

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes February 14, 2018

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

Manager Absent: Andy Weaver and Dave De Vault

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Galowitz • Olson Law), Carl Almer, and Stu Grubb (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD), Mark Stahley (resident) and John Goodfellow (CMSCWD Watershed Steward)

President Johnson 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 Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

2) Minutes from January 10, 2018

President Johnson moved to approve the January 10, 2018 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion passed 5-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

President Johnson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

4) Surface/Groundwater at Lake Terrapin

Mark Stahley introduced himself as a trail guide with Warner Nature Center (WNC), a retired railroads worker and an environmental scientist. On behalf of WNC, he collected information—water quality, water quantity and geology— about Lake Terrapin and compiled it in one place. A final report will provide an assessment of the health status of the lake and threats to the lake's water quality. He identified upstream Long Lake as a bellweather for Terrapin. He provided historical information about the bedrock and glacial formation of the lake and explained how the foundation of the lake affects both the groundwater and surface water flow to and from Lake Terrapin. He reviewed historic lake water levels. Discussion focused on the benefit of this information for planning, not only for Terrapin but for other District lakes such as Big Marine. President Johnson thanked Mr. Stahley for his efforts.

5) Public Comments

John Goodfellow, a forester by training, stated that he is being sponsored by the District to participate in the Master Water Steward Program—a program of the Freshwater Society and other partner agencies and organizations. As part of the training, he is required to complete a Capstone project. Some projects he is considering are investigating the effect of wakes on St. Croix River's water quality, developing an urban forest plan for the city of Marine on St.

Croix, or writing a white paper on buckthorn control. President Johnson stated that his work is appreciated and the District is happy to support his participation in the steward program.

6) Project Updates

a) Goose, Hay and South Twin Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that he, Engineer Almer and Mike Isensee met with Ellen St. Sauver to discuss easements and actions that are needed to get the project started. They will get back together next week to look at options for pasturing the horses so the iron-sand filter is not negatively affected. Manager Tuenge expressed concern about the cost to the District of working to improve the water quality of Goose Lake, while the city plans to greatly expand development. Engineer Almer stated that the District rules will address this. Administrator Shaver added that water modeling indicates high-density suburban development approaches the nutrient load of row crops. President Johnson stated that groundwater should be addressed in the plan update.

b) Marine Ravine and Wetland Reconstruction

Administrator Shaver reported that he requested a meeting with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to discuss finances. The District still does not have a signed grant agreement with the Pollution Control Agency for the project. Grant funds cannot be used until the District has the signed agreement. This has delayed a community meeting. Scheduling a community meeting will be discussed at the March Board meeting.

7) New Business

a) Permits-Keller Cove

It was noted that the Keller Cove Project Memorandum of Understanding with Brown's Creek Watershed District was signed by President Johnson and Attorney Torseth.

b) Cost Share

i) Square Lake Association AIS Request

Administrator Shaver stated that last year the Square Lake Association requested reimbursement for aquatic invasive species (AIS) survey work. At Manager Weaver's suggestion the Board agreed that a request for future funding must be approved prior to a request for reimbursement.

President Johnson moved to share 50 percent of the cost of Square Lake AIS 2018 survey not to exceed \$615 and to pay the entire cost of curly leaf pondweed treatment not to exceed \$3,013.58, subject to review of the Association's most recent survey showing the location of the pondweed. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 5-0.

ii) Srock Waterway Repair

Mr. Isensee presented a potential cost-share project to repair an existing waterway that drains into a ravine at Hwy 95 and then into the St. Croix River. The cost estimate is \$60,000 for a projected 16.5 pounds of phosphorus reduction per year. WCD has 319 grant funds slated for this project, which would cover 50 percent of the

project cost. The lifespan of the project is expected to be 20-30 years. Mr. Srock would like to continue a hay-alfalfa crop rotation. Mr. Isensee will investigate timing for haying to optimize nutrient removal. Administrator Shaver stated that he talked to Dr. Zavoral about installing a sand-iron filter at the ravine downstream from the proposed project. Manager Polasik noted that the St. Croix River Association will have \$200,000 for four projects and the District can make a good argument for this project.

8) Old Business

a) Wilder Property Easements

Administrator Shaver reported that the District's insurance agent stated that with this property purchase there would not be an increase in insurance costs as long as there are no structures on the property. As a government owner, there would not be a property tax. Administrator Shaver will check with May Township to see if Wilder currently pays a service fee in lieu of taxes. President Johnson clarified the specific parcel Wilder would like the District to purchase and noted that a revised appraisal must be completed before a purchase price is set. Administrator Shaver and Engineer Almer reported that it might be possible to use the purchase of property around East Boot Lake as a TMDL. Engineer Almer will do more research on this issue.

b) Budget Review

Administrator Shaver reviewed updates to the Budget from January 2018.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution 2-14-18-1 which amends the District's General Fund and Plan Implementation Budget to \$946,808. Seconded by President Johnson. Resolution passed 5-0.

c) Planning Updates

i) 1Watershed1Plan

(1) Memorandum of Agreement

President Johnson agreed to serve as the District representative.

Manager Tuenge moved to approved Resolution 2-14-18-2 which authorizes President Johnson to sign the Lower St. Croix Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Resolution passed 5-0.

(2) County-based Watershed Funding

Administrator Shaver reported that Clean Water Legacy grant funds will be allocated differently this year. Decisions need to be made as to how the funds will be distributed between the cities, watersheds, conservation districts and counties. A letter has been drafted to send to local government units (LGUs) to a meeting on March 7 to explain the situation and discuss how funds should be distributed. Manager Johnson stated that if he was a LGU and received the proposed letter, he would have many questions and some concerns. Manager Stedman stated he was not comfortable sending the letter from the District. He thought the letter should be from the convener of the meeting, not one watershed district. Administrator Shaver explained that the letter is coming from all of the watershed districts. Each watershed management organization will be sending the letter to the cities in

their geographic area. He clarified that Washington County is not the umbrella organization and water-planning units are autonomous. Manager Johnson stated that the District has an obligation to share this information with its constituents.

Manager Tuenge moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to send the proposed letter to local government units with revisions. Seconded by President Johnson. Motion passed 3-2, with Managers Polaski and Stedman opposed.

ii) CMSCWD Plan Scheduling Update

Administrator Shaver stated that for the plan update, the District is required to notify agencies and reviewing authorities so they can provide their priority issues.

President Johnson moved to authorize the Administrator to notify all Agencies and LGUs as required by Minnesota Rule 84410 of its intent to amend its comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and to request that they identify their priority issues as they relate to the area covered by the CMSCWD Plan. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion passed 5-0.

9) Other Reports

a) 155th street

Administrator Shaver reported that he attended the May Township public hearing regarding the Ordinance request at 155th Street. The hearing was continued to March 1st. Administrator Shaver and some managers have been receiving phone calls on the issue, so it is expected the March 1st meeting will be contentious. Administrator Shaver, President Johnson and Attorney Torseth plan on attending the meeting.

b) Salt Symposium

Administrator Shaver reported that he attended the symposium, along with representatives from the city of Scandia, Stillwater Township and Washington County. Good information was presented on research to maximize effectiveness of salt while minimizing its use.

c) Rhinehardt Wetland Violation

Administrator Shaver reported that legal action between the landowner and the city of Scandia is continuing.

d) Shared Staff with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Administrator Shaver stated that he believes employee sharing for inspections and planning would benefit the District.

10) Pay Bills

Manager Stedman moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$26,151.34. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

11) Next Meeting is March 14, 2018

12) Adjourn

**Manager Stedman moved to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik.
Motion carried 5-0.**

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates