

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes April 12, 2017

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

Managers Absent: Dave De Vault

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth and Viet-Hanh Winchell (Galowitz • Olson), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD), Paul Richert (resident and CAC) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

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

2) Minutes from March 8, and March 22, 2017

Manager Stedman moved to approve the March 8, 2017 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager Lindberg moved to approve the March 22, 2017 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Stedman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Project Updates

a) Log House Landing (LHL)

Administrator Shaver reported that the public meeting will take place on April 25 to discuss the long-range vision for LHL.

b) Marine Stormwater Projects Costs

Administrator Shaver reported that the project bids are in, but are not public. Mr. Almer stated that the County selected an apparent low bidder and shared with the District the bid for the District's six raingardens and iron-enhanced sand filter. The raingardens came in much higher than expected, while the filter was lower. Mr. Almer suggested three options: looking at the projects as an aggregate, decline to do them because they are over budget; try to find additional funding for the raingardens and accept the bid; or accept the filter, reject the raingardens and direct Administrator Shaver to negotiate a grant

amendment with BWSR for the stormwater management features. He surmised that the raingardens were seen as a nuisance to the bidder—especially because of maintenance. Administrator Shaver stated that Lon Pardun of Marine feels that the raingardens are key for community development. Manager Stedman concurred and noted that residents attended meetings, the original grant was for up to 18 gardens and the number of gardens keeps getting pared back and this is an important educational and community opportunity. Manager Weaver stated that the bid for the raingardens is ridiculous and the District could do better with a different bid. Mr. Isensee stated that WCD has done better in the past by pulling planting and mulching out of contracts and using existing staff for those tasks.

Manager Tuenge moved to direct the Administrator to work with Washington County on the project and look at alternatives for the combined or separate features of the project. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that he and Administrator Shaver met with Peterson Construction to discuss the plan of action. Peterson understands it is responsible for fixing the filter, plans to put in concrete check-dams and is currently identifying the best locations.

d) Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Isensee reported that WCD/the District received a \$74,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for phosphorus reduction on Goose Lake. Last year's unsuccessful proposal was reworked to reduce the cost/pound of phosphorus reduction. The funds are available in 2018-2021. The St. Sauvers are willing to give an easement for the drain tile. Before a design can be drafted, outflow monitoring is needed from the culvert to Goose Lake. A University of Minnesota engineering class will participate in a design charrette for the project. Mr. Isensee also noted that WCD also received a \$300,000 grant for additional phosphorus reduction projects and some of the funds might be used in the District. Manager Johnson thanked Mr. Isensee for getting the grant and leveraging Clean Water Grant funds.

e) 133rd St./Panorama Capstone

Administrator Shaver reported that it appears the neighborhood has put a halt to paving the road. A property owner along the road might need to do a forced sell and asked if the District would be interested in buying the property. The property is along the road curve in a land-locked depression at lake level. It is less than ½ acre, was purchased by the current owner in 2006 or 2007 for \$140,000. The owner estimates the current value at \$200,000. The entire area is a problem and might be a good site for an undefined future project such as an infiltration basin. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District buys properties, fixes them and then sells them. CMSCWD could think about using this as a model or perhaps be ready to work with a new purchaser. It was agreed Administrator Shaver will talk with Bill Voedisch of May Township and bring an aerial map of the property to next month's meeting.

f) Long/Terrapin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Administrator Shaver reported that he has not heard back from landowners so will walk the properties to find a site with proper elevations for the screens to trap Eurasian watermilfoil. Because the screens will require regular maintenance, Warner Nature Center might be the best location. Mr. Almer stated that the first step is to map locations of curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil and then locate a site for the screen. A maintenance agreement with the property owner will be needed. Administrator Shaver reported that he will attend the Long Lake Homeowner Association meeting this month.

g) Lake Assessments

Mr. Almer reported that Alice and German lakes are next in line for assessments. For budget reasons, the District might opt to get the data, but wait to develop a plan, especially if there is a preference to get projects in the ground.

6) New Business

a) Permits

i) P17-005, P17-006 and P17-007 Conditional Approval

Manager Stedman moved to approve Permits 17-005, 17-006 and 17-007 subject to the District engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

ii) CSAH 4 Wetland Mitigation

Mr. Almer summarized the wetland mitigation required by the County Highway 4 Road reconstruction project. The standard state replacement ratio is 2:1. Because the wetland being impacted is classified as a Category 1, the District Wetland Management Plan requires a 6:1 replacement. There is no remediation room along the corridor. The County is proposing to use the state wetland bank to meet the 2:1 replacement and add an additional 4:1 requirement by gaining credit for stormwater management activities in the corridor above the requirement. This leaves the total replacement at 1:1. Instead of having a Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Almer recommended giving the County credit and calling it a wash.

Manager Polasik moved to credit additional voluntary stormwater practices over permitting requirements of P17-004 as satisfying necessary CMSCWD wetland mitigation for the project. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Cost Share

i) Blueberry Fields Reimbursement

Mr. Isensee summarized the Blueberry Fields cost-share project that was awarded and installed in 2012. After the required three years of maintenance, a request for final reimbursement was submitted. Manager Lindberg recommended taking a tour to learn about bee nests.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the final cost-share reimbursement of \$815.53 to complete the Blueberry Fields Native Pollinator Habitat project. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

ii) Arcola Mills Application

Mr. Isensee summarized the Arcola Mill's cost share application with the goal to break up runoff flow from the driveway into the swale and install three small infiltration basins. Minnesota Conservation Corp will do the work.

Manager Johnson moved to approve a 50% cost share not to exceed \$3,952.87. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0-1, with Manager Stedman abstaining.

iii) Brochman Prairie

Mr. Isensee reported that this project is along the St. Croix River. Mr. Axdahl is renting and farming the land. He and the landowner are interested in putting in a one-acre prairie buffer at the bluff to reduce erosion. To catch the heavy flow, the plant mix will be predominately grasses such as prairie dropseed, Indian grasses and little and big bluestem. Manager Polasik suggested adding forbs after the grasses are established.

c) Bids for Olinda Lane Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF)

Administrator Shaver reported that this project is being funded, in part, from the BWSR Goose Lake phosphorus reduction project. Two bids for the IESF were received. James Landini (WCD) has worked successfully on several projects with the low bidder. Attorney Torseth reviewed the revised project footprint and determined that an easement is needed from a neighboring property owner. A legal description is needed. The contractor will be asked how long he is willing to hold the bid while the second easement is obtained.

d) 2016 Audit

Manager Polasik moved to accept the 2016 audit. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

e) AIS Inspection Hours

Administrator Shaver reported that Washington County had less money than last year and the District has less money to supplement inspection hours. Because of this, he recommended supplementing the lower range of inspection hours.

Manager Weaver moved to allocate \$3,600 to supplement AIS inspections at District boat launches for the 2017 season. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

f) Maintenance Contract with WCD

Administrator Shaver reported that the suggested changes made by Attorney Torseth were accepted by WCD. Administrator Kill of Brown's Creek Watershed District investigated maintenance using private contractors, but found WCD offered the most flexibility and lowest per unit cost. WCD crews, of two with a truck and trailer (when needed), could be used for channel maintenance.

It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize the Administrator to sign the contract with Washington Conservation District for maintenance crew hours to perform general maintenance in 2017 not to exceed \$7,600.

7) Old Business

a) Square Lake Trout Resolution

Administrator Shaver reported that May Township passed a resolution, while Washington County took the proposed resolution off the agenda and moved it to a workshop to talk about the technical aspects of the study data. Administrator Shaver will invite Meghan Funke to attend the workshop and is encouraging Square Lake Homeowners Association members and District Managers to attend. Manager Weaver commended Attorney Torseth for a masterful job on the resolution.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the resolution as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Draft Plan Review

Administrator Shaver reported that on March 30 a meeting was held with Commissioner Miron and a couple of Big Marine Lake residents to review the revised plan. The residents requested two changes: defining the winter season as October 1 through March 31 and prescribing that the plan be reviewed every three years.

Discussion:

- Manager Lindberg stated that he is opposed to starting the winter season on October 1 because this is prime waterfowl migration. The wetland is necessary habitat for waterfowl to rest and feed. Migration is basically over by December 1. Removing 4-inch stop logs in the Turtle Lake Weir in October or December will make no difference on Big Marine Lake water levels.
- Manager Weaver agreed that removing stop logs in October will affect waterfowl, but not Big Marine Lake water levels.
- It was noted that Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will review the plan once it is passed by the Board.
- Manager Johnson stated that redefining the winter season is awkward. The District has been saying there is no relation between the Turtle Lake Weir and Big Marine Lake water levels, yet agreed to redefine the winter season.

Manager Lindberg moved to leave the summer season to be defined as April 1 through November 30 and the winter season to be defined as December 1 through March 31 because of waterfowl migration, and to authorize the Administrator to make the one noted change to the draft plan and submit it to the Department of Natural Resources for review. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

i) Fixed Weir Feasibility

Mr. Almer stated that he is prepared to present an outline and cost of a feasibility study, but it will be expensive. He is not sure of the goals and value. Elevation will be the crux of the issue. The practical issue is that the structure is 35 years old. He suggested doing an assessment of a new structure compared to the life expectancy and retrofitting of the old structure. This will require soil borings and hiring a structural engineer. The cost is about \$15,000. Because the elevation will be an on-going issue, Mr. Almer suggested doing the assessment in steps. A structural inspection of the current structure and assessment of the potential to make

modifications would be about \$3,500-\$5,000. Manager Tuenge stated that a fixed weir might save the Administrator time and stress. Administrator Shaver recommended talking about this when the budget is discussed and set. Managers Stedman and Lundberg stated that the v-notch weir will not mimic the natural water ebb and flow that keeps the wetland more natural. The District would be doing this for political reasons, but not scientific ones. Funds of \$15,000 would be better spent installing a prairie or getting phosphorus out of a river. Residents will want the elevation set low causing the wetland to dry out. Manager Polasik disagreed stating that drainage will happen faster with the v-notch. Administrator Shaver stated that he will talk to Jenifer Sorensen (DNR) about setting an elevation.

ii) Bliss Channel

Administrator Shaver recommended a bottom survey not to exceed \$1,500. The Johnsons are saying the channel is filling in and sides are sluffing off. Before a conversation on who does what, elevation information is needed. Manager Polasik added that information is needed on where the sediment is coming from. Attorney Torseth summarized the timeline: In 1989, the DNR issued a permit for dredging to an individual. In 1990, the District assumed the permit and authorized dredging in 2010 and 2014. Although the Board authorized dredging, there was debate questioning why the District would dredge. Mr. Almer stated that the survey is the first step to establishing a maintenance plan. The next step could be handing maintenance to residents.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize a survey of bottom elevations through the Bliss Channel not to exceed \$1,500. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

9) Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- The Warner Nature Center education contract was not completed in time for this school year, so the contract will be extend for next year.
- About 20 residents on Hay Lake are organizing a homeowners association. Angie Hong will help Administrator Shaver with this.
- Mill Stream Day is May 21.
- Channel water level readings and maintenance activities are posted on the District website.
- Managers should talk to local governments about issues for which the District might budget.
- A letter was sent to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service about the Rydeen project.
- St. Croix Summit is April 21-23.
- The District did not get a 319 grant and Administrator Shaver will get feedback.

Attorney Torseth reported that Lawson Law changed its name to Galowitch•Olson, as of April 1.

10) Pay Bills

Manager Johnson moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$32,040.59. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

11) Next Meeting is April 26, 2017

12) Adjourn

Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates