

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes May 10, 2017**

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

**Managers Absent:** Eric Lindberg

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Galowitz • Olson), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

Manager De Vault called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**1) Approve Agenda**

**Manager Polasik moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**2) Minutes from April 12, 2017**

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the April 12, 2017 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. 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 (LHL)**

Administrator Shaver reported that changes will not be made to the LHL ramp and the City of Scandia can handle the maintenance. Manager Tuenge stated that Friends of LHL are working on a design plan and have been talking with councilmembers.

**b) 197<sup>th</sup> Street**

Administrator Shaver reported that he met on site with Neil Soltis (Scandia administrator) and Jay Riggs (WCD) to discuss three culverts that need replacing and the wetland.

According to Mr. Riggs, the road is acting as a barrier to the wetland. Maintenance to remove sediment and replant is the issue, not the depth of the culverts. Administrator Shaver stated that sediment has been a long-standing issue and, if the Board agrees, residents should not be responsible for it. He plans to meet with the residents and, if they are amenable, a project could move forward. There is \$10,000 in the budget for a project, but it could be reallocated.

**c) Sand/Long Implementation**

Mr. Almer reported that the contractor has already done the sand filter repair. It looks good and has been fully functioning for about four weeks. EOR got one composite and two grab samples and is now figuring out how long the flow to the sand filter can run before it needs to be cut off to allow the filter to fully dry out. The intent is to optimize the system's efficiency.

**d) Goose, Hay and South Twin Implementation**

Mr. Isensee reported that WCD will install monitoring equipment from St. Sauver's property to the outflow at Goose Lake. Outflow data is needed before a system can be designed. The bid for the current project will be held open through the summer. Mr. Isensee, Mr. Almer, Administrator Shaver and Ms. Torseth are working with an additional property on tweaking the design because of the owner's concern about water encroaching on his property. Minnesota Department of Transportation finally cleaned out the culvert to South Twin. Either rain has counteracted the cleanout or the culvert is plugged again. Mr. Isensee, with assistance from Angie Hong, met with residents on Hay Lake. There is potential for forming a lake association and 10 residents requested on-site visits for possible BMP projects. Six visits are scheduled for next week.

**e) Long/Terrapin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

Administrator Shaver reported that he had a good meeting with the Long Lake Homeowner Association. Residents are anxious to hear about aquatic invasive species treatments. Administrator Shaver talked to Mike Majeski of EOR about a variance to treat for Eurasian watermilfoil. It is too late to treat for curly leaf pondweed. One association member is willing to release purple loosestrife eating beetles.

**6) New Business**

**a) Permits for Conditional Approval**

Mr. Almer reported that all are single-family construction permits.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve Permits P17-008, P17-009, P17-010, P17-011 and P17-012, subject to the District engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Almer reported that Scandia asked the District for comments on Big Store's permit application. Big Store received a District permit in 2006 or 2007. Mr. Almer's comments recommended testing the efficiency of the existing stormwater BMPs and bringing them up to standard.

**b) Cost Share**

**i) Anderson Reimbursement**

Mr. Isensee stated that in February the District approved two 50% cost shares: one for a 1.2 prairie restoration and one for a 1.2 woodland restoration. The Andersons are requesting partial reimbursement for work completed to date.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve partial cost-share reimbursements of \$3,690 to the Andersons. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**ii) Warner Nature Center (WNC) Prairie Proposal**

Mr. Isensee reported that WNC is working on a cost-share proposal for conversion of 30 acres of agricultural land to prairie in the St. Croix watershed. The site is 1.8 miles from the river. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000, with the cost share request for seeding and the first two years of mowing and maintenance. A standard seed mix is \$44,200. A pollinator-friendly seed mix is \$58,500. The cost-share request to the District is estimated at \$11,000-\$26,000. The estimate of phosphorus reduction is 50 pounds/year. Discussion included: adding this project to next year's cost-share budget, noting that the entire cost-share budget is generally \$28,000/year and is usually not spent, this is a worthwhile project with high visibility and the District took a pollinator pledge so should require the pollinator seed mix.

**iii) Additional Prairie Conversion**

Mr. Isensee reported that Daniel Lee is working on a cost-share project application for a five-acre conversion from row crops to native prairie. The project area discharges into Hay Lake. The restoration will reduce phosphorus runoff by 24.5 pounds/year or 77% of the total identified watershed load reduction. This project was approved for a 50% cost share in 2014, but Mr. Lee did not have the match. Because this is an impaired lake, the District can fund 100% of the project. The project is also eligible for up to 50% cost share from WCD. Manager Polasik stated that the project needs a pollinator mix, which will raise the cost.

**iv) Gary Rydeen Project**

Administrator Shaver reported that the original cost share to reduce runoff to East Boot Lake—an impaired lake—did not work as intended. Corrective measures are to enlarge the concrete pad and install a larger drainpipe. Mr. Rydeen would also like to do additional grading. The estimated cost is \$26,000. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service partially funded the original project, but does not have funds now. Manager Polasik stated that this is the type of project the District can get a good bang for its buck.

**Manager Polasik moved to accept the Rydeen 50% cost-share project not to exceed \$13,000, contingent on a revised project estimate. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**c) Water Monitoring Report**

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Water Monitoring Report. Seconded by Manager Stedman.**

Manager De Vault stated that although he did not read the report, he could not vote to approve it because it has not been peer reviewed. Manager Johnson stated that there is very little in the report that is not empirical. Several commented that the monitoring follows MPCA protocols. Per manager De Vault's recommendation, it was agreed to have Jim Allmendinger review the report. Manager Tuenge withdrew the motion and Manager Stedman withdrew the second.

**7) Old Business**

**a) Review Costs for Marine Stormwater Projects**

Administrator Shaver summarized the history of the project and the current bid status of the six rain gardens and sand-iron filter as part of the County's road project in Marine. The bid for the rain gardens came in higher than the bid the District received last year and the bid for the filter was about the same as last year's. Mr. Almer prepared a cost summary of three options: moving forward with all construction through the County's bid, moving forward with the filter through the County's bid and contracting for the rain gardens with a local contractor in 2018 or contracting through the County's bid for the filter and three or four rain gardens. Mr. Almer noted that the summary was drafted before he and Administrator Shaver met with the County. After the meeting—where penalties for withdrawal were discussed, but not clarified—Administrator Shaver felt the intangible cost of loss of good will with city, county and citizens, outweighs all else. A cost analysis of moving forward found the District can absorb the extra cost. Manager Stedman noted that the District has already spent \$33,000-\$50,000 on the project. Manager De Vault stated that if the District can afford the project, it should; the District cannot continue to walk away from projects because of costs and good will is important.

**Manager De Vault moved to advise the City of Marine on St. Croix and Washington County of the District's intent to continue with the County's cost-share agreement subject to agreement by the City of Marine to pay 25% of the costs exceeding the original project estimate of \$122,750. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Manager Weaver abstaining.**

**b) MAWD Board Update**

Administrator Shaver reported that Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts is proposing bylaws and dues structure changes that he thinks will better prepare watershed districts to compete with counties and conservation districts for state funds. He suggested good attendance at the MAWD summer meeting on June 21-23 to ensure that the changes get made.

**c) Square Lake Trout Update**

Administrator Shaver reported that the DNR agreed to continue the trout stocking moratorium this year. Manager De Vault agreed to serve as liaison with the DNR as a protocol is established. It was noted that the DNR will continue the water quality monitoring and analysis using the same protocol Hamline University used.

**d) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Draft Plan**

Attorney Torseth summarized the history—based on minutes and the DNR issued protected waters permit. There was not a lot of rationale given for the District's decision to take over the dredging permit. Currently, only the District has permission to ask the DNR for permission to dredge. If the District does not want to keep this right, it can ask the DNR to take it back or give it to residents. Questions raised: Does the District have the right to say it does not want the permit? Can the District request permission to dredge, but pass the cost to the residents? Because there is a dock, is the channel considered to be a marina? Manager De Vault stated that last time this was discussed; the Board decided that dredging is not something the District should do. Administrator Shaver stated that there are about 10 boating families the channel serves, but he will get a total count. He

compared the situation to the Tii Gavvo development, where the management company dredges and the District comments on the dredging request. In 2014, the Board authorized up to \$4,000 to survey the channel. The funds were not used because dredging was not needed. At that time, then Manager Kronmiller argued that channel maintenance enhances water quality. Mr. Almer stated that having the permit does not obligate the District to do anything, it just makes it easier to maintain the channel. Anyone can apply to get a permit for dredging. If residents agree to pay for dredging, Attorney Torseth recommended having them pay the contractor directly. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will talk with Jenifer Sorensen (DNR) about the permit and dredging options.

**e) Watershed Assessment Tool, PTM App, Flow Path Issues and Project Targeting**

Administrator Shaver reported that after a conversation with Manager Polasik about prioritizing cost-share projects based on impact to water bodies, they agreed that using the assessment tool would help ensure decisions are based on more objective factors. Should distance and flow path to the water body be considered for cost share? Mr. Almer stated that with the introduction of the assessment tool, discussions included using it to better inform the Cost Share Program. Enhancements were discussed; the tool was expanded to include the Marine area; culverts were inventoried; subwatershed routing information was compiled and the information can be viewed in Google Earth. When calculating the load off the landscape to the load to a water body, the assessment falls apart when runoff hits a first depression. EOR developed a work around using the PTM application and applied it to Hay Lake. The application was presented to BWSR, but was not broadly embraced. Mr. Almer thinks there will be a tool upgrade, noted that the tool works better in the 10 impaired lake areas, could be expand to other areas and currently does not account for culverts. He stressed that although the tool provides additional information, projects still need field validation.

**f) BMP Maintenance Contract**

Administrator Shaver clarified that this is a contract based on hourly rates. It is another tool to use to knock down beaver dams, clean sediments out of rain gardens, etc.

**g) Mill Pond**

Mr. Almer reported on the joint project of the District and City of Marine to characterize the Mill Pond soil, with a possible city goal to restore the pond to pre-settlement conditions. Two borings, following MPCA protocol, were analyzed for 20 constituents. All constituent levels were below toxic thresholds, meaning the soil can be landfilled. Phosphorus levels were high, indicating a nutrient-rich material. Material has accumulated at about 900 cubic yards. The cost of dredging is estimated at \$30,000. There is urban runoff coming from the developed landscape that is not natural background. From a water quality standpoint, this is an argument for dredging. Issues discussed included: Mill Stream does not have any flood mapping, but there is a steady base-flow. Managers Stedman and Polasik don't think the stream flashes. The pond is full of sediment, preventing further accumulation. More than excavation is needed to create trout habitat. The north side of the pond is already filled in and although the city wants to excavate it, the DNR is not in agreement. The city wants to maintain the first pond. The

District can expect the city to request a cost share. Manager Johnson stated that long-term it does not make sense to manage Mill Stream as a sediment trap.

**8) Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported that Mill Stream Day is May 21.

**9) Pay Bills**

**Manager Weaver moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$51,197.95. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

**10) Project Cost Estimates for Grant Applications**

Administrator Shaver stated that to avoid project overruns such as the Marine project and ensure grant application project estimates are more in line with actual costs, he will use a database of project costs and have budget numbers reviewed in advance. He will also ask the grantor if a provision can be included to pull pieces of the project if project bids exceed the grant budget. Mr. Isensee stated that WCD does not include planting and maintenance in contracts and does it in-house or with MCC crews, because contractors don't like putting in plants. The downside is the plants are not guaranteed for two years, as they are with a contractor. Manager Stedman stated that the Marine project was underestimated from the start because of the prevailing wage grant requirement.

**11) Next Meeting is June 14, 2017**

**12) Adjourn**

**Manager Weaver moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.**

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates