

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Minutes February 11, 2015**

**Managers Present:** Kristin Tuenge, Dave DeVault, Tom Polasik, Steven Kronmiller and Eric Lindberg

**Managers Absent:** Victoria Dupre and Andy Weaver

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Ray Marshall (Lawson Law), Dan Fabian (BWSR), Jim Fitzpatrick (Hastings resident), Dan Squyres, Karen Schick, Katherine and Kathy G Lewis and Pam Smith, (Scandia residents) and Lon Pardun and Sally Swanson (Marine on St. Croix residents)

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

**1. Approve Agenda—Board Action**

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

**2. Approve January 14, 2015 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the January 14, 2015 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Manager DeVault moved to approve the January 28, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik, Motion carried 5-0.**

**3. Treasurer's Report—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Manager Kronmiller moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Marine on St. Croix Cost Share Maintenance Request—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver provided background on the project and cost-share request. Mr. Pardun then summarized the bids to remove accumulated sediment and debris from the historic drainage way. The lowest complete bid of \$33,148.40 was from Rick Fuhr for the excavation. The total project costs are about \$55,000. The city is requesting that the District cost share for the entire excavation, which is above the usual 50% cost share. It was clarified that the problem with the ditch has been building for the last 15-20 years and the residents have wet basements. Mr. Marshall clarified that the ditch goes across private property, but the city holds an easement on the ditch. Pardun stated that the area is classified as a wetland. Manager Tuenge stated that the project is mentioned in the District management plan, but funds for the project were reallocated because the city dropped the project in 2013. Manager Kronmiller stated that he does not have a problem cost sharing at less than the lion's share of

the project, but is concerned that the ditch ownership is being debated. He also stated that he does not want this project to come to the District in the future for another fix. Mr. Pardun stated that the city now has a permit, which we have not had before. This will allow the city to set up a maintenance program including a maintenance agreement with residents. Mr. Marshall clarified that this is a city project, fits within the District task to protect wetlands and does not obligate the District to contribute in the future.

**Manager Tuenge moved to make a one-time, 50% cost-share contribution to the city of Marine on St. Croix to assist with removing accumulated sediment and debris from the drainage way at 50% of the excavation cost of \$33,148.40 not to exceed \$16,574.20. Seconded by Manager DeVault. After discussion, the motion carried 5-0.**

## 6. Old Business

### a. Log House Landing (LHL)

#### i. Update

Manager Tuenge stated that the LHL project is in the District's management plan as a joint project with Scandia to reduce the soil erosion and sedimentation into the river and stream. In 2013, the District approached Scandia asking them to participate in a road improvement project, in the belief that this is the best way to improve the erosion/sedimentation problem. Since then, Scandia wrote and received a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant to improve access to LHL. A lot of people have put a lot of time and energy and thought into this project and Scandia at its February 4 meeting asked the District to provide a 25% contribution or the city will drop the project. Manager Tuenge said that this is an extremely important process and decision and that she was part of the process and agreed to the committee consensus of doing a minimal project. She then opened the meeting to public comments.

Pam Smith presented four issues.

- She followed up with a hydrologist, who provided input last summer, to better understand what his observations were and his assessment on erosion and its effect on the creek. The hydrologist recapped that there are several areas along the creek and the river that need restoration reinforcement repair. About half-way down along the creek, there is a major breach in the berm on the south side where most of gravel loss occurs. The ravine takes a large portion of this, but some reaches the stream and probably a small fraction actually reaches the river. It is hard to tell what is naturally occurring gravel rock and what is coming from LHL road and from the road on the other side. She said that if the District wants to determine the source of the gravel, it would need to hire a geomorphologist. A good engineer (like Mr. Almer) could then use the data to identify BMPs.
- The DNR and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) assured Ms. Smith in writing that the grant timeline is flexible, even extending out four years. The DNR engineer is OK with a single drive lane, but does not know if MnDOT will approve this. The DNR tries not to use grants for historically sensitive areas.

- The St. Croix River Association (SCRA) has a grant program that is a 50-50 share, up to \$40,000. Projects must tie into phosphorus reduction and anything in Washington County that might impact the water quality of the river would qualify. Ms. Smith met with the association today. A LHL proposal could be submitted in three phases. Phase 1: a study to determine the source of phosphorus. Phase 2: bank restoration. Phase 3: pervious parking BMP. SCRA recommended that the District apply for the grant.
- The Scandia City Council is struggling with the project and is divided. Although the council voted to move forward, the mayor feels there is not a lot of public support and overall, it is not understood, quantitatively, whether this level of project is justified. The city is looking to the District to understand what is the minimum that can be done to fix the erosion.

Jim Fitzpatrick spoke as an individual and as a representative of SCRA. SCRA's stand: "we, SCRA, believe that the 205<sup>th</sup> St. should be rebuilt in a such a way that the road surface preserves the area's rural character, that the road be as narrow as possible and that as few trees as possible be disturbed during the reconstruction. These trees are crucial to maintain the viewshed of the river and prevent additional soil and bank erosion and preserve the rural character and local environmental heritage. The National Park Service's (NPS) stand: "as we have stated in the past, the NPS would like to see the rural character of the existing road maintained, while correcting the erosion issues that are negatively impacting water quality." Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if anyone is going to address water quality because there has been no study to quantify the amount of erosion.

Dan Squyres, a resident and member of the Scandia Planning Commission, stated that as member of the commission he has probably received over 50 emails and all say they want the landing to remain as it is. About the study, he did not realize at the beginning of this process that the study had not been done. The DNR grant and District funds are all public money. We need to understand the problem before we spend that money.

Sally Swanson stated that when she first heard about this two years ago, she was excited that at last the erosion would be stopped. But no one stopped to consider how much erosion there really is. So much progress has been made. As a member of the LHL Committee, I'm amazed how people would like to keep the area natural. Everyone is concerned about the erosion and how the project can be less intrusive and keep the area unique to Scandia. Manager Tuenge asked Ms. Swanson what she thinks is the solution following the community process, given her perspective as a former city councilmember, and the facts that the District involvement is mainly related to water quality and there is a DNR grant. Ms. Swanson responded that until recently, she thought the project would not be possible without pavement, but with the new information about the aggregate material, she thinks it can be done and can satisfy NPS, SCRA and others. It doesn't need to be bigger or paved. But the actual landing/launch will need some type of work to address erosion.

Manager Tuenge stated that today she got information from Jim Almendinger of the St. Croix Watershed Research Station. A study would be very expensive in the \$10,000s and core sampling would be difficult. He suggested talking with the Washington Conservation District (WCD) about using the Russell Model. Manager DeVault stated that he is hesitant to do a study if we don't know what we will do with the results. Mr. Almer, when asked if he thinks the committee consensus is the most minimal/cost-effective solution to reduce the erosion, stated that as he understands the process, Washington County presented several scenarios of road surface and BMP treatments. To do effective erosion control some amount of paving would be necessary, along with some curb and gutter and stormwater BMPs. Maintaining an unpaved road is difficult.

Katherine Lewis stated that her family has a driveway that goes down the ravine on the other side of the road. It is steep. In the past, they used Class V aggregate and did not maintain it correctly. They always had gullies and always needed to replace the gravel. About five years ago they had the road redone—regarded and packed—by a professional. It has not needed maintenance since. Why do we not look at step 1 first—having a professional repair the road? Administrator Shaver clarified that he had a discussion about adding water bumps with city maintenance three or four years ago. Maintenance staff did not want to deal with bumps, because of snowplowing. Manager Polasik stated that he too had driveway washout issues until it was redesigned and installed properly. He has not had a problem in 10 years.

Administrator Shaver referred to a memo on sediment loss and the cost per pound to install stormwater BMPs. The WCD calculated the sediment loss using the Russell model—the industry standard. Administrator Shaver used that calculation, along with the University of Maryland's database of BMPs, to estimate the cost per pound of sediment abatement. He estimated the cost to be in the range of \$10/lb. to \$13/lb. The needed BMPs to solve the erosion would be in the \$70,000-\$85,000 range and are contingent on paving the road. Looking at funding, the DNR grant and Scandia's contribution are for improvements other than water quality. The District's contribution of 25% would be for the water quality improvements. Mr. Almer, when asked for his opinion stated that the calculations are reasonable assumptions. Just looking at sediment loading for the gravel surface alone predicts three tons of sediment loss per year. That is a lot less than the anecdotal assumption. He also stated that in this instance, paving the road would be considered a BMP.

**ii. Request from Scandia—Board Action**

Manager Kronmiller proposed three motions to clarify the District's position. Because all agree that the ramp is an issue and the SCRA might be willing to help with fixing this, **Manager Kronmiller moved to direct the Administrator to contact the SCRA and Great River Greening to apply for a grant to replace the boat launch at the Log House Landing to minimize erosion. Seconded by Manager Devault.**

Discussion: Manager Polasik stated that he believes the DNR grant did not include money for the boat landing and this needs to be clarified. Administrator Shaver stated that it is his understanding that the SCRA grants are for phosphorus reduction, which will not be appreciable by improving the ramp. However, Great River Greening has funds for ramp improvements in the St. Croix River Valley. **Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize the District to pay 25% of the cost of the LHL road improvements up to \$85,000 and conditioned on the DNR grant funding of the project and District approval of final plans and specifications of the road design. Seconded by Manager DeVault.**

Discussion: Administrator Shaver stated that without the District commitment of 25%, without contingencies, Scandia will not pay for any more engineering. Mr. Marshall stated that if the District is looking at the plans and design through its normal process, then we're not adding another contingency. Administrator Shaver stated that MnDOT will not meet until March to review this project, so we have some time. Mr. Almer stated that, as he has recommended in the past, the District has not required permits or held to the letter of the rules on cost-share projects. **Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize the District to spend up to \$10,000 to conduct a scientific study to determine the actual amount of erosion and how big the solution needs to be and furthermore the District will withhold funding of the LHL project until the study is complete or determines that the cost of the study exceeds the authorized amount. Seconded by Manager Polasik.**

Discussion included: the project is in the District 10-year plan because we knew there was a problem; a SCRA grant could be used for the study; the funding for the study is the District's responsibility. Manager Lindberg stated from comments heard, the study would be very expensive and wouldn't be all that accurate. The Russell figures are used worldwide and have already provided us with the needed data. Manager DeVault added that we need to decide what we will do with results. Mr. Almer stated that in good conscious he would not recommend this study to accurately monitor sediment. As a compromise to validate the obvious sediment deposition in the creek from the road, he would recommend surveying the extent of the delta to the floodplain by taking some simple measurements such as depth of the sediment. **Upon vote, motion carried 3-2.**

## **6. Other Business**

### **a. Grant Acknowledgements—Board Action**

**Manager DeVault moved to acknowledge and accept the following grants: \$5,000 Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program from the Met Council, \$98,200 Clean Water Fund for Marine Storm Water from BWSR and \$108,400 for TMDL Implementation Plans on Goose, Hay, South Twin lakes from BWSR. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**b. Steve McComas Proposal Revised —Board Action**

**Manager Tuenge moved to accept the Blue Water Science proposal not to exceed \$9,290 for identification of potential high-risk areas for aquatic invasive species and preparation of rapid response plans for Big Carnelian and Square lakes. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 5-0.**

**c. Plan Amendment—Board Action**

**i. CIP/Implementation**

Manager Kronmiller stated that he met with the Executive Committee and talked about his concerns raised in the memo. If we can get a commitment to get the proposed work done, even though I think numbers are significantly higher than I would like, I won't oppose it. My bottom line is if it is budgeted, it needs to get done. Administrator Shaver clarified that the budget was amended to add costs that had not been included because they were not known.

**Manager DeVault moved to accept the revised capital improvement budget. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-1.**

**ii. Remainder of Sections—Board Action**

Section IV: Administrator Shaver stated that this section adds the projects just approved in the CIP budget and has just basically been reorganized.

**Manager Tuenge moved to approve Section IV. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

Appendix A: Mr. Almer stated that the appendix is taking language from Section V on stream protocol and putting it in the appendix. This makes revisions easier.

**Manager DeVault moved to accept and approve Appendix A. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

Appendix E: Administrator Shaver stated that after talking with Manager Polasik about the approach to invasive species, Manager Polasik agreed that aquatic invasive species (AIS) should be addressed separately. The appendix was revised to more accurately match actions outlined in the body of the plan. Manager Kronmiller stated that he is concerned that addressing AIS could get very expensive, though AIS should be addressed.

**Manager DeVault moved to approve Appendix E. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**iii. Approve Plan Amendment—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver reported that Mary Peterson of BWSR suggested that a paragraph be added to the executive summary outlining the changes made in the Plan Amendment.

**Manager DeVault moved to authorize the Administrator to add a summary in the executive summary about the changes to the Plan Amendment, contingent on review and approval of the President. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to authorize the Administrator to release the Management Plan Amendment to the reviewing agencies for the 60-day review no later than March 1. Seconded by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**d. Letter of Support - SCRA**

Manager Tuenge reported that the SCRA is submitting a \$5,000 AIS planning grant to Washington County and asked the District for a letter of support. Manager Tuenge volunteered to write the letter.

**d. Revisions to 2015 Budget—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver reported that the proposed revisions are to use more realistic numbers for grant expenses. In prior budgets, grant numbers were kept in the budget, even if a grant was not received. The revision would adjust the reserve account to reduce the grants line item.

**Manager Kronmiller moved to approve the budget revisions to adjust the reserve and grants line items. Seconded by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Reports**

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Manager Tuenge had to reschedule their meeting with the County commissioners. He urged the Managers to talk with local elected officials about filling District vacancies. Administrator Kronmiller reported that Scandia received an application to replace him on the Board. He called the Big Marine Lake Association president and encouraged someone from the association to apply. Administrator Shaver stated that a very well qualified person from Marine is interested in applying. He also reported that he will be preparing work plans, due to BWSR on March 20, for the Marine stormwater project and for Goose and Hay lakes and will be meeting with Mr. Fabian. He and Manager DeVault met with WCD about an agricultural cost-share program.

**9. Bills to be Paid—Board Action**

**Manager Polasik moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$34,374.09. Seconded by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.**

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is March 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia Community Center. The February 25 meeting is cancelled.

**11. Adjourn**

**Manager Kronmiller moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates