

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

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

Managers Absent: Joel Stedman

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

Manager De Vault called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

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

2) Minutes from June 14 and June 28, 2017

Manager Johnson moved to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the June 28, 2017 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

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

4) Public Comments

John Bower reported that he and Jeff Dahlberg completed a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) aquatic invasive species (AIS) training to become volunteer detectors. Detectors are trained to identify a total of 13 species of invasive plants, fish or invertebrates. On a request basis, they collect and drop off samples of suspected AIS and provide outreach including site visits with landowners and tabling at events such as county fairs. Watershed districts can notify the DNR if assistance is needed. Detectors are required to provide 25 volunteer hours per year and take yearly refresher training.

It was agreed to publicize the training program in the newsletter and local papers. Mr. Bower agreed to be listed as a contact. Other issues discussed included: WCD was able to hire a full-time monitor at public boat accesses with funds from Washington County and supplemental funds from the District; the DNR keeps track of AIS affected lakes; WCD is trying to develop an AIS rapid response program throughout Washington County; the AIS training does not include wetland invasives such as reed canary grass; there is a downloadable application used for reporting and sharing AIS infestations. The Board thanked Mr. Bower for his efforts.

It was noted that the Big Carnelian ramp is closing early this season.

5) Big Marine Bliss Channel and Big Carnelian Ordinary High Water (OHW) Updates

Administrator Shaver reported that he made a site visit to the Bliss Channel to look for siltation and talk to the property owner on the outlet. At this time, sand/silt is not flowing into the outlet. He will investigate possible erosion at the Big Marine beach.

Administrator Shaver reported that residents on Big Carnelian Lake do not seem to want an OHW change. Requests for shoreline riprap have increased. Administrator Shaver stated that, in his opinion, where ice heaves are an issue, riprap is the only thing that stabilizes the shoreline. Manager Weaver asked if District inaction will lead to decreased water quality because of increased erosion. Manager De Vault stated that there is damage. Because the weather had been lousy and there had been little boat activity, it was agreed that shoreline damage was probably caused by ice, which is naturally occurring. Manager Lindberg noted that he has seen more cattails, which reduce wave action. Administrator Shaver noted that the District has traditionally supported maintaining ice ridges because they act to infiltrate stormwater. A resident with an ice ridge is using this argument to seek relief from the District stormwater management rules. Mr. Almer will meet with the resident.

6) Project Updates

a) 197th Street

Administrator Shaver reported that he will talk to an adjacent property owner about increasing the size of the District-Scandia wetland reconstruction project.

b) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that two sites—the iron-sand pond and a holding area—were cleared before erosion control was installed. A silt fence is now around the pond and the contractor has been notified about the holding area. Another contractor drove through a perennial garden and agreed to remediate the site per the owner's satisfaction. Work on the raingardens has not started. Once a timeframe for the gardens is established, Lon Parden (Marine) wants to schedule a meeting with participants to provide an update.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that the last remaining item is a survey for the top of the berm. If there is a low spot, remediation will be required. EOR will continue water monitoring for one or two more rain events and then tail off.

d) Goose, Hay and South Twin Implementation

i) Goose Lake

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with the property owner on the proposed site for the iron-sand filter. Although he thought there was approval for an easement, there are still some issues. Ms. Torseth concurred. She talked with the owner about the language in the easement and his concerns. He is positive about the project but is busy, hard to reach and this is not his priority. After an easement is signed, a surveyor will need to provide a legal description of the project area, which is about 10 feet.

Mr. Isensee reported that the work plan for the St. Sauver project is still under discussion with the Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Once the work plan is approved, he will meet with the St. Sauvers about an easement.

ii) Hay Lake

Mr. Isensee reported there is still a one-acre buffer on the Lee shoreline. EOR has done a lot of work on estimating load reduction and this model will be used to estimate the load reduction for project reporting purposes.

e) Willow Brook Study and Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager De Vault met with Jim Schoeller and Jim Malman about Willow Brook Stream issues and solutions. There appeared to be a misunderstanding about the project and funding. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will contact Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) about applying for a BWSR grant for a stream restoration project in the MnDOT right-of-way and clarify in writing to Mr. Schoeller and Mr. Malman that a restoration project will be a residential cost share with the overall project subject to grant funds.

f) Marine Ravine and Wetland Reconstruction

Mr. Almer reported that a 319 grant application was submitted.

g) Long/Terrapin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Mr. Almer reported that the Long Lake macrophyte survey completed last winter indicated more AIS than had been mapped previously. He is exploring with the DNR if chemical treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is even a viable option because of the increased amount.

A best location for a screening device to protect Terrapin Lake from AIS was identified on Mary Brown's property. Mr. Almer reported that he is now working on a draft plan to present to Ms. Brown for feedback. This will be a high maintenance project requiring checking and cleaning. A remote sensor might be useful to detect blockages.

Administrator Shaver stated that Ron Lawrenz of Warner Nature Center seems willing to provide maintenance as an in-kind contribution to the project.

7) New Business

a) Permits

i) Conditional Approval for P17-016, P17-017 and P17-018

Mr. Almer reported that P17-017 is boulder/riprap on Scandia Elementary property triggered by proximity to a DNR wetland. The project can meet District standards but needs a redesign. Mr. Almer plans to meet with the school consultant about a redesign.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Permits P17-016, P17-017 P17-018, subject to the District engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

ii) Permit Tracker

Mr. Almer highlighted five older permits recommended to close out and for return of sureties. He is still dealing with comments on a lot of applications. Administrator Shaver stated that he has developed a good system with Scandia on building permits that could be a model for other municipalities. The Scandia clerk calls the District when someone comes in for a building permit. It is a short timeline, because the city can issue a permit in three days. If the applicant provides the District with the permit application and installs a silt fence, Administrator Shaver will make a site visit to ensure the fence is up and give the go ahead to build with the understanding that there maybe District stipulations. This enables the permittee to start digging. The City agrees to not issue a final permit until the District signs off.

b) Cost Share -- Monson Application

Mr. Isensee presented a residential cost share for a raingarden to capture roof runoff. The property is 1/3 of a mile from Spring Creek. The garden will use native flowering plants with a few grasses.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve a 50% cost share not to exceed \$500 for the Monson raingarden. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

c) Office Lease

Manager Polasik moved to approve a two-year lease renewal at a rate of \$630/month. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

d) Stillwater Bridge

Administrator Shaver invited managers to attend a riverboat tour of the Stillwater Bridge sponsored by Minnesota Erosion Control Association and MnDOT on August 8. He will make reservations for those planning to go.

8) Old Business

a) Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Board Update

Administrator Shaver provided the job description of and posting for the new MAWD executive director position.

b) 1 Watershed 1 Plan Update

BWSR is scheduling an organizational meeting in August with administrators of organizations that will be involved in the two-year planning process.

c) 2018 Budget Update

Administrator Shaver noted that budget changes agreed to at the workshop are highlighted on the revised draft budget. There was a significant levy reduction, leaving a barebones budget. There are no reserve funds and Administrator Shaver recommended increasing the budget by \$20,000 to start a plan implementation or reserve fund. He noted that a reserve is especially needed to cover grant expenses that are not reimbursed until the grant project is completed. The District also has future obligations such as a plan update and project implementations such as TMDL reductions that are expensive. Manager De Vault agreed with the need for a reserve, not as a fund to grow but as a fund

with a constant amount. Manager Johnson stated that this is intended for flexibility for good projects when they arise. Mr. Almer stated that other districts call the fund Contingency. Mr. Isensee stated that Project Implementation Carryover or Rollover is also used. Manager Weaver expressed concern about having a cash balance that is not the District's to hold. He suggested borrowing from the Gravity Pipe Fund. Ms. Torseth noted that borrowing from the pipe fund requires a unanimous vote of the Board. She also stated that the District's Budget Policy requires an unassigned fund balance for any purpose in the general funds. In comparison, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District has a \$5,000 miscellaneous line item and Brown's Creek has a \$25,000 contingency reserve. Further discussion focused on having a contingency fund versus padding project line items and/or adjusting the budget to cover unexpected costs. **Manager Johnson moved to add a \$20,000 Contingency Fund to the draft 2018 budget. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-1.**

Manager Tuenge moved to authorize the administrator to publicize the revised draft 2018 budget. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager De Vault recommended having the levy expressed as the impact on households rather than as a percent increase.

d) Lake Level Update

Administrator Shaver reported that Big Marine is probably four inches over the outflow and there is minimal difference between the upstream and downstream. The culvert is the limiting factor. Water levels downstream are rising. There are no blockages around Kelly Farm. The water is still slowly flowing out of Big Marine Lake. The District will have to look at the comprehensive plan and budget for an update of water modeling based on climate change.

e) Square Lake Update

Administrator Shaver reported that T.J. DeBates agreed to a meet with key people on the trout moratorium issue. The DNR will use the same monitoring protocol with in-house and out-house monitors on a rotating basis. Managers De Vault and Weaver volunteered to be involved.

f) Paper Reduction

Manager Tuenge requested a reduction in the amount of paper used in board packets and volunteered to use her computer instead of receiving a packet. Potential issues with managers using their own computers or tablets included owning a computer or tablet should not be a requirement to serve on the board and if there is an investigation of the District, personal computers could be confiscated. It was agreed that Ms. Torseth will investigate the legal ramification of purchasing computers/tablets and Administrator Shaver will talk with districts that provide tablets.

g) Summer Gathering

Manager Polasik will host a potluck for Board, staff, consultants and the CAC on Monday, August 21. Administrator Shaver will email details.

9) Pay Bills

Manager Tuenge moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$45,190.35. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.

10) Next Meeting is August 9, 2017

11) Adjourn

Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates