

**Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Regular Meeting March 12, 2014**

Managers Present: Kristin Tuenge, Eric Lindberg, Dave DeVault, Thomas Polasik and Andy Weaver.

Managers Absent: Steve Kronmiller and Victoria Dupre.

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

Manager Tuenge called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the March 12, 2014 agenda as amended. Second by Manager Polasik. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve February 19, 2014 Minutes—Board Action

Manager DeVault moved to approve the February 19, 2014 minutes as presented. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Approve Revisions to November 13, 2013 Minutes—Board Action

Attorney Torseth agreed with Administrator Shaver that the changes were not material and could be proposed by the citizen in attendance. It was clarified that the revisions were offered shortly after the November minutes were posted.

Manager DeVault moved to approve revisions to the November 13, 2013 minutes. Second by Manager Lindberg. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Treasurer's Report—Board Action

Manager Weaver moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Permit Status Update Permits/Violations

a. Victorville Return of Surety —Board Action

Administrator Shaver reported that this is a simple lot subdivision. Although the District approved the permit contingent on the Engineer's review and approval, the permit was never issued. Mr. Almer stated that the District is not really losing anything without a permit because the buffer is in Scandia's utility easement and a permit will be required when the additional lot is developed.

Manager Weaver moved to issue the Victorville permit, require a permit when the additional lot is developed and return the surety. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Project Status Update

a. Engineer's Report

Mr. Almer reported that he and Administrator Shaver met to plan next steps for the Sand and Long Lakes Clean Water Partnership. For Sand Lake, the focus is on design of the sand-iron filter project and outreach to landowners for site specific BMPs. In the Long Lake area, outreach to landowners, wetland work and buffer and raingarden installations have already occurred.

b. Other Projects

i. 197th St. Ravine in Scandia

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Mayor Simonson to discuss the project and request a contribution from the City Council to help with the \$100,000 project cost. Mayor Simonson stated that the City's road line item is already \$15,000 over budget, a request for funding would jeopardize the project, the City feels it was forced into adopting the road and a funding request should be made to the property owners. The Managers agreed that the project was important and worth pursuing. As a next step, Administrator Shaver will discuss the project with the auditor and, if feasible, will bring a recommendation to fund the balance from the reserve fund.

ii. National Park Service (NPS) Ravine

Administrator Shaver reported that he has corresponded with the NPS and is waiting for a response from the regional office.

8. Cost Share Report

a. Kraig Johnson Project

Mr. Chesnut reported that, per Board direction last month, he was able to reduce the installation cost, which reduced the estimated project cost from \$14,500 to \$10,400. He also proposed a 10-year conservation easement to Mr. Johnson. The Board expressed interest in the project because of the phosphorous reduction, proximity to a lake, credit on TMDL requirements, conversion of agriculture land to prairie and good visibility for public education. To qualify for a District cost share contribution above \$2,500, the Board outlined criteria for this cost share: the landowner contributes a minimum of 10% of the cost, the District contributes a maximum of \$8,000 and the landowner agrees to a 10-year contract. Several managers recommended requiring a diverse seed mix of local genotypes.

9. New Business

a. Wilder Property

Administrator Shaver reported that the Wilder Foundation is proposing to sell 200 acres of its land to the Department of Natural Resources for a wildlife management area (WMA) with funding from the Lessard/Sams section of the Clean Water Legacy Fund. WMAs require public access for hunting and fishing. The public is concerned about hunting because of public safety, especially near Warner Nature Center. Others are concerned about Wilder acreage being developed. Administrator Shaver has talked with Mr. Voedisch (May Township)

and Jane Harper (Washington County) about options including using County Legacy Land and Water Funds to purchase the land with CMSCWD acting as the land manager. The District will continue being involved in the process.

b. Resolution 14-03-01—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to adopt Resolution 14-03-01 to authorize submission of a grant application to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for the Marine on St. Croix Stormwater Retrofit Project. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Fiscal Agent Request—Board Action

Manager Polasik requested that the District receive funding from a private donor to purchase an enviroscape model and serve as the fiscal agent. EnviroScape is a hands-on tool to demonstrate nonpoint source pollution and will be available for use by other organizations.

Manager Polasik moved to accept the responsibility of being a fiscal agent for the purpose of purchasing the enviroscape model. Second by Manager Weaver. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Old Business

a. Review of 2013 Work Plan Results

Manager Tuenge noted Administrator Shaver's good work.

b. Approval of 2014 Work Plan—Board Action

Manager Polasik moved to approve the 2014 District work plan. Second by Manager DeVault. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Employee Handbook

Attorney Torseth clarified that the District handbook dealing with accrued vacation is legal. Under a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling, vacation time is not a guaranteed part of employment, but rather is a contract point.

d. Audit

Administrator Shaver stated that he has an exit interview with the auditor on Monday. The auditor will provide a final report—subject to Board approval—after the interview.

11. Discussion

a. Future Meetings Calendar

Administrator Shaver stated that there will be a workshop on the plan amendment on April 23. There were no noted conflicts with the meeting dates.

b. Washington County Public Works Project

Administrator Shaver reported that the County is adding an addition to its public works building and asked the District to participate in a cost share for water

quality improvements beyond requirements. There is some frontage along the Gateway Trail where raingardens and interpretive signs could be added.

c. Plan Amendment—Comments and Next Steps

Administrator Shaver reported that he met with Mary Peterson (BWSR) about the plan amendment. Ms. Peterson was noncommittal about a process change to present a draft to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and then ask for comments. Once the TAC provides comments, the draft plan and TAC comments will be presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee. The final TMDL Implementation Plan will be incorporated into the plan amendment.

12. Bills to be Paid

Manager DeVault moved to pay bills in the amount of \$12,507.51. Second by Manager Polasik Motion carried 5-0.

13. Administrator's Report

a. Water Consortium

At last week's meeting the County presented its new Septic System Incentive Program to fix failing septic systems. This is a loan program with a payback in four to 10 years. Administrator Shaver will propose, for Board consideration, adding failing septic systems within 500 feet of a water body to the District Cost Share Program.

b. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

The District and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) are sponsoring an AIS program on March 15 featuring Lake Doctor Steve McComas.

c. AIS Symposium and Annual Day at the Capitol

Sponsored by Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) on March 19 at Kelly Inn in St. Paul. A reception for state lawmakers and watershed district representatives follows the symposium.

d. St. Croix River Basin Conference —April 8 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

e. Cover Crop Presentation—June 10 or 11 at the Bancroft-Arnold farm.

f. MAWD Summer Tour

Collaboration in the St. Croix Basin, June 18 in Stillwater, hosted by Washington County watershed districts.

g. CLFLWD

Mike Kinney has been hired as the new administrator.

h. Stillwater Boomsite

Manager Polasik stated that on June 12th there will be a 100th anniversary celebration of the last log that went through the Boomsite.

14. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is April 9, 2014. The March 26, 2014 meeting is canceled.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by
Debbie Meister, MMC Associates, LLP