

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Minutes May 27, 2015

Managers Present: Steve Kronmiller, Andy Weaver, Dave DeVault and Eric Lindberg

Managers Absent: Kristin Tuenge and Tom Polasik

Others Present: Jim Shaver (Administrator)

Manager Kronmiller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda

Manager DeVault moved to approve the May 27, 2015 agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Updates

a) Projects

i) 197th St Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that Susannah Torseth is stepping in for Ray Marshall to contact the three property owners about easements.

ii) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that Washington County will be doing soil borings for this project, when staff is doing road work this week. The County is attending a community meeting with Green Streets tonight. Green Streets is promoting rain gardens. This might be duplicating work the District is doing, though Green Streets could let residents know about Clean Water Legacy grant funds for rain gardens in the District's targeted project areas.

iii) Sand/Long Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Susan Lindgren this week. EOR was doing soil borings and wetland delineations at the iron/sand project location.

iv) Top 50 Phase 2 (WCD Grant Participation)

Administrator Shaver reported that the WCD grant has been applied to other projects. Jay Riggs is looking for pass-through funding from the St. Croix River Association for projects in the District.

b) Water Levels

Administrator Shaver reported that the system seems to be moving quite well, but there are a number of beaver dams that need to be removed.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. Old Business

a) Permit 05-005—Washington County Road Project

Administrator Shaver reported that the Washington County permit was sent out today. A memorandum of understanding will be drafted requiring a .2-acre wetland replacement or compensation at the rate of \$1.50 per square foot if the restoration is not completed within two years.

b) Plan Amendment Response to Comments

Administrator Shaver stated that after the Plan Amendment response to comments is approved for release to the public, a revised plan with the changes will be provided for Board approval at the June 24 meeting. Based on Manager Kronmiller's suggestion, Administrator Shaver stated that he will call the new managers about the Plan Amendment and its importance over the next ten years. Discussion focused on the cost share program that currently targets residential, local government units, and organizations such as nonprofits and schools. New cost-share categories in the Plan Amendment are agriculture, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and groundwater, which was added as an educational tool. Administrator Shaver stated that with this framework, he would like to dovetail this into impaired focused and regular resource management areas. Projects in impaired water areas could be eligible for 100% cost share, subject to Board approval. The framework is all that is required for the Plan Amendment. The specifics will be flushed out in a fuller document that addresses each category. Manager Kronmiller noted that cost-share information on the website does not agree with the plan.

Manager Kronmiller moved to release the Plan Amendment response to comments to the public. Seconded by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 4-0.

c) Roles and Responsibilities Seminar(s)

Administrator Shaver reported that he talked to Lewis Smith about presenting a workshop on roles and responsibilities of the administrator and board in the fall. This is especially important with the change over in the board and the addition of two new board members. The workshop is five to six hours and costs about \$1,000-\$2,000. Administrator Shaver also noted that he is planning a tour of the watershed for managers this summer.

d) Joint Watershed Meeting

Administrator Shaver reported that he will be meeting with district administrators of Brown's Creek and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake this Friday to flush out an agenda that will most likely include the One Watershed-One Plan (OWOP). Manager DeVault stated that the OWOP will be legislated as an umbrella over all watershed districts. It is for planning, not implementation. Manager Kronmiller stated that he has philosophical disagreements with what was presented by BWSR last year, though he thinks there are economies of scales with implementation such as having one attorney, one engineer and one ten-year plan for area watershed districts. But local control is necessary. It was noted that Rice Creek Watershed District and Chisago County are also adjacent to CMSCWD, the OWOP is a legislative effort to streamline water planning and that some issues such

as AIS are larger than one watershed district. The joint watershed meeting is scheduled for July 14 at Scandia Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

6. Administrator's Report

a) Office Move

Administrator Shaver reported that the move to the new office is almost complete.

b) Golfers

Administrator Shaver reported that he is talking to Pamela Rice of the University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water and Climate to see if lawn aeration could be considered a natural BMP. Questions posed included: Does aeration act like a rain garden? What do you do with the plugs? What about enzymes that are put on your soil? Manager DeVault reported that the legislature will reduce watershed district budgets by \$20 million, but Governor Dayton has stated that buffers are non-negotiable in the special session.

7. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Scandia Community Center.

8. Adjourn

Manager DeVault moved to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Manager Weaver. The motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates