

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes April 11, 2018

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

Managers Absent: Dave De Vault and Eric Lindberg

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Galowitz • Olson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Mike Isensee and Matt Downey (WCD), John Goodfellow (resident), Paul Richert (CAC member) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

President Johnson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 4-0.

2) Minutes from March 14, 2018

President Johnson moved to approve the March 14, 2018 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion passed 5-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Tuenge moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by President Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Water Steward Capstone Proposal

John Goodfellow, a District sponsored Water Steward, presented an overview of his proposed capstone project—a service-based learning project. He is proposing a white paper to address why buckthorn degrades water quality and an accompanying field guide to buckthorn control. In an attempt to help landowners become more successful at buckthorn removal, he is exploring cooperative models of support, such as acquiring lending tools for removal, providing access to suitable herbicides, and offering treatment advice. He believes if people are given good information, they will make good choices. He does not need funds for his capstone, but if the coop is feasible, he anticipates needing funds for that.

In response to Manager questions, Mr. Goodfellow responded that as a water quality issue buckthorn removal results in bare soil. For the District, critical slopes might be the focus, but there is a benefit across landscapes. He agreed that a long-range plan (five years) for restoration is needed with removal projects. He also noted that the University of Minnesota is looking at dormant seed banks that can be a part of the restoration. Mr. Isensee stated that a longevity plan is provided for District cost-share projects, WCD has been seeing the seed

bank effect, but in forested areas they are seeing a 10-12 year restoration process. They also see this project as very useful for landowners on one-two acres, especially for liability coverage with a co-op and education. It was suggested that the co-op include other invasive species such as garlic mustard and WCD possibly host it. President Johnson volunteered to help Mr. Goodfellow because the white paper pulls all information together.

6) Project Updates

a) Goose, Hay and South Twin Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that he and President Johnson reviewed the grants and how to best identify and report grants and corresponding matches. He will try to provide funding sources on the budget. For the Goose Lake TMDL, there are two grants and a likely easement from Mrs. St. Sauver.

b) Marine Ravine and Wetland Reconstruction

Administrator Shaver stated that there is a signed contract for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) 319 grant. The cost to reshape and re-contour a ravine is about \$140,000. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) committed to providing \$50,000 toward the project. Easements from property owners are needed. It is expected that the project will start in fall. The impact to the wetlands below the ravine is significant and widespread. The project will use the sediment from the wetland to re-countour the ravine. A Phase 2 could be planned to remove sediments from an additional three acres of wetlands. A wetland bank could also be established. The next step is to meet with the Pinecone Trail Association and Chuck Arneson to get construction easements.

c) Marine Stormwater Phase 3

Administrator Shaver reported that the District received a \$169,000 commitment from the MPCA for stormwater improvements in Marine. City downtown funding could be a match for those projects. Administrator Shaver stated that District could budget approximately \$40,000 per year for the next three years for this project and Marine Council Member Lon Pardon said that the city would be in partnership with the District. Mr. Almer stated that the District should ask MnDOT to partner too. As for funding from the Metropolitan Council, grants tend to focus on reduction of potable water use with a stormwater action.

7) New Business

a) Permits

i) Heirfort Hills Permitting Authority to Brown's Creek Watershed District

Attorney Torseth disclosed that she is doing the majority of closing and title exams for Heirfort Hills, but does not perceive this as a conflict. The District is proposing to delegate the permitting authority, which will be discussed next month.

ii) Conditional Approvals of Permits 18-002 Salmenin, 18-003 Scandia Roads, 18-004 Marine Roads and 18-005 Gartner

Engineer Almer summarized the permits. Administrator Shaver noted that the District got good cooperation from Ann Torwedo of Washington County and Stillwater Township building inspector on a permit inspection.

President Johnson moved conditional approval of Permits 18-002, 18-003, 18-004 and 18-005, subject to the District engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Cost Share

i) Srock Proposal

Mike Isensee presented an update on the Srock project. WCD approved a 50 percent cost share (\$30,100) draining 44 acres that flows to the St. Croix River. The St. Croix River Association (SCRA) has a grant program of up to \$40,000 per project, for which Srock is a good fit. Mr. Isensee agreed to write the grant on behalf of the District and send a letter to Mr. Srock about WCD funding and the funding request to SCRA.

ii) SCRA Grant Application for Srock and Zavoral Property

Mr. Isensee stated that in addition to the Srock project, the Zavoral ravine stabilization and iron-enhanced sand filter is a good fit for SCRA funding. Managers Tuenge and Polasik disclosed that although they are on the SCRA board, they will not be voting on SCRA grant proposals.

Manager Weaver moved to approve submitting the \$40,000 grant proposals to the St. Croix River Association. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 5-0.

iii) Kissing Birch Project Proposal

Mr. Isensee provided information about the Kissing Birch Farm project on Carol Lake and Silver Creek. The farm is 60 acres, currently in corn and soy production. The owner is considering converting 25 acres to prairie. Runoff from the farm drains to both the lake and creek. Tara Kelley (WCD) drafted a restoration and management plan and calculated load reductions. A perpetual easement from Washington County and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) eligibility are being explored. This area was highlighted in the District management plan as a medium priority for conservation and easements.

c) Metropolitan Council Watershed Outlet Monitoring Grant (WOMP)

Manager Tuenge moved to approve and sign the Metropolitan Council's grant agreement no. SG-10365 for monitoring costs for Silver Creek in 2018-2019. Seconded by President Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

d) Sale of Building Estoppel Certification

Administrator Shaver reported that the office space the District rents has been sold and the District was asked to sign a document verifying the current lease. Attorney Torseth reviewed and approved the document.

President Johnson moved to approve and authorize the administrator to sign the Tenant Estoppel Certificate requested by landlord Scandia Four. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

e) Warner Nature Center Education Report

Administrator Shaver provided the Warner Nature Center Watershed Education 2017 Report for review.

f) Dave De Vault resigns and Manager Re-appointments

Administrator Shaver stated that the County is advertising for District board members. Manager Stedman is not reapplying. Discussion included the importance of reaching out to people who might be interested in serving and talking with local governments and County commissioners about appointments. Manager Polasik suggested that the District ask the County to consider gender equity when making appointments.

g) Old Assessments

Attorney Torseth stated that when people sell properties, a search is done for outstanding assessments. When the District's gravity pipe was established in 1984, liens were put on properties. A title company is inquiring about an assessment lien on a May Township property. According to Attorney Torseth, there might be a statute of limitations and it would take a long time to investigate this further. Instead, she recommended and drafted a letter stating the District does not intend to pursue any outstanding balance. The Board agreed to approve and send the letter.

8) Old Business

a) AIS Boat Ramp Inspections Additional Hours

Matt Downey introduced himself and stated that WCD administers the aquatic invasive Species (AIS) inspections countywide. He presented the 2017 inspection hours and report. He noted that Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) partners with associations and local government units (LGUs) to increase inspections. CMSCWD provided \$7,000 in 2016 and \$3,600 in 2017 for additional inspections. WCD is working with the County and sheriff's office to try to get them more involved with enforcement. Discussion included: locations of increased inspections if the District supplements funding, the effectiveness of inspections, safety of inspectors and the hope that LGUs will supplement funds because good water quality increases home values.

Manager Tuenge moved to allocate \$5,000 from the CMSCWD 2017 AIS Cost Share budget for 200 additional AIS launch ramp inspection hours to be distributed in the same percentages as used by Washington County. Seconded by President Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Tibbets Property Conservation Easement Update

Administrator Shaver stated that Win Miller, on behalf of the Mr. Tibbets, reiterated what he said last month: He is looking to the District to hold a conservation easement, rather than getting a variance from the city of Marine on St. Croix.

c) Planning Updates

i) 1Watershed1Plan Status Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the planning grant is finalized and the first policy committee meeting is coming up.

ii) Watershed Based Funding Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the Washington County WMO administrators met again and agreed to split the \$770,000 funding evenly amongst the county entities. Entities must provide prioritized projects to the Board of Water and Soil Resources by June. A Memorandum of Agreement for this two-year funding cycling will need approval.

iii) CMSCWD Plan Status Update

(1) Work plan and budget

Administrator Shaver reported that he drafted a budget that includes work allocated to EOR and CLFLWD. As per Board approval, he sent notice to LGUs and interested parties about the planning process.

(2) Board Workshop

Administrator Shaver outlined the focus of the workshop to include review of what has been done over the last 10 years and what the District plans to do for the next 10 years, with a critical piece to identify and prioritize issues. He noted that the legislature has made it easier for watershed districts to revise their budgets. Administrator Shaver stated that he had sensed that the board members felt rushed with the process in the last Plan amendment, perhaps lacked the necessary “buy-in” to the plan and had previously made comments indicating they were dissatisfied with the facilitation of the plan amendment process. He suggested to the board that should find a facilitator to guide the plan update process, if the board was unsatisfied with his performance in this role. It was agreed to do a poll about the best day to meet.

d) Shared Services with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Administrator Shaver reported that he revised the agreement for technical services based on manager concerns, adding an expanded Exhibit A with staff qualification and job descriptions and not to exceed amounts. It was noted that there was a discrepancy between the District 10-year plan totals and the agreement not to exceed totals. Administrator Shaver will verify the spreadsheet. Manager Weaver stated that the agreement was a bit loose for his comfort.

President Johnson moved to approve and sign the agreement between Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District for technical services. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 4-1, with Manager Weaver voting no.

e) Hydrology & Hydrologic (H&H) Modeling Update Proposal

Engineer Almer reviewed past modeling, gaps in the District’s flood mapping and several advances in watershed modeling. He stated that the District is a bit behind the times with

an incomplete model: only about 40 percent of the District is mapped and the 100-year flood elevation went up by about 30 percent. He recommended the District H&H model update and conversion process be completed for a total budget of \$50,000. He outlined four tasks, in the 2018 budget, that could be completed this year for \$10,000. He suggested keeping the remaining tasks in mind as the Plan amendment is being drafted. The Board agreed to use 2018 allocated funds to move forward with the H&H modeling.

f) Carnelian Creek Access at 155th St. Update

Administrator Shaver reported that May Township agreed to post signs at the end of the township easement on 155th St. The Washington County sheriff's office was notified, as will be the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hydrologist.

9) Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported:

- Bliss Pond meeting on May 23 is scheduled to discuss dredging. Scandia's administrator and the DNR hydrologist will attend. A letter is being sent to residents.
- MillStream Day is May 20.
- Residents, at a May Township board meeting, brought up paving Panorama Avenue—an initiative that was discussed in a University of Minnesota capstone project. Residents were pleased to hear the District is trying to obtain an easement.

10) Pay Bills

Manager Tuenge moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$31,956.66. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

11) Next Meeting is May 9, 2018

12) Adjourn

President Johnson moved to adjourn at 9:36 p.m. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates