

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

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

Managers Absent: Kristin Tuenge and Tom Polasik

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Sally Leider (Watershed Wisdom) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

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

1) Approve Agenda

Manager Stedman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

2) Minutes from February 10, 2016

Manager De Vault moved to approve the February 10, 2016 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 4-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Stedman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Watershed Wisdom Report—Sally Leider

Ms. Leider introduced herself, summarized the last two years of the program and provided a retrospective. Watershed Wisdom, now in its 17th year, links fifth graders with educators, artists, scientists and naturalists to inspire stewardship of the St. Croix watershed.

Programming has been in Marine, Withrow and Scandia schools. As discussions continue with area watershed districts and Warner Nature Center about an expanded education program, Ms. Leider stated that she is interested in collaborating by working with teachers to integrate the program into the classroom curriculum and possibly through life coach work with young women.

6) Project Updates and Work Plan Update

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported that there was a bid process by Scandia for the soil boring at the ramp. He approved the lowest of the three bids for \$2,000. Because of the number of spring and summer events and spawning, the Scandia engineer recommended waiting until fall to do the project. The Scandia administrator would like to meet with the Board

to make some changes to the project agreement. Mr. Almer clarified that the two borings are a necessary step for the final design and construction should take a couple of weeks.

b) 197th Street

Administrator Shaver reported that he spoke to Roger Rydeen and Jason Husveth about the planting. The area needs leveling. Because machinery will compact the site, Administrator Shaver will try to hire Minnesota Conservation Corps to do the work by hand.

c) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mr. Almer met with individuals about rain garden preferences. They will meet with a few more residents next week.

d) Goose, Hay and South Twin Implementation

Mr. Chesnut reported that he will be meeting with the Goose Lake homeowner this Friday to go over the project design and site location. He is still trying to contact the adjacent property owner because the project will encroach a bit on that property. Administrator Shaver reported that there is some interest by Hay Lake residents in forming a lake association and he will work with them on this.

e) 133rd Street

Administrator Shaver reported that he has been talking to residents on Big Carnelian Lake about the three separate projects. Mr. Almer is working up a basic design for work on the hillside. Neighbors will be responsible for contracting for the work.

f) Work Plan

Administrator Shaver reported that he sent the draft plan to Manager De Vault.

7) New Business

a) Permits

i) Big Carnelian Shoreland Violation

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager De Vault met with Bill Voedisch of May Township, Dennis O'Donnel of Washington County and the two property owners. All agreed on how things should proceed and that each landowner will need a District permit. Two regular permits will cover District costs.

ii) Permit Update

Mr. Almer noted three new permits in 2016 and reported that Permit 16-004 is for a lot split and establishment of a conservation easement over the buffer area and small wetland. The wetland delineation was approved by WCD a few years ago. Receiving a District permit approval is a condition of the buyer's closing. EOR reviewed the permit and issued comments.

Manager Weaver moved to authorize the administrator to issue Permit 16-004. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 5-0.

iii) Zavoral Monitoring Results 2015

Mr. Chesnut stated that WCD does various inspections on a yearly basis at the mine for the City of Scandia. He provided a summary of inspections in 2015. For the first time, he conducted a field review of the wetland boundary. The boundary has not changed since the mining started and because of this, recommended no more monitoring. Groundwater has been monitored since 2013. The groundwater elevation is within a foot of the baseline and only fluctuates about a foot. Erosion and sediment control is the most extensive he has ever seen and off-site discharge has never been seen. There is one healthy butternut tree, but it is endangered. A diverse prairie was successfully established in the northeast corner of the site during Phase 1 reclamation. Restoration work will move south and will continue for five years after mining ends. Surface water monitoring focuses on Crystal Springs, Zavoral Creek and Middle Creek, which was added a couple years ago. In short, there is no indication of a mining impact on the surface water. Tiller will end mining in 2016. The city has rezoned the site to agriculture, which precludes mining. Inspection reports are on the city website and in the District office.

b) Cost Share

Mr. Chesnut reported on two requests for cost share reimbursements.

Manager De Vault moved to approve cost share reimbursements to Bev O'Connor of Blueberry Fields for \$180.50 and \$243.90.

c) Education

i) Re-schedule Joint Meeting at Warner Nature Center

Administrator Shaver requested meeting dates in April to discuss expansion of a children's education program with Brown's Creek and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed Districts and Warner Nature Center.

ii) EMWREP Request for Watershed Partners

Administrator Shaver stated that the District, with its regular contributions to East Metro Water Resource Education Program, has indirectly supported Watershed Partners (WP). WP has developed a three-year program to track the effect of its social media campaign—Adopt a Stormdrain. This campaign has a budget of \$100,000 and organizations are being asked to contribute. After discussion, the Managers agreed that because the District has few storm drains, the project is not of direct value.

Manager Stedman moved to not contribute to this program at this time. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

d) AIS Additional 2016 Inspector Hours for the District

Administrator Shaver reported that Chisago County hires inspectors for \$15/hour, but is not interested in expanding inspections to Washington County. Last year WCD's rate for inspectors was \$35/hour. After re-computing overhead, WCD is able to reduce the rate to \$25/hour. A county grant will pay for 30% of the cost of 720 inspection hours in the District. With the reduced rate, Administrator Shaver recommended contracting for an additional 280 hours. Discussion focused on having input on the hours of coverage and providing supervision.

Manager De Vault moved to provide \$7,000 from the cost share and education budgets for an additional 280 hours of inspections at public boat launch ramps in the District. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

e) Resource Management 2016

i) Lake Assessments Proposal

Administrator Shaver stated that the 10 Year Plan has provisions in the budget for assessments of lakes in the old Marine Watershed Management Organization area to bring the understanding of these lakes to the same level as other District lakes. Mr. Almer outlined EOR's proposal for the assessment of Terrapin, Mays and Clear Lakes, all high quality lakes. Goals for these three lakes are old and do not meet the level established for the District's 10 TMDL impaired lakes and three focused lakes. The proposal reduced the budget from \$60,000 over two years to \$46,000 in one year by studying all three lakes at once and anticipating less staff time needed for public meetings. Four main tasks were proposed focusing on water quality trends; phosphorus sources, loads and reductions; implementation activities; and public input. EOR would subcontract the fish and macrophyte surveys to St. Mary's University.

Manager Weaver asked if the District would be getting the biggest bang for the buck because these lakes are in pretty good shape, are landlocked, have good drainage and do not have a lot of impervious surfaces nearby. Manager Stedman stated that these lakes are more protected and maybe other lakes need these studies more. Manager De Vault presented available data indicating no trends in phosphorus loads. He suggested only doing a study if monitoring indicates impairment. Administrator Shaver stated that these studies are in the District plan, there is value in having equivalent lake goals throughout the District and the Board of Water and Soil Resources will hold the District accountable to its plan. Mr. Almer clarified that fish studies are important for shallow lakes; these lakes are on the receiving end of a vast drainage area receiving runoff from agriculture land and impervious surfaces; and if there is an impairment, the assessment will provide the tools and best approach for a quick reaction. These studies could possibly dovetail with Watershed Wisdom and general education.

Manager Lindberg moved to accept the EOR proposal of \$46,494 to perform lake assessments on Terrapin, Mays and Clear lakes. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 3-2.

ii) Additional Targeting (PTM) for District Assessment Tool

Administrator Shaver stated that the Prioritize, Target, Measure Application will provide an additional layer of information and functionality to the assessment tool. It could be used to evaluate individual BMP activities. Mr. Almer stated that the App will help with the 319 Grant Program application by helping to quantify load reductions. He recommended building off the District's subwatershed assessment and running the App to prioritize BMPs in the 10 TMDL lakesheds, which will be targeted in the grant application.

Manager Weaver moved to approve EOR's proposal for \$5,480 to incorporate the PTM modeling tool in the District's subwatershed assessment and provide a demonstration of its uses to the District. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 5-0.

iii) Bacterial Impairments Revised Proposal

Administrator Shaver reported that he asked Mr. Almer to see if the bacterial assessment could be done more cheaply by looking at septic systems as the most likely cause of impairment. Mr. Almer pared down the assessment to three tasks: desktop data review, field reconnaissance, and implementation planning and reporting. During the reconnaissance, water samples would be collected and frozen in case DNR screening is needed.

Manager Stedman moved to approve EOR's Rapid Assessment proposal for Tasks 1 and 2 for \$11,204. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.

f) Metropolitan Council Watershed Outlet Monitoring (WOMP) Grant

Administrator Shaver reported that the District, with WCD, has participated in the WOMP Program for over 10 years. The grant will pay for monitoring Silver Creek. He noted that Carnelian is running about four inches over the outlet.

Manager Weaver moved to approve entering into a grant agreement for Met Council funding to offset the District's monitoring expense at the Silver Creek discharge location. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.

8) Old Business

a) Administrative Updates

Administrator Shaver reported:

i) He attended the Governor's Water Summit

ii) Uncashed checks

The auditor discovered uncashed checks. It was agreed the District will stop payment on the old checks and reissue new ones.

iii) Designing a Survey of Residents

Administrator Shaver will meet with Angie Hong and a University of Minnesota professor on the possibility of designing a survey around residents' interest in and knowledge of water resources. Managers are invited to attend the meeting.

v) Disposition of Wilder Property—meeting March 16 at Wilder

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

vii) Long Lake Homeowner Association Meeting —April 7

viii) Rules Workshop—Tuesday, April 26

ix) Bylaws

Ms. Torseth has reviewed the District bylaws and will present proposed changes.

b) 2016 Budget/Carry Forward and Financial Reports Revisions

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager Johnson would like to meet with the auditor, before the April meeting, about the ongoing budget issues such as the reserve and carry forward. The auditor has been asked to attend the next board meeting.

c) Per Diem

Administrator Shaver reported he and Ms. Torseth talked about per diem. Should managers charge for meeting prep? What do other watershed district managers do? According to state statute, per diem for meetings and other necessary duties may not exceed \$75/day and managers are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. Administrator Shaver will get further feedback.

d) Square Lake Daphnia Report Update

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Meghan Funke of EOR will meet with Hamline University Professor Leif Hembre on March 22 about the daphnia monitoring report. The next step is to meet with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff about the monitoring results and the trout-stocking moratorium. A final report to the DNR is due in December.

e) 197th Street Change Order No. 2-1 Attachment

Manager De Vault moved to accept change order #2 for 197th Street reconstruction. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

f) Sand Lake I.E.S.F. Pay Request 2

Manager De Vault moved to pay Request 2 to Peterson Companies for the Sand Lake project in the amount of \$109,329.58. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

10) Bills to Be Paid

Manager De Vault moved to pay bills in the amount of \$125,577.51. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

11) Executive Session—Administrator Compensation

Manger De Vault moved to approve a 2.5% salary increase retroactive to January 1, 2016. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver will work to resolve health care compensation.

12) Next Regular Meeting is April 13, 2016

13) Adjourn

Manager De Vault moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates