

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting May 14, 2014

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Dave DeVault, Eric Lindberg, Victoria Dupre and Andy Weaver.

Managers Absent: Steven Kronmiller.

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Approve May Agenda —Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to approve the May 14, 2014 agenda as amended.

Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve April 9, 2014 Minutes—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the April 9, 2014 minutes as amended.

Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Approve April 23, 2014 Minutes—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the April 23, 2014 minutes as amended.

Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Treasurer's Report— Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Dupre moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments

6. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations

a. 14-001 Larson Permit—Board Action

Administrator Shaver noted that this was tabled at the April 9 meeting. Since then, Mr. Almer has reviewed the permit and provided comments on the project related to the District Rules on stormwater management, erosion control, buffers, shoreland alterations and floodplain.

Manager Dupre moved to authorize Administrator Shaver to issue a permit subject to the opinion of the District engineer. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion to suspend the meeting for an executive session was moved, seconded and unanimously passed. The regular meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

7. Project Status Update

a. Engineer's Report

i. Sand/Long Clean Water Project Implementation Update

Mr. Almer reported that he has been doing water sampling on Sand Lake and has identified two sites for the iron-enhanced pond. The final selection of the pond will be based on the most cost effective location. Administrator Shaver has been reaching out to landowners for permission to survey the sites and checking erosion on the upper slew. A gravity system and/or ditch checks are also being considered. On Long Lake, Mr. Almer will do core sampling and collect oxygen samples. The cost of the Sand Lake project will affect what can be done on Long.

ii. National Park Service (NPS) Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that a conference call is set for Thursday with NPS and the Washington Conservation District (WCD) to discuss the draft plans—completed by WCD. It is hoped that construction will begin in late June or early July.

b. Other Projects

i. 197th St. Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that he authorized Wenk to proceed with the final drawings and legal descriptions, including a look at rerouting the pipe to save trees. He will then meet with the landowner, who is concerned about the number of trees being removed.

ii. Marine on St. Croix Stormwater

Angie Hong of WCD and Kristina Smitten of Marine Planning Commission are working on stormwater education seminars and grants. Mr. Almer suggested applying for a Clean Water Partnership grant due on June 27.

iii. Goose Lake

Mr. Almer reported that he will be assessing what vegetation planted last year survived over winter (3 trees did not), investigating the problem with the north side ditch and a possible need to regrade and looking at other locations for sand-iron ponds and other projects.

8. Cost Share Report

a. Sub-Committee Update

Mr. Chesnut reported that the sub-committee met last month to develop protocols and structure. They discussed pollutant load reduction modeling related to the assessment tool to help prioritize projects and link to load reductions. The sub-committee plans to update the ranking criteria and potentially revise the program including funding structure, native plant grants, broadening the cost share and revising submittal deadlines and completion timelines.

b. Schmidt Proposal—Board Action

Mr. Chesnut summarized the Schmidt project. Joe Schmidt's property, along with runoff from Hwy 95, drains to a tributary of the St. Croix River. Mr. Schmidt is proposing to convert about 75 percent of his .9 acres of turf grass to native prairie. Manager Weaver asked about the plant species and suggested adding this to the by the cost share criteria when guidelines are revised.

Manager Dupre moved to approve the Schmidt cost share project not to exceed \$860. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

b. O'Conner Reimbursement

Manager Dupre moved to reimburse the O'Connors \$1,260.07 for their completed cost share project. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Maintenance

a. Bliss Channel

Administrator Shaver reported that residents of the Bliss Addition requested the District dredge the main channel to provide boat access to Big Marine Lake. In 1990 the District took over maintenance from property owner Mr. Mill. The reason for this is not clear. Managers expressed concern for the following reasons: dredging does not fit into the District's mission, goals or plans, it does not improve water quality and it does not provide public access. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver will contact the Department of Natural Resources about a dredging permit and Roger Rydeen about dredging and investigate assessing the property owners for the cost. Ms. Torseth will review the legal precedent. Administrator Shaver will provide a recommendation in June.

b. Water Levels

Administrator Shaver reported that last week Big Marine Lake was flowing out of the outlet, but was just barely trickling (three inches) over the board. A lot of water was flowing through the system. Big Carnelian is about six inches over the board and Goose Lake is one foot up. Beaver dams are backing up the system and Roger Rydeen will be contacted to remove them. Administrator Shaver will also discuss installing a beaver baffle.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Old Business

a. Website Update

Administrator Shaver reported that he talked with webmaster Chris Dart about modernizing the District website. Suggestions made were: link the BMP database with the website (or incorporate the web-based BMP mapping system), replace the District map with a google map to allow for zooming in and out, update pages such as Technical Advisory and Cost Share committees and monitoring data and upload Policies and Procedure.

b. Log House Landing Grant and Participation

Administrator Shaver noted that the project was covered in the *Forest Lake Times* and the *Messenger* and could significantly increase in cost, depending on the size of the boat access and other amenities. He also noted that the District's mission is to improve water quality and cooperation with local governments, while acknowledging that Scandia's funding request to the District would take a significant amount of the budget and levy. Manager Dupre stated that if this project results in a change to the budget, it will need to be acknowledged in the capital improvement budget and be included in the plan amendment. Manager Weaver stated that the District should be involved with erosion control and stormwater management, but not with the entire project. Manager Polasik recommended waiting to make a decision until the final proposal is presented.

11. Discussion Points

a. Manager First Quarter Expenses

Administrator Shaver presented the expense report reported. It was noted that managers are reimbursed \$55 per meeting.

b. Summer Intern

Administrator Shaver reported that the District will not have an intern this summer.

12. Bills to be Paid

Manager Polasik moved to pay bills in the amount of \$17,247.25. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0.

13. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

a. Mill Stream Day — May 18, noon-4 p.m. The new enviroscape will be used.

b. MAWD Summer Tour —June 18-20. Contact Administrator Shaver to register.

c. Cover Crop Presentation—June 10 or 11 at the Bancroft -Arnold farm.

d. Warner Nature Center Tour

Mr. Chesnut reported that he met with the nature center staff about the change in bog vegetation. Staff feels it is due to the limestone gravel on the road. The nature center would like to partner with the District to address the road. The center has also applied for a grant to install a rain garden to capture road runoff.

e. MN Geological Society Bedrock Mapping

Administrator Shaver toured the river bluffs with a group from the society.

f. Annual Report

It was completed and submitted on time. Managers should provide comments by the June meeting. The report will then be released to the public and posted.

g. Board of Soil and Water Resources Biennial Budget Request

The District budget was provided on time.

h. St. Croix River Association Meeting — May 6

Manager Tuenge received a volunteer award for her work on the Zavoral Mine project.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting is June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall. The May 28th meeting is canceled.

15. Adjourn—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to adjourn. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister
MMC Associates