

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes October 14, 2015**

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

**Managers Absent:** Dave DeVault, Eric Lindberg and Tom Polasik

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (administrator), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR), Rich Burton (Big Marine Lake Association) and Debbie Meister (MMC)

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**1) Approve Agenda**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the agenda with flexibility. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 4-0.**

**2) Minutes from September 9**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the September 9, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.**

**3) Treasurer's Report**

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Manager Tuenge moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.**

**a) Review Plan Implementation Fund (Reserve) Forecast Sheet**

Administrator Shaver reported that he drafted a table to help keep the Board updated on reserve funds to project the end-of-the-year Plan Implementation fund balance. The balance should be 40% of the budget to ensure an adequate reserve. He clarified that although this information was not available when the budget was set, it will not affect the levy. What might be affected is the percentage of next year's budget, which might require using reserve funds to cover expenses. This will not be known until March when 2015 payments are finalized. Manager Weaver stated that the reserve account should have a balance of \$200,000 and even using restricted funds the projected balance will only be \$80,000. Administrator Shaver noted that the District routinely had a growing reserve, but it was ear marked for projects. He will meet with the accountant to develop a bookkeeping system to track the reserve and confirm the 2015 carryover, which is now projected to be \$113,500.

**4) Public Comments**

Rich Burton, of the Big Marine Lake Association, stated that he attended to ask about the beaver dam issue (see item 6c) and request having a lake association article in the newsletter. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is cutting grant funding for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control. He suggested combining efforts with lake associations and watershed districts now that more and more AIS responsibility is falling to lakeshore owners and lake associations. He attended an East Metro lake association meeting to brainstorm what

can be done locally to get the word out. Manager Weaver stated that the District greatly appreciates the association and others that are so active and working to fix the problem. He suggested calling local papers to get coverage on the work the association is doing and ask homeowners, who can't attend meetings, to send a check to the association to help pay for the work. Manager Tuenge noted that there is a new editor at the *Messenger*, who will likely be open to coverage and thanked Mr. Burton and the association for their work.

## **5) Project Updates and Work Plan Update**

### **a) Log House Landing Ramp**

Mr. Almer reported that the DNR asked for a few clarifications on the plan related to disturbances to the site and a small change to the plan was made. Administrator Shaver noted that he had not had any discussions with Scandia to cost share on the ramp.

### **b) 197<sup>th</sup> Street**

Administrator Shaver reported that a pre-construction site meeting is scheduled. Work will tentatively start the first week of November and should be completed at end of the month. Planting will be done in spring. Jason Husveth was hired to reestablish the wetland, as an addition to the contract, but within the approved budget amount.

### **c) Marine Stormwater**

Mr. Almer reported that utility locates are complete and 29 potential locations have been identified. The next steps are to delineate drainage, do a cost-benefit analysis, rank the projects and schedule a second meeting with homeowners. Mr. Almer clarified that the sites with the biggest drainage area and the most nutrient reductions to the St. Croix River or Mill Stream will be selected. Reducing stormwater flows is the main goal, but each project will also capture about one pound of phosphorus per year. This project piggybacks on the city center project, using a neighborhood focus to install larger projects in the city right-of-way rather than small projects on individual lots. There are opportunities to pursue other grants for other neighborhood projects.

### **d) Sand/Long Implementation**

Administrator Shaver reported that the District is waiting for signed contracts from the contractor. Once paperwork is in order, a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled.

### **e) Goose Lake Implementation**

Administrator Shaver reported that the Washington Conservation District is surveying the first project site.

### **f) Willowbrook Stream Study and Implementation**

Administrator Shaver stated that residents will not be happy with the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) response to causes of the stream erosion; MnDOT estimates that the road is a minimal part of the overall stream watershed and so contributes a very small part of the overall stormwater to the stream. However, MnDOT will allow the District to use its right-of-way for a project. Moving forward is now in the neighbor's court.

**g) 133<sup>rd</sup> St./ Panorama Capstone**

Administrator Shaver reported that the May Township engineer determined the city right-of-way on 133<sup>rd</sup> St, which will affect the project. Scott Miller is still working on forming a lake association. The District can facilitate a meeting. Administrator Shaver has talked with Mr. Burton about assisting with a meeting to provide examples of effective lake associations.

**h) Marine Ravine**

Administrator Shaver stated that there is one major property owner on the ravine. The ravine is a feeder system to the pond adjacent to the marina and an upstream wetland. The next steps might be to facilitate a meeting with property owners who would be affected by the project and apply for a grant. Mr. Almer clarified that MnDOT's assessment of the drainage is not correct and the plans are a rough estimate.

**6. New Business**

**a) Permits**

Mr. Almer provided an update on the status of the permits and next actions. All 2014 and 2015 permits are current and active. At the next Board meeting there will likely be an action request for surety returns.

**b) Cost Share**

**Manager Weaver moved to reimburse the City of Marine on St. Croix \$16,574 for the Judd Street water mitigation cost-share project. Seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.**

Administrator Shaver clarified that this was just a maintenance project. It went through the Wetland Conservation Act review, with Mr. Chesnut determining that the project would improve water quality and species diversity, but not necessarily be a solution to flooding.

**c) Outlet Channel - Big Marine Residents**

Administrator Shaver reported that Big Marine property owners, after reading the August 12 Board minutes, had concerns with the outlet overflow, increasing water levels of Zack Cole's pond and the Board's decision to review the channel system. After reviewing historical documents of the system and District responsibilities to prevent storm flooding damage, the subsequent Board meeting was more reflective. The Board discussion was related to Jeff Dahlberg. Other residents were invited on a walking tour of the channel and Zach Cole's property. Administrator Shaver stated that he feels the increase in vegetation has caused the change in wetland levels and reduced the rate of discharge from Big Marine. Previously, the District had an informal policy to leave beaver dams in the Cole wetland until after the hunting season, but there is nothing in the management plan with the DNR allowing this. Continuing this increases the level of management required and the District's level of liability. In a big rain event, the system would have to be opened up. Manager Weaver stated that with the pipe and outlet on Little Carnelian Lake, rain events can be controlled, but the District cannot do anything during drought conditions.

Ms. Torseth reported that from past documents, it looked like there was a condemnation process started on the Cole property. The District holds an easement on the channel and is required to maintain a minimum channel bottom elevation. Administrator Shaver stated that prior to his hiring, the Managers did all the channel maintenance. He showed a video of a recent drone flyover of the peat bog and channel area, which showed water levels and the inaccessibility of the area. The video is posted on the District website.

## 7) Old Business

### a) Review Draft AIS Rapid Response Plan by Steve McComas

Administrator Shaver stated that there is some work to do to finalize the plan including identifying and formalizing relationships with expert and financial partners including the public, DNR and other government agencies; engaging landowners on Big Carnelian, Square, Goose and public access lakes; and finishing the lake assessments. DNR funding for AIS has shrunk. The agency will continue to issue permits for treatment and identify AIS on water bodies, but will not provide grants for treatment. The legislature has provided funds for the biennium to counties. Washington County is using its \$200,000 to fund grants, of which the WCD received a large portion this year for boat inspections and education. It is not certain if there will be another grant cycle.

Mr. Burton stated that the plan's rapid response assessment to install four to six zebra mussel plate samplers on each lake and encourage monthly inspection is inadequate. He recommended having about 20 people on Big Marine Lake install detectors and check them everyday. He also stressed the real question is how to prevent AIS. Manager Weaver stated that if lakeshore owners are responsible to foot the bill, it would seem they might want to close public accesses. Mr. Burton replied that the DNR did close one access on the lake, but would not close the eastside access on Big Marine. Managers Tuenge and Weaver volunteered to review the rapid response plan draft and work with Administrator Shaver to bring a final draft back to the Board. Manager Stedman stated that a plan for all AIS is needed.

Mr. Burton stated that the DNR came up with standard signage asking individuals to inspect their boats. The signs will be posted at state, county and city public access areas. But how do you get people to wash their boats and trailers? Infestations will happen and maybe fines are needed for spreading AIS.

### b) Shared Personnel with CLFLWD

Administrator Shaver stated that shared staff will be a topic at a joint meeting with the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFL). CLFL posted a full- and half-time staff position, but does not have board approval for a shared position.

### c) Mark and Sarah Porubkanski Reimbursement for Sand Lake Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that this is a reimbursement for a prairie planting covered by the Sand/Long grant and no motion is needed. As part of the same grant, funds still remain and letters were sent to Long Lake riparian lands owners inviting them to participate. One resident—John Lennes—agreed to participate.

**d) Review Draft Zebra Mussel Rapid Response Plan by Steve McComas**

It was agreed to table this to give Managers time to review the report.

**8) Bills to Be Paid**

**Manager Johnson moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$71,078.51. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 4-0.**

**9) Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

- The Board certified the levy to the County. The levy can be lowered, but not raised.
- He attended a Hay Lake meeting with residents interested in forming a lake association.
- Residents Mark and Sarah Porubkanski are trying to form a Sand Lake Association.
- He and Managers Lindberg and Tuenge plan to attend the St. Croix Research Rendezvous on October 20.
- Metro MAWD is also on October 20.
- BSWR Academy is October 27-29. Administrator Shaver will not be attending.
- Manager Johnson asked to attend the Green Lands Blue Waters Conference in November as a District representative. The Board agreed to pay for Manager Johnson to attend.
- Groundwater Advisory is meeting on November 6.
- Administrator Shaver and administrators Kinney and Kill are meeting with Ron Lorenz about a youth education program at Warner Nature Center.
- St. Croix Rivers Association sharing meeting is on November 19.
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' annual meeting is December 3-5. Administrator Shaver will be attending this and the administrators meeting on December 2. Managers Tuenge, Johnson and Stedman also plan to attend.
- Administrator Shaver will probably have shoulder surgery and will be out of the office sometime in the near future and will keep the Board informed.
- Manager Johnson recommended the Freshwater Society lecture on protecting surface water in agricultural watersheds on November 3.
- Administrator Shaver will ask Lewis Smith to facilitate a dialog on board and staff responsibilities and roles. Mr. Smith conducts the manager training at the MAWD conference.

**10) Next Meeting is November 11**

**11) Adjourn**

**Manager Tuenge moved to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 4-0.**

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates