

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes July 13, 2016

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

Managers Absent: Andy Weaver

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD) 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 amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

2) Minutes June 8 and June 22

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the June 22, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

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

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Project Updates

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Administrator Shaver reported that the project went out for bid. Scandia Administrator Neal Soltis would like to schedule a joint meeting on August 3 to review the bids.

b) 197th Street

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Todd Shoemaker of Wenck reviewed the project and identified a few issues that need attention before closeout. Next year, when the City of Scandia replaces culverts on the lower part of the road, there is additional sediment removal from the wetlands that could be done.

c) Marine Stormwater

Mr. Almer reported that he issued a request for bids for the iron-sand filter and rain gardens. Bids are due next Friday, with approval of a bid expected at next month's meeting. EOR provided a concept design for the road that Washington County will take to a final design.

d) Sand/Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that the grant ended on June 30 and the final paperwork is due at the end of July. The vegetation is looking really good.

e) Goose Implementation

Ms. Torseth reported that the property owners hired an attorney to review the proposed easement. The attorney made small changes, to which she and Administrator Shaver agreed. The easement and project are moving forward. Administrator Shaver noted that although a property owner is interested in providing a site for a BMP, he and Mr. Almer are looking for a site near the Goose Lake landing.

f) 133rd Street/Panorama Capstone

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with the active property owner on Panorama. Both agreed that the District should host a meeting with residents to review the Capstone recommendations and project possibilities and see if agreement can be reached with residents on the top and bottom of the road. The meeting is set for August 13. Manager De Vault reported that May Township is looking at paving Panorama and the culverts are still plugged. Administrator Shaver will follow up on the culverts.

g) Stream Bacterial Assessment

Mr. Almer reported that he should get the septic information this year and then will review next steps.

h) Lake Assessments

Mr. Almer reported that the point-intercept aquatic plant survey was completed in June on Terrapin, Mays and Clean lakes. All are very high quality and Terrapin is significant on a state and possibly national level. Terrapin Lake could be used as a reference lake to describe pre-settlement conditions. All three lakes are likely eligible for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's List of Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, which potentially brings DNR funding to protect them. Administrator Shaver stated that he will draft a letter to Lessard-Sams for funding for conservation easements to protect these lakes. As part of the assessment, St. Mary's University will be doing a fish survey.

6) New Business

a) Permits

i) Permit Update

Mr. Almer provided a permit summary and noted that he had to issue reminders to five permittees about proper stormwater management.

Manager Tuenge moved to authorize the administrator to issue permits 16-009 through 16-013, pending the engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

ii) Resolution

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution # 07-13-16-01 to authorize Brown's Creek Watershed District to permit and monitor The Ponds at Heifort Hills project. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Shaver noted that the District owns some property on the north east corner of South Twin Lake. The property could be used for some BMPs to improve South Twin water quality. According to Mr. Almer, cooperation by Stillwater on the BMPs could help the city with its MS4 and TMDL permits.

iii) Permit Language

Manager Polasik moved to approve the drafted permit language. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Authorized Buffer Representative

Manager Tuenge moved to designate Administrator Shaver as the District representative in all matters on the Buffer Law. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 6-0.

c) District Open House

Manager De Vault stated that the Hugo City Council suggested the District host an open house to inform the community about its work and be more visible. Administrator Shaver stated that he will talk with Angie Hong and bring ideas back. Additional comments: District information could be provided at another LGU's event that would draw people; BCWD had an open house for its plan amendment and served ice cream cones to draw people; people could be invited to a District open house and project tour in conjunction with the manager tour; and the drone flyover could be used to show what the District is concerned about. Administrator Shaver invited managers to take a shift at the WCD booth on August 5 at the County Fair. Information on watershed districts and their cost share programs is provided. Manager De Vault stated that realtor Natalie Warner is willing to get District cost share flyers to realtors.

d) Cost Share

i) Mike Isensee Introduction

Mr. Isensee introduced himself as the WCD watershed specialist at 40% of his time and Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization administrator at 60% time. He does urban stormwater restoration, permit reviews and especially enjoys designing and installing BMPs. He approached

Jay Riggs to replace Jed Chesnut to work with CMWD on the cost share BMP program.

ii) Ubel Request for Payment

Administrator Shaver referred to the memo from Jed Chesnut requesting reimbursement of \$1418.09 for Dave Ubel for his shoreline stabilization cost share. The request is in the bills to be paid.

iii) Application

Administrator Shaver reported that a cost-share request for a stormwater project on Oxbow was made and reviewed on Thursday of last week. He suggested the resident add a rain garden. Mr. Isensee estimated that the proposed project, with a rain garden, would remove 20 pounds of total suspended solids and .6 pounds of phosphorus per year. It was noted that the lot is an intensive prairie that was a past cost-share project and the current project was not ranked.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve a \$500 plant grant. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-1. After the plans, including the proposed plants—such as blue star juniper and rhododendron—were identified as nonnative and not pollinator friendly, **Manager Tuenge moved to rescind the \$500 plant grant approval. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Isensee will follow up with the property owner to suggest using native plants and then request a plant grant.

e) Letter of Support

Manager Johnson moved to direct the administrator to write a letter of support to Washington County for its grant request to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund to facilitate the conservation easements at Wilder and Warner Nature Center. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

7) Old Business

a) P15-006 Mike White

Administrator Shaver stated that WCD prepared a revised restoration plan that Mike White has tentatively approved. After discussion, it was agreed that Administrator Shaver will get a signed approval for the plans from Mr. White, get bids from several contractors, present the bids to Mr. White and ask Mr. White who he is going to hire. All agreed Mr. White must hire and pay a contractor directly. A specific timeline must also be agreed to. After the work is satisfactorily completed, Mr. White's surety will be returned.

b) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Update

Administrator Shaver showed the website with the table of Big Marine Lake outlet elevations. As of June 27, the upstream level was below the outlet and is

not flowing. The downstream water level is dropping very slowly. The maintenance plan requires putting in all stoplogs when the water elevation at the upstream weir is not outletting. The system is working as designed now, but the predicted 10 inches of rain did not happen. If Roger Rydeen is not able to complete the channel dredging in the next few weeks, Administrator Shaver will talk with other contractors. He and Manager De Vault met with County Commissioner Fran Miron and are waiting to hear back from the County. Administrator Shaver, Mr. Almer, Ms. Torseth, Ray Marshall, Jennifer Sorensen and Molly Shodeen met to discuss long-standing channel issues.

c) General Fund Balance Policy

Manager Johnson presented the amended policy that includes maintaining 40% of the budget as unassigned. Manager Tuenge asked about having a rainy day or plan implementation fund. The policy can be changed by Board action.

Manager De Vault moved to approve and adopt the General Fund Balance Policy. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver will provide a clean copy of the policy. The Managers thanked Manager Johnson for his work on this.

d) 2017 Budget Update

Administrator Shaver presented a second draft of the 2017 budget. A plan implementation contingency of \$50,000 was added, the total Regulatory Program is budgeted at \$51,500 with total expenses at \$731,245 and a projected deficit of \$102,395. Because of Manager concerns, the levy increase was removed. The budget does not include unused funds, though the projected carry forward will not be known until next month. Grant revenue includes secured and projected grants. Employee expenses and legal fees will be listed in redefined sections. Manager reimbursements increased because of an increase in the mileage reimbursement. An increase in line items for channel maintenance and AIS monitoring was noted and a potential H&H study for the entire watershed or all lakes was discussed. A public meeting on the budget is set for August 24.

8) Other Reports

a) Education/Outreach

Administrator Shaver stated that he did not hear back from Warner Nature Center.

b) Monitoring

Manager De Vault stated that approval of the monitoring report, without a peer review, is needed. Administrator Shaver will make the changes and distribute the updated report.

9) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Stedman moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$41,231.75. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Shaver noted that Mike Ripley rented a chipper to remove the brush from the cleanup, instead of waiting for May Township. This saved about \$1,300. Landmark Surveying did surveying at Kelly Farms.

10) Administrator's Report

a) CAC Meeting

Administrator Shaver reported that he sent out 25-30 letters to previous CAC members, advertised and had articles published in local papers. Four residents attended the meeting, one sent regrets and one responded as being interested. Administrator Shaver will follow up with the rest of the committee to see who is interested.

b) Health Care

Administrator Shaver reported that changes to the health care plan are now in affect. Discussion focused on medical copayments. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would review this.

11) Next Regular and Annual Meeting is August 10, 2016

12) Adjourn

Manager Johnson moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates