

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes September 9, 2015

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

Managers Absent: Dave De Vault

Others Present: Jim Shaver (administrator), Jed Chesnut (WCD), Susannah Torseth (Lawson Law), Carl Almer (EOR) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

1) Approve Agenda

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

2) Minutes from August 12, 24 and September 2

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the August 12, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager Tuenge asked about Zack Cole's request for assistance on his property and changing the streambed. Ms. Torseth stated that she is looking into property specifics. She, Administrator Shaver and Ray Marshall had a conference call today on what District easement and property rights are. During the call, Administrator Shaver reported that during the discussion the Board was swayed that it is best not to change the streambed profile. Manager Weaver stated that it is the District's primary charge to maintain the water level without changing or impeding the flow. But if there is something we can do, we would like to. Manager Tuenge suggested that once there is clarity, we should contact Mr. Cole and also find out if he talked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Regarding the Boom Site project, Manager Stedman stated that the DNR is very interested in enhancing the stormwater management. He also suggested that Manager Polasik serve as the project liaison, if one is needed. Manager Polasik agreed and reported that there is talk of an interpretive/visitor center.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the August 24, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve the September 2, 2015 minutes as amended. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.

3) Treasurer's Report

Manager Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report. **Manager Weaver moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

4) Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5) Project Updates and Work Plan Update

a) Log House Landing Ramp

Mr. Almer presented the concept design that will need to be discussed with the city of Scandia. The design is built off what the city had done, with the primary goal to stabilize the steep slope, incorporate the planks from the DNR and look at the slopes on either side of the road. But the infrastructure cannot be installed until the road is finalized. Several points Mr. Almer emphasized included: because of the slope, concrete is recommended; an 8 inch tree (probably an ash) will need to be removed; the DNR will not gift the planks until all the plans including the road are known and approved; EOR's estimate for the ramp work is \$30,000 and the city administrator is drafting a DNR application. Manager Tuenge reported that Chris Ness is upset about this project, wants to know what the District plans to do and stated that unless the District contributes to the road, the city will not move forward.

Discussion included:

- Manager Weaver stated that the design looks good and recommended moving this forward. The city asked the District for guidance and this provides a good conceptual idea. It deals with the erosion issues the District is concerned with.
- Manager Tuenge clarified that she does not know how the LHL group will react, but feels Steve Kronmiller thinks this will address a lot of the erosion situations.
- Mr. Almer clarified that the bulk of sediment is from 205th St. and the road is not stable. This is not a rustic design, but gravel is not going to work. With a few tweaks to the concept design, the plan will meet DNR boat launch specifications. There also are elements of the design that can be removed for cost savings. He recommended taking the design to the city.
- Administrator Shaver clarified the Board directed him to pursue the actual launch, but not the grant and the road. He began the process of receiving the planks at no cost from the DNR. The Board also authorized additional design work for the ramp and installation of the planks. There are certain aspects of the plan that the District might be willing to cost share with the city, but the costs are unknown. Administrator Shaver also reported that he heard that the Scandia Parks and Recreation Committee will reconvene to talk about the ramp.
- Manager Stedman agreed with passing the design along, but stated it might be premature to say we endorse it and will fund it.
- Manager Polasik stated that the District should offer to pay for the erosion control portion of all the work and the concrete ramp is really not erosion control.
- Manager Lindberg stated that originally the District was willing to cost share for the whole LHL project for a contribution of \$100,000. Now we are looking at the ramp costing \$30,000 that will take care of the worst of the erosion. I would have no problem splitting the cost for a District contribution of \$15,000. I see the sheet of concrete as erosion control along with a lot of landscaping using native materials.
- Manager Johnson agreed with the concept, but not with assigning a specific cost.

Manager Weaver moved to take the concept design to the city of Scandia and copy the DNR on the plans. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 6-0.

b) 197th Street

Ms. Torseth stated that the signatures were obtained and easements were recorded with Washington County on Monday. The Board collectively thanked her for her work. Administrator Shaver reported that a pre-bid meeting was held. Bids close on September 15. The Board will meet on September 23 to review the proposals. All contractors were aware that the District is bidding another project that could be symbiotic, such as materials from one site being used as fill on another. Manager Polasik cautioned that this practice could transfer invasive species.

c) Sand/Long Implementation

Ms. Torseth reported that the easements—a temporary construction and permanent—were signed and recorded. Mr. Almer reported that a pre-bid meeting was held and proposals are due on September 17. He hopes to make a recommendation on bids at the September 23 meeting. Administrator Shaver noted that because the cost of this project is estimated to be over \$100,000, a competitive bid is required.

d) Marine Stormwater

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mr. Almer continue to have good meetings with residents. After one more round of interviews with residents, a ranking process will be established to select projects.

e) Goose Lake Implementation

Mr. Chesnut reported that he met with the main landowner last night, flagged the project boundaries and will tweak the design to save trees. A second site for an iron-sand filter will be surveyed in early October, when leaves are down. Administrator Shaver stated that he finally reached the second property owner whose property is needed for a small portion of the project. Construction is still anticipated for spring.

f) Willowbrook Stream Study and Implementation

Administrator Shaver reported that he and Mr. Almer attended a meeting with 15 residents. They listened to the residents' goals to maintain the trout stream, habitat and the water quality of the St. Croix River and their solutions, before presenting concept plans to accomplish this. They shared possible funding opportunities including cost shares and/or grants. The estimated cost for modifying the flow patterns is about \$22,000-\$23,000. There is also potential to partner with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for a bigger project. Mr. Almer stated that there was some perception that in the 1990s MnDOT screwed up a road project that added sediment to the stream. Experts do not agree, but rather feel the sediments naturally seep up. The residents were all in favor of at least a portion of the project and will meet again on their own.

g) 133rd St./ Panorama Capstone

Administrator Shaver reported that resident Scott Miller is pushing this project along and is also forming a lake association. Mr. Almer met with him to look at road solutions identified in the Capstone project. Residents also met with the County to look at 133rd St.

Mr. Almer recommended speed bumps and a swale along the road to slow water, as a temporary solution to the erosion. All are waiting for May Township to act.

6. New Business

a) Permits

Administrator Shaver reported that there are no new permits and he has transitioned the permitting and inspections to EOR. Permit information will be added to the county database. Costs of the new system will be tracked and compared to the old system. Mr. Almer stated that he will review permits to make sure all are up-to-date.

b) Cost Share

Mr. Chesnut reported that there are no new projects, but three are in the works. He noted Joe Schmitt's final reimbursement of \$27.50 for a turf to prairie conversion.

c) Monitoring Report

Manager Tuenge suggested that Washington Conservation District staff come in winter to present this report. Both she and Manager Weaver stated that it was an interesting and professionally done report. **Manager Tuenge moved to accept the Monitoring Report. Seconded by Manager Stedman. Motion carried 6-0.**

d) Wilder Forest and MN Food Association Letter of Support

Manager Johnson stated that it sounds like May Township approved the project.

Administrator Shaver reported that the food association is applying for a Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources grant, asked him to review it and provide input and have the District provide a letter of support.

Manager Tuenge moved to provide a letter of support for the project. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0-1, with Manager Weaver abstaining.

e) Marine—Hwy 95 Ravine Erosion at Pine Cone Trail

Manager Tuenge reported that she received pictures and a request for help. Administrator Shaver stated that it would be similar to the 197th ravine project where a government project caused a problem on private property. In this case, a black ash seepage swamp has been harmed. He suggested talking to MnDOT about this and the Willowbrook project and asking MnDOT how it would like to proceed.

7) Old Business

a) Budget and Levy

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution 9-9-15-1 to adopt a 2016 Operating and Capital Budget totaling \$661,079. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution 9-09-15-02 to petition the Washington County Auditor-Treasurer to levy all taxable property in the CMSCWD for a total of \$444,600 in 2016. Seconded by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Approve Easement and Agreement with Dan and Dean Lindgren, Sand Lake IESF
Administrator Shaver reported that signatures were needed and received for the bid process.

Manager Weaver moved to approve the easement agreement with the Lindgrens. Seconded Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 6-0.

c) Approve Plan Amendment

Manager Tuenge moved to approve Resolution 9-09-15-03 to adopt the Plan and direct the distribution of the Plan. Seconded by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Shaver thanked Mr. Almer, other EOR staff and the Board for hanging in through the process.

d) Review Draft AIS Rapid Response Plan by Steve McComas

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

8) Bills to Be Paid

Manager Polasik moved to pay the bills in the amount of \$29,497.96. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

9) Administrator's Report

Administrator Shaver reported that there may be \$20,000-\$30,000 of unspent prairie restoration grant funds for conversion from turf to prairie in the Sand/Long Implementation Plan area. Long Lake landowners on shores slanting into lake will be targeted for participation.

10) Next Meeting is September 23

11) Adjourn

Manager Stedman moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 6-0.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates