Managers Present: Wade Johnson, Kristin Tuenge, Paul Richert, Andy Weaver and Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Mike Isensee (Administrator), Susannah Torseth (Galowitz • Olson), Ken Cammilleri, (Administrator of Scandia); Lon Pardun (Council Member – City of Marine); Gwen Roden (Council Member – City of Marine); Bill Miller (Council Member – City of Marine); John Pazlar (Supervisor of May Township); Jerry Kusick (Council Member – City of Scandia); Chris Ness (Council Member – City of Scandia); Bryan Bear (Administrator of Hugo).

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

1) Presentation of CMSCWD 2020 Budget
   • Administrator Isensee presented CMSCWD 2020 Budget highlighting:
     o Marine Ravine Implementation
     o Downtown Marine Stormwater Quality Improvements Implementation
     o Panorama Avenue Water Quality Improvements Feasibility
     o Bliss Addition Water Quality Improvements Feasibility
     o Six Lake Subwatershed Analysis Planning
     o CMSCWD 10-Year Management Plan Update
   • Reviewed CMSCWD Levy Increase Tax Impact
   • Reviewed 2020 CMSCWD Draft Budget approved for review 8-14-2019

2) Discussion
   • Supervisor Pazlar commented that he does not find the argument that CMSCWD has a lower tax amount than other watershed districts helpful. Commented that 10 years ago the Township came to the watershed because they believed the budget was spiraling out of control. Feedback he is receiving from his constituents is that the district budget is again spiraling out of control. He does not believe that the District takes the wants/needs of the district in relation to the taxpayers’ ability to spend.
     o Manager Richert asked what Supervisor Pazlar thinks the District should do to help the taxpayers understand the increase in levy. Supervisor Pazlar responded that the District needs to show more restraint than it currently is.
   • Manager Lindberg commented that the District is tasked with taking care of clean water, and not picking pet projects.
   • Manager Tuenge commented that she has been on the watershed board for 9 years. There were 5 years the budget was not raised. There are multiple grants this year and they require additional funds from the District.
   • Council Member Miller commented that the budget of the watershed is larger than the budget of the City of Marine. Concern is that the budget will continue to increase. Appreciates the work that is being done in the City of Marine. Also stated that he is unsure whether there is oversight by another entity of the District’s Budget.
• Administrator Camilleri questioned how the District decides when a project occurs. He wonders what the relationship is between deciding to do a project and if a grant is available. Or, does the District know a grant is available and then decide to do a project.

• Administrator Isensee commented that the District has no reserve. The District also received 3 major grants. Once the grant is received, the project needs to occur.

• Manager Weaver commented that his personal spin is that he’s not happy with a 30% increase, but when he considers the grants that the District received and the length of time the District has been trying to address certain problems, he voted to increase the levy because of the opportunities currently before the board. He does not believe the increase in this year’s levy is going to be a reoccurring increase for future years. There are also items that the District is now taking care of that other government entities are not taking care of or spending money on. One example is invasive species. This wasn’t an issue the District used to spend money on, but it is now because other government entities are not taking care of that issue.

• Administrator Bear clarified the 2019 and 2020 Budget and asked how that affects future levies. Administrator Isensee commented that 2022 will be the first levy of the new District 10-year plan. Administrator Bear pointed out that when taxpayers are upset, they go to their City Council or city/township representative to complain, and the City/Township is put in the difficult spot of explaining and/or defending the watershed district.

• Council Member Pardun commented that he’s been working with the District on the Marine Ravine projects for about 10 years.

• Manager Lindberg reiterated that the main reason the District’s budget has increased is because the District received many grants that require a District match. The majority of the projects are being paid for by grants and not taxpayer levies.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Administrator Mikael Isensee