed in December 2016. She suggested that the agreement be acknowledged and the commitment reaffirmed, if the project is to continue. It was agreed to meet with the new city council to find out if both entities are still on board and, if so, discuss how to proceed. Manager Polasik noted that the main erosion comes from the road and still needs to be addressed.

**5) Project Updates**

**a) 197<sup>th</sup> Street**

Administrator Shaver stated that Scandia plans to do this project in 2017 and the District plans to do wetland work in conjunction with the city project.

**b) Goose Lake Implementation**

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mike Isensee met with Ellen St. Sauver about a water quality project on her farm, the major phosphorus contributor to Goose Lake. Ms. St. Sauver seemed favorable to further discussion. Other factors: the property owner to the south is looking to develop 20-30 housing units, additional monitoring is needed before a water quality project can be fully designed, Scandia needs to be involved in the discussion and Scandia is extending the right-of-way on the St. Sauver property for another Goose Lake water project.

**c) Marine Ravine and Wetland Reconstruction**

Administrator Shaver reported that the District did not receive either of the two BWSR grants for ravine and wetland reconstruction. It was a very competitive process and one of the District projects ranked 80<sup>th</sup> out of the 78 that were funded. Manager Da Vault suggested getting scores for the various components of the District proposals. Administrator Shaver suggested, and Managers agreed, to pursue alternative funding, including getting a loan from the county.

**6) New Business**

**a) Adoption of Rule Revision**

**Manager Tuenge moved to adopt Resolution 16-12-14-01 to approve revisions to the District rules. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.**

**b) Gary Rydeen Cost Share**

Administrator Shaver stated that the District participated in a \$31,000 cost share with Mr. Rydeen and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a feedlot improvement and vegetated swale to protect East Boot Lake. Drainage continues to be a problem on the site, especially in winter, and Mr. Rydeen is asking the District for assistance. NRCS is looking to provide 1/3 of improvement costs, although its budget has not been finalized.

**c) District Survey**

Administrator Shaver stated that Amit Pradhononga is a potential vendor, there is \$15,000 in the 2017 budget for a survey and the District is just exploring the possibility of a survey by having a presentation from the vendor at a future date.

**d) Sand Lake IESF Easement Payment to Lindgrens**

Ms. Torseth suggested a memo to memorialize the easement for institutional memory. It was agreed that she and Administrator Shaver will draft one.

**7) Old Business**

**a) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Update**

Administrator Shaver reminded the Board about the community meeting in January with County Commissioner Fran Miron. The District agreed to look at the Turtle Lake Management Plan and see if there are any revisions that can be made to speed water flowing off the lake. Discussion included: Nothing can be done without a total revamping of the channel system. The longer and more often

the water drop is maintained, the better. A v-notched weir should be considered, as suggested by Commissioner Miron. Since 2008, when data was being collected, there have been two instances of water backing up into the lake. Currently, water is roaring over the system, with about two inches flowing over the weir and eight to 10 inches flowing out of Little Carnelian. The outlet is about four inches below the lip. Residents want the lake to drain faster. Destroying the wetland by piping water is not something the District should do. It is the culvert that is the limiting factor in the system. There have been three periods of high water, followed by complaints by pretty much the same people. Commissioner Miron has been doing a good job convening the meetings and listening.

**b) Budget Revisions**

Administrator Shaver noted that the budget total has been reduced because two BWSR grants were not received.

**Manager Tuenge moved to keep the levy as previously requested. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.**

**c) Electronics Fund Transfer**

Administrator Shaver reported that Ms. Torseth reviewed the revised Internal Controls Manual.

**Manager Weaver moved to adopt Resolution 16-12-14-02 to approve the amendment to the Internal Controls Manual. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 7-0.**

**d) One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Resolution**

Manager Weaver asked if the District will lose its autonomy by being involved in 1W1P. Administrator Shaver stated that funding, until the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) conference, had been the elephant in the room. At the conference, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced its intention to fund implementation of the 1W1P plans. Water organizations jointly developing a 10-year plan will, as an entity, receive funds for plan implementation. Watershed districts also will retain their tax levy authority. Manager De Vault stated that the resolution just states that the District will cooperate with other entities in the region to develop a plan.

**Manager Tuenge moved to adopt Resolution 12-14-16-02 to support a One Watershed One Plan planning grant application. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0-1, with Manager Weaver abstaining.**

**e) Warner Nature Center Education Contract**

Administrator Shaver reported that the contract has not been received.

**f) Auditor's Engagement Letter**

Administrator Shaver suggested signing a one-year contract and looking for a less expensive contractor for the 2017 audit. Manager Tuenge suggested starting a calendar of important tasks, including looking for a new auditor.

**Manager Johnson moved to sign the engagement letter with Redpath for the 2016 audit at the rate of \$10,879. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 7-0.**

**9) Bills to Be Paid**

**Manager Weaver moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$33,318.35. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 7-0.**

**10) Marine Pond Sediment Testing**

Administrator Shaver stated that Washington County has offered to include some Marine/District projects, such as the rain gardens and iron-enhanced sand filter, in its construction contracts. Bids for the gardens and filter came in 20% higher than estimated and it is assumed that a county bid, with lots of components, would come in lower. Administrator Shaver will draft an agreement with Marine for the stormwater projects and proceed with getting them included in the county road bid.

Marine has asked that dredging of the Marine south pond also be included in the bid and asked the District to participate in a 50-50 cost share to test the sediment to determine if it is a hazardous waste. The cost is estimated to be \$5,000-\$10,000. Results of the testing will determine if dredging is cost effective. Administrator Shaver stated that Jennifer Sorensen of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will not allow dredging because the pond is filling due to a natural process.

Mr. Pardun stated that Marine wants to dredge because of public safety: There is a dry hydrant trapped in the sediment. The city would also like baseline data to help assess the success of future water quality projects. The pond has been dredged before, which might make it easier to get DNR permission. Marine's engineer is concerned that dredging/sediment testing might slow down the entire project. All parties want this to be part of the county bid process. Mr. Almer stated that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has guidelines for sediment testing. The Managers want more details on the sediment testing including number of samples and the cost and the goal of the project. Manager Polasik stated that dredging is for public safety and not water quality. Several Managers thought baseline data would be helpful, while others did not feel they had enough information to know if the data would be helpful for future water quality projects.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve a 50-50 cost share with Marine for Marine pond baseline sediment testing up to a maximum of \$4,000. Seconded by Manager Stedman. The motion failed 3-4.**

The Board asked Mr. Pardun to provide more information about the estimated cost of sediment testing and the goal of the project. Mr. Pardun reaffirmed the city's desire to move forward with the rain garden and iron-enhanced sand filter projects.

**11) MAWD Update**

Administrator Shaver reported that Ray Bohn is retiring from MAWD. The association is drafting a strategic plan, looking at hiring an executive director and

other staff and possibly doubling dues. Membership is optional and primarily supports lobbying, the primary focus of MAWD.

**12) Next Regular Meeting is January 11, 2017**

**13) Adjourn**

**Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 7-0.**

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates