

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Minutes June 10, 2015

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Dave De Vault, Eric Lindberg, Tom Polasik

Managers Absent: Andy Weaver and Steven Kronmiller

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Carl Almer (EOR), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Joel Stedman (Marine resident) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

1. Public Hearing to Receive Comments on Plan Amendment

Manager Tuenge called the public meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. **Manager De Vault moved to adjourn the public meeting. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.**

Manager Tuenge called the monthly meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager De Vault moved to approve the June 10, 2015 agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Approve May 13 and May 27 Minutes—Board Action

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the May 13, 2015 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager Lindberg moved to approve the May 27, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrator Shaver presented a new spreadsheet to compare actual to budget expenses on a monthly basis. The Managers agreed that a quarterly report is sufficient using the current format.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Project Updates and Work Plan Update

a. 197th Street —Board Action

Ms. Torseth reported that everyone she has talked to is willing to proceed with an easement. The Pool family, owners of the wetland and most of the ravine, is concerned that the project will reroute water onto their property during construction and/or after. Administrator Shaver stated that he talked to Wenck Engineering about this last year when there were plans for reconstruction of two ravines and had assurances. Now, with the one ravine option, the Pools will not have any increase in volume and velocity.

Manager Tuenge moved to direct Ms. Torseth to draft a letter of assurance that water velocity and volume will not be increased on the Pool property with the ravine project. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Almer stated that engineering contracts between the District and EOR require EOR to provide indemnification and liability insurance. The timeline for the project is: easements to be completed by June 24, construction drawings to be completed by the end of June, a public meeting for this and the Sand Lake project to be held by the end of July and construction to begin after Labor Day. It was also noted that 197th Street must stay open during construction to provide access to properties.

b. Marine Stormwater

Mr. Almer reported that the utility locates and soil borings are complete and he and Administrator Shaver will meet with the Stormwater Subcommittee next week. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled once a few outstanding questions are addressed. In response to questions, Administrator Shaver responded that Angie Hong is trying to coordinate an education piece, but it might not be a rain garden. Kiwanis seems more focused on shoreline restoration. Although the District leveraged funding, the project is Marine's. Homeowners are being invited to participate in rain garden projects, with cost-share grant funds available for homeowners in non-targeted areas. A feasibility study, to be completed in July, is looking at sand-iron filtration ponds and bio-filtration ponds.

c. Sand Long Implementation

Mr. Almer reported that the field delineation and soil borings are complete. Once the paperwork for delineation is completed, EOR will begin the construction drawings. Discussion with landowners has been positive and it is anticipated project easements will be acquired by early July. A public meeting on this and the 197th Street project is needed because the projects are not in the Plan. The grant cannot be extended so the project must be finished by June 30, 2016.

d. Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Chesnut reported that four sites were evaluated for ravine stabilization and a sand-iron filtration pond. One site was determined to be the best. A concept design was drafted and will be used to give property owners information about the project and get their input. Signed assurances from property owners will be needed before a design can be finalized. It is anticipated that a bid for construction will be distributed in March 2016, with construction to be completed in spring.

e. Log House Landing (LHL) —Board Action

Mr. Almer stated that historically gravel roads have been poorly engineered and have not included clay. The alternative bound aggregate being proposed for the LHL project uses clay, which helps hold the road together. Based on input from another engineer the material sounds intriguing. Mr. Almer further stated that if the aggregate is used, the road will still lose some material; maintenance is still required; if the material erodes, it will probably not be worse than the current gravel; the aggregate is holding up on 8% grades; Mr. Kronmiller will research BMPs paired with gravel roads and a local pit mine willing to provide a clay-aggregate mix will be needed. Administrator Shaver stated that there could be a potential boundary issue at the end of the ramp and he notified Kristina Handt

about this. The Minnesotal Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will supply planks for the ramp up to and around the first curve, leaving about 30 feet of gravel. Managers Lindberg and Tuenge stated that buying additional planks and completing the ramp will minimize erosion.

Manager Lindberg moved to move forward on the ramp. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

7. New Business

a. Permit Requests

i. Natures Gate Surety—Board Action

Administrator Shaver stated that this is a two-part permit. The developer developed a property for himself, along with a subdivision. The property has a sizable surety from the District and a surety from Stillwater Township. Administrator Shaver and Mr. Almer told the township the District would hold the surety on the property. There are minor punch-list items and a plan to convert the two bio-infiltration basins that were not draining as designed, to infiltration basins.

Manager De Vault moved to return the Natures Gate surety. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0.

ii. Other permits—Board Action

Mr. Almer clarified that two permits received on December 14, 2012 were missed and he and Administrator Shaver are working to get after-the-fact BMPs installed. Mr. Almer reviewed the Quinnell Ave. permit twice and documents just need updating. The Etwiler shed is an after-the-fact infraction needing a variance for a setback and an additional buffer. The Swain pond excavation does not trigger District rules, but it is on the river.

Manager Tuenge moved to issue permits 15-007, 15-008 and 15-010 subject to the Engineer's review. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Almer stated that the Andersons are requesting a variance for a condition to establish a buffer. This is a 50-foot lot on Big Marine Lake. At Administrator Shaver's suggestion, the Andersons agreed to remove the patio deck, rather than upgrade the exit. Removing the deck caused land disturbance and triggered the District rule requiring, in this case, a 200 square-foot buffer one half the width to the high water mark. It was noted that the disturbance was not in the buffer area. Manager Polasik stated that he had a hard time with a District rule being triggered for removing an impervious surface. Manager De Vault stated that the required buffer would not protect the lake because of its location and the land disturbance was not in the buffer area. Mr. Almer stated that this rule was based on subdivisions.

Manager Polasik moved to issue a variance on the buffer. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 3-1.

b. Cost Share

i. Warner Nature Center Bog Walkway Replacement

Administrator Shaver reported that the Nature Center is planning to rebuild an elevated walkway over the bog. Although the reconstruction would not improve water quality, it would restore the wetland and offer an educational opportunity. The Managers agreed to consider a cost share application, if one is submitted.

ii. Program revisions for Plan Amendment

Administrator Shaver reported that Mary Peterson of BWSR provided the Cost Share Program Conservation Practice Payment Docket as a helpful suggestion for programs. It could be an addendum to the plan that is reviewed and amended, if needed, annually. A motion to submit the next draft will be needed on the 24th with the goal to submit the final Plan Amendment to BWSR on June 30.

iii. Pollinator Pledge

Manager Polasik presented a pollinator pledge that organizations in the St. Croix Watershed are being asked to endorse. A copy will be in next meeting's board packet.

8. Old Business

a. Joint Meeting Agenda Review

Administrator Shaver reported that he, Karen Kill and Mike Kinney drafted an agenda for the joint watershed districts meeting on July 14. Proposed agenda items are sharing personnel and projects such as aquatic invasive species (AIS), groundwater and cross-border issues and comparing notes. Manager Polasik suggested adding updating watershed boundaries so property owners are not in two watershed districts. Manager De Vault suggested each watershed district highlight its top two or three projects.

b. County AIS Update

Administrator Shaver reported that AIS grant recipients had the opportunity to recap projects receiving County funding and Mike Blehart of the Big Marine Lake Association did a fantastic job. Watershed districts have the ability to augment funds to increase inspections at boat landings. Manager Tuenge suggested giving some money to the St. Croix River Association to add volunteers from the association's inspection program.

9. Bills to be Paid—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$35,365.04. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- He followed up with Pam Rice about applying for a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources grant to increase infiltration through BMPs.
- The Minnesota Food Association is trying to buy the Wilder property.
- As a follow up to the Capstone Project, he met with resident Scott Miller and he and Manager De Vault will meet with May Township to get support for a project on top of the road.
- Water levels downstream of the Big Marine weir were elevated. After removing stoplogs, water levels upstream were still two inches below the weir. Water is now starting to flow so one stoplog was left in the weir. There appears to be a beaver dam.
- He will attend the Summer MAWD tour in Duluth on June 24-25, but will return for the board meeting on the 24th.

Manager De Vault reported that a new US Environment Protection Agency rule defines wetland and Congress is trying to block it. He will attend the Watershed Stewards meeting in St. Paul.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is June 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Scandia Community Center.

12. Adjourn —Board Action

**Manager De Vault moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Manager Tuenge
Motion carried 4-0.**

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates