

Draft
CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes February 10, 2016

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

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR) and Jed Chesnut and Tara Kelly (WCD)

Manager De Vault called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

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

2) Minutes from January 13, 2016

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the January 13, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

It was noted that the out-of-state travel policy will be completed and a copy provided to the Managers. It was also suggested that the Minnesota in-state travel policy be adopted.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that he needs more time to explore the reserve fund, clarify budget terminology including unassigned funds and clarify and revisit the definitions in the resolutions.

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

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Cost Share - Tara Kelly Introduction to Board

Ms. Kelly introduced herself as the WCD Landscape Restoration Specialist and provided an overview of the financial assistance programs she is developing including:

- The Ag Loan Program provides low-interest loans to reduce existing water quality problems caused by agriculture activities or failing septic systems. About \$30 million is available for loans.
- The Minnesota Agriculture Certification Program takes farmers through the planning and certification process. Farmers receive regulatory certainty for 10 years. Some farmers participate because of a land ethic or for marketing benefits. Ms. Kelly will see if this program is available for rented land and for regulatory certainty for the buffer rule.
- Implementation Grants focusing on ag and rural BMPs to reduce phosphorus loading to Lake St. Croix. Projects can be innovative. Grants pay up to 75% of project costs.

Potential BMPs have been identified and ranked. It was suggested that an overlay of these BMPs and the District's prioritized projects be used.

- Sustainable Landscapes Program focuses on water quality, but other benefits can be added such as pollinators.
- Restoration and Conservation Program.

Ms. Kelly highlighted projects she would like to do more of including perennial wheat crops, cover crops, rotational grazing and cooperative AIS management. A Farmers Breakfast is being held in March to get the word out about the programs available to the ag community.

Administrator Shaver reported that he attended a meeting where Jay Riggs gave a brief overview of the WCD including stating that the WCD has an elected board of supervisors. Administrator Shaver noted that watershed districts are the WCD's constituents and do not have elected boards. Manager Tuenge stated that generally the District is asked to provide a 25% match for cost share projects the WCD coordinates. Because of this, she stressed to Ms. Kelly that when she is out and about that she let the public know she is also working for the District. Administrator Shaver clarified that in the cost share process, the District reviews the proposed projects. He suggested that the Board prioritize these projects using an overlay of the District prioritized projects and the WCD prioritized projects. He also stated that the District will probably be asked to help fund the Farmers Breakfast and it is expensive.

6) Project Updates and Work Plan Update

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported the agreement between Scandia and the District has been signed by Manager De Vault, Mr. Almer supplied the data to the city engineer, the DNR permit was issued and construction cannot begin until after spring flooding and the spawning cycle.

b) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that he is still waiting for Marine to provide the final list of interested homeowners. An alternative is to send out a notice to the homeowners.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that the project is substantially complete and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

d) 133rd Street

Administrator Shaver reported that he has had a conversation with the lead homeowner and the May Township engineer. The main project involving the District will be contingent on obtaining easements along the road on the eastside of Big Carnelian. Mr. Voedisch has concerns about stormwater being directed to Twin Lake.

7) New Business

a) Permits

i) Big Carnelian Shoreland Violation

Administrator Shaver reported that he received some information from the homeowner who had 15 truckloads of sand dumped on his property. He will schedule a site visit with the property owner, Dennis O'Donnell (Washington County), Mr. Voedisch and Jennifer Sorensen (DNR). Manager De Vault will attend.

ii) Permit Update

Mr. Almer reviewed the permit chart. There were no inspections in January.

iii) Approval of Permits 15-019 and 16-001

Mr. Almer summarized what is still needed before the permits can be issued.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Permits 15-019 and 16-001. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 7-0.

b) Reschedule Joint Meeting at Warner Nature Center (WNC)

Administrator Shaver stated that the joint meeting will be rescheduled to mid to late April. WNC will present a proposal to take the education program to all area schools. It will replace Watershed Wisdom and should be the same cost to the District. Manager Tuenge stated that Scott Alexander has talked about possibly putting in water quality interpretive signs at WNC and funds are available to pay for this.

c) Manager Reappointments

Administrator Shaver reported that terms for Manager Tuenge, Polasik and possibly De Vault expire in June. Manager Tuenge and De Vault are interested in being reappointed. Manager Polasik will think about this.

d) Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Chesnut reported that the preliminary engineering drawings for the first Goose Lake sand-iron filter and infiltration area have been completed. He has attempted to meet with the still interested landowner for over 1 1/2 months. The next step is to meet with the landowner, review the preliminary design, get buy-in and obtain an easement, which has been drafted. It will take one to two weeks to complete the final engineering plan. Having a final bid packet in March is delayed. Administrator Shaver clarified that the project will reduce the phosphorus load by 17 pounds/year. Dissolved phosphorus will also be reduced by 17 pounds/year. The District's load reduction allocation is 75 pounds. It is hard to show cause and effect based on projects for improved lake water quality. Mr. Chesnut further clarified that 50% of the lake problem is in-lake. In a perfect world another area would be targeted, but projects are dependent on willing landowners. Mr. Almer, in regard to discussion on monitoring, stated that economies of scale do not warrant monitoring this project. Every five or 10 years grab samples could be taken before and after the drain tiles to assess the efficacy of the project.

8) Old Business

a) Administrative Updates

i) Rules and Permitting Workshop to be Scheduled

It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 at Scandia City Hall.

ii) EOR Fee Schedule for 2016

Mr. Almer stated that his time is billed at the P3 rate, although he is a P4. Lower-rate technicians provide design, survey and inspection work. Administrator Shaver suggested EOR use interns to further reduce costs.

iii) Board Packet Timing

Administrator Shaver stated that in his review it was requested that he provide the packet a full week in advance. That is difficult. A survey of other local agencies found: Hugo gets a packet out on Thursday for a Monday meeting; Scandia on Friday at noon for a Tuesday or Wednesday meeting; Marine sends information out as it is received; May Township tries for a week prior; Grant and Stillwater provide packets one week prior and Washington County gets packets out on Friday for a Tuesday meeting. It was agreed that Board packets will be sent on Thursday and if additional agenda items arise, the material with a memo will be sent right away.

b) 2016 Budget/Carry Forward and Financial Reports Revisions

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager De Vault met about health care for the administrator. Manager De Vault has been trying to reach the League of Minnesota Cities for advice on cafeteria benefits, health insurance and salary. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will deal with the salary and benefits package and bring a recommendation to the Board.

c) Wilder Property Stakeholder's Meeting Report

Administrator Shaver reported that Warner felt it had to buy the property to protect it. Washington County Land and Water Legacy senior planner brought together a great group, including Bill Voedisch, the county treasurer and public works director, the Minnesota Food Association, and Jay Riggs, to look at how to finance the acquisition to protect the property. All were concerned that state funding through Lessard-Sams requires a hunting and fishing component.

9) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Tuenge moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$57,629.65. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 7-0.

10) Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

a) Grants

i) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 319 Grant

Last month the Board approved submitting a grant for TMDL implementation. It appears the administrative grant requirements have been eased up, so submitting an application might be worthwhile. Manager Tuenge asked about assessing three streams. It was noted that Mr. Almer provided a proposal last spring for biological assessments, with most of the \$17,000 cost going for DNA analysis. Manager De Vault stated that at that time, it was agreed to walk the streams before doing a DNA analysis. It was agreed that the Managers would review the spring creek study and the

EOR proposal. Administrator Shaver will look for examples of assessments that do not use DNA analysis.

ii) BWSR Targeted Watershed Grants

The District is not ready to apply for this grant.

b) CLFLWD hired a project assistant

c) Events

i) Northeast Groundwater Meeting —February 18 in Hugo at 7p.m.

ii) Meeting with Angie Hong—February 23 regarding a potential district-wide survey about water issues and resources and resident opinions about the District

iii) Marine on St. Croix County Rd 4 Meeting—February 23

iv) Governor's Summit—February 27

v) St. Croix River Association Summit—March 22-23

vi) Long Lake Homeowners Association Meeting— April 7

b) Newspaper Article

Manager Stedman reported that Angie Hong and Mr. Almer put together a good article on the Sand Lake project that was published in the *Country Messenger*.

11) Next Regular Meeting is March 9, 2016

12) Adjourn

Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Seconded by Manager De Vault.

Motion carried 7-0.

Submitted by

Debbie Meister, MMC Associates