

**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting April 9, 2014**

**Managers Present:** Kristin Tuenge, Tom Polasik, Victoria Dupre, Andy Weaver, Dave DeVault and Eric Lindberg.

**Managers Absent:** Steve Kronmiller.

**Others Present:** Jim Shaver (Administrator), Carl Almer (EOR) Ray Marshall (Lawson Law) Jed Chesnut (WCD), Jason Huvseth (Critical Connections), Mark Rossi (resident) and Debbie Meister (MMC).

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

**1. Approve April Agenda —Board Action**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the April 9, 2014 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 5-0.**

**2. Approve March 12, 2014 Minutes—Board Action**

**Manager Weaver moved to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes as amended. Second by Manager Tuenge. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report Board Action**

Administrator Shaver presented the Treasurer’s Report.

**Manager DeVault moved approval of the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.**

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Permit Status Update, Permits / Violations**

Administrator Shaver reported that he received a permit request last week to lift a cabin, add a foundation and remove a deck. The cabin, about 3feet from OHW(ordinary high water) mark of Big Carnelian Lake, is substandard and currently has about a 40 percent impervious surface. The trigger for this permit is a needed variance for setback and buffer. Removal of the deck will reduce the hard cover and increase the setback from the OHW, thus improving the existing conditions. Washington County, noting that the cabin is already substandard, is continuing this as a previously permitted nonconforming use. Discussion included: adding a foundation requires bringing the property into compliance, possibility of adding a 10 foot (rather than a required 25 foot) buffer, possibly setting a “free-pass” precedent if no permit is required, reviewing the permit under the small lot improvement with reduction in impervious surface being a credit. Administrator Shaver will continue the review process and bring this back next month.

**6. Project Status Update**

**a. Engineer’s Report**

Mr. Almer reported that he collected some water samples—particulate and dissolved oxygen— from the primary stream flowing to Sand Lake. This data will be used to design the iron/sand infiltration system.

**b. 197<sup>th</sup> St Ravine**

**Manager DeVault moved to proceed with the acquisition of easements, final engineering and final cost estimate for Board review and prior to a public hearing and request for construction bids. Second by Manager Dupre. Motion carried 6-0.** Administrator Shaver noted that there are carryover funds allocated for use on the project.

**c. Marine on St. Croix Stormwater BMPs**

Administrator Shaver reported that he submitted a preliminary grant to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and was told the project was not appropriate for this type of funding. Next steps will likely be stormwater education and small BMP projects with willing landowners.

**7. Cost Share Report**

**a. Kraig Johnson Update**

Mr. Chesnut reported that Mr. Johnson has found a seed source. Overall, the project is coming down to the contract. Mr. Johnson suggested a shorter-term (less than 10-year) conservation easement with a payback option. Mr. Marshall noted that he has never seen a payback easement and recommended against it. Mr. Chesnut provided the cost/pound of phosphorous removal of an average District cost share compared to this proposal. An average project removes one pound at a cost of \$5,000, while this project should remove seven pounds for \$8,000. Further discussion included the requirements of a standard cost share contract, the benefits of phosphorous reduction to the St. Croix River and the willingness of the owner to serve as a demonstration site.

**Manager Polasik moved to accept a standard cost share contract with the agreement that Mr. Johnson contributes a minimum of 10% of the cost, the District contributes a maximum of \$8,000 and Mr. Johnson signs a 10-year standard contract and agrees to serve as a demonstration site. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.**

**b. Mark Rossi Proposal**

Administrator Shaver introduced Mr. Rossi and noted that he had completed two high visibility cost share projects on Sand Lake with the District. Mr. Rossi was in attendance with project consultant Jason Husveth to ask for input on a potential cost share to install emergent natural plantings on his entire beach. Mr. Husveth summarized the project: restoration of an emergent zone/wetland and habitat improvement in a priority lake and the estimated cost of \$8,000. Mr. Rossi would like to request \$6,000 for the cost share. Mr. Husveth also noted that Mr. Rossi has already put a lot of time and money into restoring almost all of his property to native prairie. He envisions this proposed cost share being a model BMP and helpful in educating other landowners. Administrator Shaver summarized the goals of the cost share program and noted that \$2,500 is the stated cost share maximum, though the District has paid more depending on the area and benefits.

Administrator Shaver also noted that Mr. Rossi turned down a buffer grant that would have paid 100% of the project.

Board members noted that this project offers little or no phosphorous reduction because of previous BMPs, but provides habitat and wetland restoration and could serve as a demonstration project. The Board asked about plant selection and the success rate of this type of restoration and further discussed cost share parameters with maximum District contributions. It was agreed that there is a need for a BMP/Cost Share Committee to review, rank and make a recommendation to the Board.

**c. Re-establishment of Cost Share Committee**

Administrator Shaver reported that because there were very few proposals being submitted and it was difficult to get committee members together, cost share proposals were being brought directly to the Board. Now that there are more proposals, he recommended re-establishing the committee. Managers Polasik, DeVault and Lindberg agreed to serve on the committee. Manager Dupre volunteered to provide input, but not serve on the committee. It was also agreed that program goals, high value areas, TMDLs, ranking criteria, evaluation procedures and cost share maximums should be reviewed. The committee will meet, as needed, on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

**d. Annual Cost Share Report**

Mr. Chesnut provided a summary of the report. In 2013, there were 21 site visits and five applications, of which four projects were approved for funding. There were good education opportunities such as tabling at Taco Daze. Discussion focused on integrating the District subwatershed computer modeling with project loading, minimum impact development projects, cost share rankings and the Plan Amendment.

**e. Lilleskogen Raingarden Cost Share**

Mr. Chesnut reported that he and Administrator Shaver met with Scandia engineer Ryan Goodman to discuss the project and options. Because the project does not require a permit, it is eligible for cost share funding.

**8. New business**

**a. Letter of Support for St. Croix Watershed National Heritage Designation—Board Action**

**Manager Tuenge moved to direct the Administrator to write a letter of support for the St. Croix Watershed National Heritage site designation. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

**b. Annual St. Croix River Program—Board Action**

**Manager Polasik moved to authorize the Administrator to acknowledge a contribution not to exceed \$500 for the St. Croix River tour program subject to further information. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.**

The tour is a good networking opportunity.

**c. Lease Renewal—Board Action**

**Manager Weaver moved to accept the lease renewal with a \$5 per month increase. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.**

**9. Old Business**

**a. 2013 Audit Approval—Board Action**

Administrator Shaver noted that the auditor recommended addressing the comments over the next year.

**Manager DeVault moved to accept the 2013 Audit as prepared by HLB Tautges-Redpath Ltd. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 6-0.**

**b. One Watershed-One Plan Update**

Administrator Shaver reported that this will not proceed in Washington County for now.

**c. Plan Implementation Fund (Reserve Account)**

This was tabled.

**d. Security State Bank Signature Cards**

Cards will be signed after the meeting.

**e. Manager Appointments**

Managers Dupre and Lindberg applied for reappointment.

**10. Discussion Points**

**a. Plan Amendment – Comments and Next Steps**

Administrator Shaver reported that a Board workshop is scheduled for April 23 at 6:30 p.m. The Technical Advisory Committee will meet on April 30 at 2 p.m. Managers are invited to attend. Both meetings are at Scandia City Hall.

**11. Bills to be Paid—Board Action**

**Manager Polasik moved to pay bills in the amount of \$9,178.08. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 6-0.**

**12. Administrator's Report**

Administrator Shaver reported the following:

**a. Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission**—meetings with the commission went well

**b. Shallow Lakes Forum**—April 12 at MN Landscape Arboretum

**c. State of Water Conference**—May 1-2 at Craguns Resort in Brainerd

**d. Cover Crop Presentation** —June 10 or 11. Notice will be sent.

**e. MN Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour** — June 18-21

**13. Next Meeting, Adjourn**

The next meeting is a workshop on April 23. The next regular meeting is on May 14. Both meetings are at 6:30 p.m. at Scandia City Hall.

**Manager Polasik moved to adjourn. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 6-0.**  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by  
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates