

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes June 13, 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 (WCD), Paul Richert (CAC member) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1) Approve Agenda

Manager Weaver moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion passed 5-0.

2) Minutes from May 9, 2018

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the May 9, 2018 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion passed 5-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Tuenge presented the Treasurer's Report.

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

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Project Updates

a) Marine Stormwater Phase I

Mr. Almer stated that Phase I is all built, plants are in and he provided a punch list to the County. He also commented to the County on the design of two rain gardens along Mill Stream. Administrator Shaver added that Marine on St. Croix council member Lon Pardun also expressed concern to the contractor and County about some deficiencies. The contractor knows that Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and District standards must be achieved. The rain garden participants have been happy, a few requested some changes that are being worked on, other residents have asked to participate in Phase II and a request to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the second round of funding was submitted.

b) Marine Stormwater Phase II - Ravine

Mr. Almer reported that he met with the Pinecone Trail Association and the Sullivan and Arneson families. He presented the concept plan, engineering and design intent and outlined the process. Concern was mostly about accessing the project area with the least harm to resources. An old road through the wetland area was discovered. This would be a

great access for the project, if the landowners agree. After the project, the area could be restored. If agreement is provided, Mr. Almer will extend the delineation to get the boundary determination and map out the degraded wetland.

c) Marine Stormwater Phase III

Mr. Almer reported that the grant has been approved and the District is waiting for the contract from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Several project options were noted including a joint project with Marine on Judd Street.

d) Goose Lake Iron-enhanced Sand Filter (St. Sauver)

Mr. Almer reported that he had a third meeting with the landowner and is waiting for her to sign the agreement.

e) Goose Lake Completed Iron-enhanced Sand Filter

Performance results for the completed sand filter were amazing and better than anticipated. On average, 70 percent of total phosphorus and 90 percent of dissolved phosphorus were removed. Research expects that the filter will function for 30 or more years. Mr. Almer also reported that there is a potential need for an easement acquisition across 197th St. or further upstream from the filter to decrease storm surges flowing into the sand basin.

f) Water Based Funding Projects

Administrator Shaver reported that Scandia administrator Neil Soltis suggested a Bliss Addition stormwater management retrofit be the District's top priority for candidate-based funding to be submitted to BWSR by July 1. Scandia City Council approved moving forward with a concept design for a Bliss rain garden or bio-filtration system. BWSR requires a 10 percent project match. Concerns expressed about Bliss were the low elevation and small size of the lots built on a floodplain. May Township requested Panorama be included for funding. Because this is an opportunity for the District to work with local governments, Administrator Shaver recommended these projects be the District's top two requests.

f) 133rd St./Panorama

Administrator Shaver reported that he went on the May Township road tour with township supervisors Bill Voedisch and John Adams. They discussed 133rd St./Panorama and two property owners who are willing to look at hosting an infiltration basin. Administrator Shaver told them the District would not entertain this project without a paved road. He suggested linking the basin and road paving projects because 90 percent of the basin could be covered with the candidate-based funding.

g) Long/Terrapin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Treatment

Mr. Almer reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit for treatment was received, the spring macrophyte survey to identify treatment areas was completed and the lake management contractor was secured.

h) Long/Terrapin AIS Filter

Mr. Almer reported that the filter design is completed for the wetland downstream of Long Lake. Administrator Shaver stated that Warner Nature Center is still willing to enter into a maintenance agreement with the District to change and clean the filters on a regular basis. An access easement for the maintenance is needed from Mary Brown. Attorney Torseth is working on this.

6) New Business

a) Permits

i) Conditional Approvals - 18-007 Big Marine Store and 18-008 Notarangelo SFR

Mr. Almer stated that 18-008 is a single-family residence in Arcola Bluffs off Hwy 95 on a high bluff on the river. A stormwater management small project worksheet will need to be completed. Permit 18-007 requires a lot of work to address the stormwater plan and makeup past deficiencies.

President Johnson moved to approve Permits 18-007 and 18-007 subject to the District engineer's review and approval. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion passed 5-0.

ii) Bliss Channel Restoration Order – Informational Update

Administrator Shaver reported that the Johnsons filed a complaint about someone filling in the channel. He and Jenifer Sorensen (DNR) met with the resident and told him the backfill needs to be removed and replaced with DNR approved riprap, the docks on the pond need to be removed and boulders should be added to warn people of the dropoff. While looking across the pond, Ms. Sorensen noticed that class 5 fill had been put in. The residents (Harold and Cindy Johnson) were told to remove the fill and put in riprap per DNR guidance by the end of June.

iii) Big Marine SFR Request for Comments

Administrator Shaver reported that Scandia asked the District to comment on a new home construction on Big Marine Lake. The lot is small and steeply sloped. Four variances are being requested to accommodate a septic system. The County has agreed to pass the septic variance, if the City provides the needed setback variances for the system. Administrator Shaver drafted comments expressing concerns with the variances and approval of a septic system on this small lot. Mr. Almer stated that the proposal will trigger the District's stormwater rule, but not the buffer rule. Based on the information presented, the homeowner will have a difficult time meeting the District's stormwater requirements. The Managers agreed that comments should recommend against the variances due to the negative consequences to the lake and request seeing how the landowner would meet the District's permit before city variances are given. Administrator Shaver will redraft a memo to Scandia that President Johnson will review.

b) Cost Share – Preliminary Proposal

Mr. Isensee presented a potential project to remove and control woodland invasive species upslope and within 150 feet of the Silver Creek streambank. The total estimated cost is \$40,000 for buckthorn removal and two years of vegetation restoration. Discussion: Would BWSR or other agencies want to get involved? This is expensive for

the District and could wipe out the cost share budget. What is the expected phosphorus load reduction? What resources, if any, can the homeowner provide? Manager Polasik stated that the District already did restoration work in the area, the streambank is stabilized and level, other areas are in more need and it's not worth the money. Mr. Isensee stated that WCD received a St. Croix River Association grant for the Scrok project that could free up some of the District's cost share funds. It was agreed that Administrator Shaver and Manager Polasik will walk the proposed project area and Mr. Isensee and Mr. Almer will check files about the past Silver Creek restoration project.

c) Easement Acquisition for St. Sauver Project

Administrator Shaver reported that the concept design and easements are near agreement with only minor concerns remaining. Ms. St. Sauver wanted the easement to include the option to remove the iron-sand filter in 2049, when the easement expires. Mr. Isensee recommended amending the agreement to state the filter would be removed with the basin remaining. Mr. Almer stated that the cheapest alternative would be to re-grade and reseed the site without removing the filter. He noted that the phosphorus would be trapped in the iron-sand.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the agreement payment schedule and other necessary easement documents for the construction of an iron-enhanced sand filter project on the Ellen St. Sauver property subject to the District attorney's review and with the clarification that in 2049, if the owner wants the site restored, this will be accomplished by re-grading and reseeding the site. Seconded by President Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

d) Maintenance Agreement with Marine for IESF at Pine and Robert

Approval of the agreement was deferred until next month.

e) Failing Culvert under Hwy 96 at South Twin Lake

Administrator Shaver reported that MnDOT called an emergency meeting with all parties and finally admitted that the culvert is failing. MnDOT proposed two possible solutions, took input for review and will call another meeting. Mr. Almer stated that he prefers the two culvert option with a filter to prevent dirty water flowing into a clean water body, MnDOT will need a mitigation packet, DNR will need to be involved to address wetland/Wetland Conservation Act issues including elevation, and an unapproved roadbed installed by a homeowner is contributing to the problem. Administrator Shaver will draft a memo outlining the District's concerns.

f) Status of Manager's Appointments/Re-appointments

Administrator Shaver stated that President Johnson reapplied and Paul Richert applied for manager positions. Manager De Vault resigned pending a new appointment. Manager Weaver stated that he was not notified about his term ending because the county had the wrong email. Though he did not reapply by the deadline, he is interested in remaining on the board. Discussion included needing experienced managers to steer the plan amendment and possibly petitioning BWSR to become a five-member board. Attorney

Torseth will provide a memo clarifying terms of managers pending re-appointments or replacement appointments.

g) Budget Items for June 27 Workshop

Administrator Shaver stated that he will provide a draft of the budget before the workshop. Issues that were identified: groundwater, wetlands, soil health, AIS activities as a separate line item, an H&H model update, a comprehensive look at watersheds and subwatersheds to identify and prioritize protection work and a possible cover crops cost share section.

h) St. Croix Workshop on the Water – July 11th

Managers Tuenge and Polasik plan to attend.

7) Old Business

a) CMSCWD Plan Status Update

i) Review Priority Issues from Agencies

Administrator Shaver reported that he received comments and will be using Comfort Lake-Forest Lake staff to compile them. The Board must review and address relevant comments.

ii) Revisions to Work Plan and Budget

Administrator Shaver reviewed carry forward and unspent funds during the cycle of the plan and found that at the start there was a 20 percent surplus. As the plan was being implemented, there was a negative balance and toward the end of the plan cycle the balance was plus or minus two percent.

8) Other Reports

Administrator Shaver reported that WCD will provide monthly water monitoring reports. A few weeks ago, the outflow at Little Carnelian was 16-18 inches over the weir. Today it was six-eight inches over. Big Marine is one inch over the weir.

9) Pay Bills

President Johnson moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$38,203.46. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 5-0.

10) Personnel Discussion

The Managers agreed that President Johnson will talk with Administrator Shaver about his employment plans and plans for succession. A personnel review, in a closed board session, will be scheduled before or after an upcoming regular board meeting.

11) Next Workshop is June 27 at 7:00 - Preliminary Budget Discussion

President Johnson thanked retiring Manager Stedman for his service and his insights.

12) Adjourn

Manager Stedman moved to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion passed 5-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates