

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Minutes December 23, 2014

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Steven Kronmiller, Tom Polasik and Andy Weaver

Managers Absent: Victoria Dupre, Dave DeVault and Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the December 23, 2014 agenda. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. New Business

a. Cost Share Salt ‘n Pepper Farm Cover Crop Reimbursement—Board Action

Administrator Shaver clarified that the Salt ‘n Pepper contract was renegotiated to allow for a transition to organic farming with use of a cover crop. The project still meets District goals. Shaver clarified that the standard rate of 50% with a maximum of \$2,500 applies but can be exceeded at the Board’s discretion. Mr. Chesnut is clear when talking to applicants about the cost share reimbursement rate. The program does have the flexibility to provide a cost share of more than 50% if a project provides a large phosphorous reduction. The Cost Share Committee is comprised of Jed Chesnut and Managers Lindberg, Polasik and DeVault.

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve a cost share reimbursement of \$2,484 to Pam Arnold and Ann Bancroft. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

b. Flat Rock Geographics Payment —Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that this is a payment for the interactive map of BMPs on the District web site.

Manager Tuenge moved to pay \$500 to Flat Rock Geographics. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

c. Auditor Engagement Letter—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that this is a standard contract and represents a 3% rate increase. This will be the third year using Redpath for the audit. Peggy Moeller provided input on the proposed reserve fund and will provide input on fund accounting.

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve and sign the engagement letter with Redpath and Company for the 2014 audit in the amount of \$10,350. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

d. WCD Contract

Administrator Shaver reviewed the services for water monitoring and cost share and BMP administration. A typical monitoring contract for watershed districts is about \$100,000. The District uses the Washington County monitoring protocol and the monitoring program is in the current management plan. The protocol is posted on the WCD and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web sites. Administrator Shaver proposed establishing a Monitoring Committee to review the monitoring program. Manager Kronmiller stated that over the years the Board has debated which lakes and streams to monitor, the frequency of monitoring and whether to use volunteers, professionals or a combination. The Managers requested more timely monitoring reports. Other discussion included monitoring report delays caused by the slowness of the Met Council's data analysis compared to the higher cost of using a private company for analysis and the need for a monitoring report deadline.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve and sign the Washington Conservation District service contract agreement in the amount of \$92,604 subject to adding a completion date for the monitoring report and a presentation of the monitoring results to the Board. Second by Manager Kronmiller. Motion carried 4-0.

e. Resignation of Board Manager Tori Dupre—Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that Manager Dupre submitted a letter of resignation to Washington County. While there was agreement that it is preferable to have seven managers, it was also acknowledging that it is hard to attract candidates. Manager Kronmiller suggested raising the manager per diem from \$55 to the state allowable maximum of \$75 to possibly attract other candidates. It was agreed that discussion about the per diem would be added to next month's agenda and Administrator Shaver and Manager Tuenge would meet with the County about the selection process for District managers including relating clear expectations for the position and establishing a set of questions that are asked to each candidate.

4. Old Business

a. Reserve Policy Discussion

Manager Weaver moved to approve CMSCWD Resolution 12-23-14-01 establishing a General Fund Balance Policy. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Kronmiller moved to approve CMSCWD Resolution 12-23-14-02 revising the CMSCWD Internal Controls Manual to add the maintenance of a General Fund Balance Policy. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrator Shaver clarified that there is flexibility in the fund account balances with provisions allowing for going over or under the target of 40% and the policy can be modified each year.

b. Plan Amendment

Administrator Shaver reported that Section III is still being revised and will be sent to the Board for review and comment. This will necessitate a revision to the Board approval date and possibly a workshop. The Technical Advisory Committee meeting went well. Representatives from the Big Marine Lake Association attended and requested help with Eurasian watermilfoil.

Discussion focused on how to incorporate work on terrestrial invasive species into the plan including adding a statement about ecological integrity and biodiversity and adding a statement and/or revising the mission to include ecological integrity and conservation of resources as an overarching purpose.

Manager Weaver moved to extend to January 15 and after Board approval on January 14, the submission of the CMSCWD Plan Amendment for the 60-day agency review. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn to the Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates