

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes February 8, 2017

Managers Present: Dave De Vault, Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Joel Stedman, Andy Weaver and Wade Johnson

Managers Absent: Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee (WCD) and Paul Richert (resident/CAC)

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

1) Approve Agenda

Manager Stedman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

2) Minutes from January 11, 2017

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the January 11, 2017 minutes as presented. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 5-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Polasik presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Stedman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) New Business

a) Permits – Conditional Approval of Rynders P17-001 and Marine P17-002

Mr. Almer reported that the Rynders is a teardown and new construction with a footprint that is not much bigger than the current house. It is still below the threshold for impervious surface of a lot and does not trigger the buffer rule. A stormwater management plan is needed. Marine is seeking a permit for road improvement projects. A site visit was made. The city is not increasing impervious surfaces, there are no potential for wetland impacts and construction does not trigger the stormwater rule.

Manager De Vault moved conditional approval of Permits 17-001 (Rynders) and 17-002 (Marine on St. Croix) pending submission of requested details. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 5-0.

b) Cost Share

i) Anderson

Mr. Isensee presented the Anderson cost share in Stillwater Township for a 1.2 acre woodland restoration and a 1.2 acre turf to prairie conversion. Both qualify for a 50% cost share: the woodland as a critical areas restoration and the prairie as a natural

drainage restoration, which will remove 4/10 of a pound of phosphorous/year. Manager Weaver commended the robust plant lists. It was noted that buckthorn removal is in the Silver Creek Restoration Plan and the District has supported this work in the past.

Manager Weaver moved to approve the Anderson 50% cost share for prairie restoration not to exceed \$4,300. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

Managers raised concern about the cost effectiveness of buckthorn removal and re-vegetation from seed. Mr. Isensee replied that this as a two-year process and the District ensures quality control as part of the cost-share package. The Andersons are working with WCD land specialist Tara Kelly, formerly of the Belwin Nature Conservancy. They will be using buckthorn- eating goats because they do not want to use pesticides. The landowner signs a 10-year maintenance agreement.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the Anderson 50% cost share for buckthorn removal along Silver Creek not to exceed \$3,060. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

ii) Panorama Ave Paving May Township

Administrator Shaver stated that this area is near the private stretch of Panorama on the eastside of Big Carnelian Lake that was part of a Capstone Project with a group of University of Minnesota students. Just south of this, on a public stretch of gravel road, residents petitioned May Township to pave the public road to the private portion. May asked if the District would consider cost sharing some water management improvements. There is \$10,000 in the budget for Panorama and this would be funds well spent as it would take advantage of the opportunity to manage the water flow. Manager Johnson stated that he would support any opportunity to work with May on water improvement projects.

c) Master Water Stewards Program

Administrator Shaver reported that Angie Hong has requested \$500 from the District to support the Master Water Stewards Program. Support has been in the District plan and is in the current budget for \$1,500. The program provides an opportunity to involve people in our district, possibly recruit new board managers and develop expertise in the community. Manager Johnson volunteered to serve as a liaison.

d) AIS Grant Proposal to Washington County

Administrator Shaver reported that the county has been giving out grants for AIS work. This is the second year of the program. While the District did not submit a proposal last year, this year he and Mr. Almer drafted and submitted a proposal to protect Terrapin Lake. Because applications exceeded available funds, the county chose to spread the funds over all projects. The District requested \$55,000 but received \$9,000. The revised budget of \$39,200 is for treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and curly leaf pondweed. If county funds are not available in time for treating curly leaf, the budget will be reduced to \$28,200. Discussion focused on possibly of seeking \$4,500 in matching funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the role DNR plays in AIS;

DNR providing non-financial support with funding at the county level for implementation; and Big Marine Lake Association receiving a larger portion of support from the county because of its demonstrated ability to manage and seemingly eliminate EWM. Administrator Shaver will investigate possible DNR funding and provide a firmer budget for Terrapin AIS treatment.

e) Tiered Aquatic Life Uses Comments to MPCA

Mr. Almer reported that Meghan Funke drafted the comments that were submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on plans to modify class 2 waters —waters that support recreation and cold water fisheries. The goal is to create standards and criteria and eventually regulations for moderate and exceptional classes of water. This process, which has been going on for 10 years, adds to the scientific data and is a good thing. General comments were: data should be made public and the process should be transparent for example what are classifications based on and how were monitoring sites selected. In response to how this might affect the management of the watershed, Mr. Almer responded that it will just be to maintain the water body in that class and maybe there will be more directed grant funds.

Manager De Vault moved to confirm approval of the memo submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the Tiered Aquatic Life Uses by Administrator Shaver on behalf of the CMSWD. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

6) Old Business

a) Square Lake Trout Stocking Moratorium

Administrator Shaver stated that he, Manager De Vault and Ms. Torseth talked about the DNR movement toward trout stocking and how to handle it. He asked T.J. Debates of the DNR to delay his appearance until March. Manager De Vault suggested that the issue be elevated. It is the trout fishermen who are complaining. The DNR participated in the design of the study so why do they have an issue with the design? Manager Johnson stated he would support a strong District response. The study provided the clearest, strongest information for a continued stocking moratorium. He also suggested going up the line to state commissioners and the governor and notifying lake residents. Manager Weaver agreed that residents on the lake have the biggest stake for water quality. After further discussion, it was agreed to set up a conference call with Attorney Torseth, Mgrs. De Vault and Administrator Shaver to discuss a response to Mr. Debates regarding the District's strong feelings against putting non-native fish in Square Lake, the District's charge to protect water resources, Square Lake as a pristine resource and a jewel, significant money resources that have been spent on the issue, stocking conflicts with the DNR's ecosystem management and a request for a presentation to Square Lake residents—possibly at the March meeting. Ultimately, can the District and DNR find common ground? Manager Tuenge commented that at a meeting to discuss stocking at Marine Town Hall the room was filled with residents and only two trout fishermen.

b) IESF Olinda Lane Request for Bids—Authorization to Proceed

Administrator Shaver reported that in 2015 the District received a BWSR grant to implement four projects in the Goose Lake watershed. Because of the high bids received for the Marine stormwater projects, it was decided to wait to go for bid on the first Goose Lake project. Mr. Isensee has put a bid proposal together for the first project. It is estimated the project will cost \$26,000.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve sending a proposal for bid on the Olinda Lane infiltration basin and sand filter project. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

c) Big Marine and Outlet Channel Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the meeting to review the draft changes to the Turtle Lake Weir Operations Plan has been postponed until early April. He and Mr. Almer, after reviewing the past reports and updating the water modeling, are surprised that there are still questions on how the system works. It seems the functions of the Turtle Lake weir (TLW) have gotten melded together with Big Marine Lake weir (BMLW). Mr. Almer stated that there is no connection between management of the TLW and water levels on Big Marine Lake. He suggested setting up a meeting with Fran Miron before the April meeting with the public.

Mr. Richert stated that he likes what Mr. Almer did and this will be the first time the public has seen this data. Administrator Shaver clarified that the information is in the reports and on the District website, though it is difficult to read. Manager Weaver stated that the groundwater and the rain events are unique to the system. Short of designing an enormous pipe, the system is functioning as designed and cannot handle more water. Discussion included: this is first time residents are seeing data that definitively shows that what happens at TLW does not affect BMLW and there might be a need for an overall flowage/drainage management plan.

d) Cooperative Agreement with Washington County Re: Marine Stormwater Projects

Administrator Shaver stated that Mr. Almer and Ms. Torseth reviewed the agreement. Ms. Torseth questioned the short timeframe for either accepting or rejecting the District part of the bid. Mr. Almer stated that he is not sure if the Board needs to make a decision before the county awards the contract because the District's portion of the contract is significantly less than 20 percent—generally the percentage of a contract that can be removed from a bid. If a decision is needed, the Board can do this at a meeting on the 29th. Ms. Torseth will confirm the timeframe and if a Board decision is needed prior to the county awarding a contract.

Manager Polasik moved to authorize entering into a contract with Washington County for County State Aid Highway 4 project. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Torseth noted that property owners, not the District, are responsible for maintenance and the District has maintenance agreements with Marine and residents.

Manager Tuenge moved to enter into a cooperative maintenance agreement for the County State Aid Highway 4 project. Seconded by Manager De Vault. Motion carried 6-0.

e) Log House Landing (LHL) Ramp Update

Administrator Shaver reported that at the joint meeting with Scandia, the agreement to work cooperatively on the LHL ramp was not renewed. Instead the city decided to take the issue of the ramp and the ultimate land use for the property back to the Parks & Recreation Committee for a recommendation. There is a public meeting scheduled on March 6th or 7th to get input. Because of this, Administrator Shaver recommended removing the LHL budget line item of \$25,000. Manager Johnson stated that he supports working with Scandia on LHL no matter what they want to do and it is up to Scandia to decide the use of the ramp. Manager De Vault stated that modeling indicates the ramp is an insignificant source of phosphorus and a minor source of sediment. Because of this the District should be done with the project.

f) Bacterial Assessment Report and the Terrapin, Mays and Clear Lakes Assessment Report

Manager De Vault moved to accept the Bacterial Assessment Report and the Terrapin, Mays and Clear Lakes Assessment Report prepared by EOR. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

f) Budget Discussion

Administrator Shaver summarized the carry forward used to set the original 2017 budget, which started out at \$70,000 but has been declining. About 97 percent of the 2016 budget was spent. The 2017 budget has been revised including: grants numbers were reduced to exclude grants not received; the resident survey was deleted and monies reallocated; the water stewards contribution was reduced from \$1,500 to \$500; the employee benefits was revised; \$25,000 for LHL was removed; \$10,000 was removed from Marine Stormwater Phase 2; \$2,500 was removed from groundwater monitoring and the AIS line item was reduced. Administrator Shaver will provide a workplan for the county AIS grant next month.

7) Bills to Be Paid

Administrator Shaver noted that there are some 2016 expenses being paid this month. **Manager Johnson moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$46,413.88. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

8) Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported that the contract with Warner Nature Center for education has been signed. He will check the location of a no trespassing sign on South Twin Lake and Neil Avenue to determine if the sign is on District land. (Public land cannot be posted.) He has not heard back from John Bower about the locations of culverts around South Twin Lake. A group from Marine is putting together a charter school and is negotiating with the Manitou Fund for the Wilder property. There is a need to revise the conditional use permit and May Township is supportive. Administrator Shaver told the representative from Manitou that the District possibly would be interested in leasing office space and sharing services with the school, if this would help with the property transaction. He would also like to explore ideas with Manitou on two pieces of property the Fund is not interested in owning or holding

conservation easements on: lakeshore property on Square Lake and 38 acres of lakeshore on East Boot. It might help the property transactions go through, if the District took title to these properties to get easements. Discussion focused on preserving the land, the county being reluctant to take title and putting a covenant on the properties, though that costs money.

9) Next Meeting is March 8, 2017

Manager Tuenge noted that she will not be in attendance.

10) Adjourn

Manager Weaver moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates