



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
January 2, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of January 2, 2019, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Marj Ebensteiner, President
Cliff Aichinger, Vice President
Dianne Ward, Treasurer
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Chris O'Brien, Communications Coordinator

Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Laurann Kirschner, Attorney for District
Randee Edmundson, Ames Lake Community
Shawn Murphy, McDonald's
Joe Bailey, McDonald's

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ebensteiner at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2018

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Manager Aichinger noted that this is an informal year-end balance and asked for input on items that are potentially coming in under budget. Tina Carstens provided additional clarification, noting that the GIS item is in the maintenance phase and advised that the line-item budget has been decreased for 2019. She stated that the communications and marketing budget for 2018 was created before Chris O'Brien came on board and therefore that line item was done as an estimate and has now been better refined. She stated that she will follow up on the education and outreach line item.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the January 2, 2019, bill list as submitted. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS None.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-01: McDonald's Suburban Ave – St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm stated that this is an update of an existing McDonald's and will utilize an underground filtration system. She stated that the site will provide an excess of filtration, but the District caps the excess at two inches and therefore the application will fall short of the requirement and the applicant will pay into the District's fund. She stated that staff will propose a rule change in the future to increase that cap from two inches to 2.5 inches.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-01. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Permit #19-02: Valley Creek Retail – Woodbury

Manager Aichinger stated that in his opinion he does not believe that a sumped catch basin would be enough because of the sediment and suggested that perhaps during the future rules discussion the use of a SAFL baffle should be considered as a requirement. Nicole stated that pre-treatment is reviewed project by project. She stated that the District has shied away from suggested prescriptive things in the past. Brad Lindaman stated that a performance standard could be added that would be equivalent of what is provided by SAFL baffle, but noted that he would not want to prescribe that specific element. Nicole noted the special provisions and variance request, noting that this is similar to the Morrie's request that the Board considered the previous month.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-02 with the variance and special provisions. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Permit #19-03: Keller Practice Range Phase 2 – Maplewood

Nicole stated that the stormwater plan was approved by the Board in May of 2018 and after it was conditionally approved, the design changed. She stated that the project was then split in two phases with only grading occurring in 2018 and the remainder to occur in 2019.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-03. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Permit #19-04: Hiway Federal Credit Union – Woodbury

Nicole stated that this is a standard redevelopment site. She stated that underground infiltration is proposed for this project.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-04. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During December, zero notices were sent.

C. 2018 Permit Program Statistics and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Update

Nicole stated that she began the permit program summary the previous year and continued the reporting into 2018. She stated that three most common violations are the items that require the most maintenance. She stated that the applications for construction are decreasing and the wetland applications saw a slight increase, although noted that most of the wetland applications were delineations. She noted that despite a similar number of violations, the violations were less critical this year which is encouraging.

Manager Aichinger referenced the surety deductions, which only equal one or two percent of the total. He stated that if there is a violation and reinspection, there should be a deduction from surety. Tina Carstens noted that a large percentage of the projects are public projects (city or county) and surety is not collected on those projects. Manager Aichinger stated that if there is any reason the District is reinspecting, there should be a charge. Tina confirmed that the District is charging for reinspections. Nicole provided additional details on the grading system and the letters that require reinspection.

Nicole stated that in 2018 staff has begun a rule change process. She stated that staff is awaiting a redline copy from Capital Region. She stated that staff will bring the rule revisions before the Board in February and will release for the formal comment period. She noted that once the comments have been reviewed, the rules would tentatively be approved by this Board and the Capital Regional Board in early summer. She noted that a TAC meeting was held in September and the member cities and counties have already seen the proposed increases. She noted that some of the large increases are because the District has not made increases in many years. Tina stated that the meeting went well, and the information was well received.

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-01 CS: North Park Condo Association – Infiltration Basin

Paige Ahlborg stated that this is a partnership of two townhome complexes which share a large drainage area. She stated that staff has been working with the applicants since 2016 and this would install a large infiltration system and installation of native plants to deter erosion. She stated that the Conservation District will also be contributing grant funds. President Ebensteiner noted that several homes are impacted, estimating perhaps 50 families, and therefore this will be a good improvement. Manager Swope asked the total project cost. Paige stated that some bids were received and thus far the lowest bid was \$180,000. She stated that staff is requesting the maximum amount of \$200,000 and confirmed that total amount may not be used. She stated that the Conservation District is contributing \$30,000 as well.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-01 CS. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Permit #19-02 CS: DeVine – Shoreline Restoration

Paige Ahlborg stated that this is a shoreline restoration project on Kohlman Lake which will start this spring and finish in the fall. She stated that the homeowner is also signing up for two years of maintenance. Dave Vlasin stated that two neighbors are also interested but want to see how this project turns out first. Manager Swope stated that perhaps a case study is done showing additional information on the benefit and the process in order to gain additional participants.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-02 CS. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Permit #19-03 CS: Ames Lake Community Sculpture – Public Art

Paige Ahlborg stated that this is a public art piece on Ames Lake. She stated that this would be a replacement for a stolen sculpture. She stated that the cost-share in the past has been 50 percent. She noted that there will be a lot of in-kind and volunteer donations along with outreach and therefore is requesting the District fully fund the sculpture at a cost of \$6,000.

Randee Edmundson stated that Ames Lake restoration process occurred in the 1990's and stated that she and the artist that they are working with were both teachers during that time. She stated that the project involved six teams of students and teachers that reviewed the landscape of Ames Lake and worked with all the stakeholders throughout six years. She stated that a sculpture garden was chosen, and the sculpture was selected by all the partners. She stated that sculpture was installed in 2004 and taken in 2016. She stated that the Park and

Recreation Commission is handling the installation and insurance costs and is working with the artist to redesign the sculpture and make it less vulnerable to theft. She stated that Parks and Rec will also cover ongoing maintenance. She reviewed the other partners and the contributions that they will make. She stated that the District funds will cover the pouring of the sculpture.

Manager Aichinger asked if this will be a similar sculpture. Randee replied that this is an opportunity to renew that sculpture as a generation has passed. She stated that it will be an animal, but there will be community involvement that will provide direction to the artist on what is produced.

President Ebensteiner asked the dimensions of the sculpture. She asked if it would be visible from the roadway or whether you'd have to be in the park. Randee estimated about two feet by 28 inches by 10 inches deep. She confirmed that the stone is still there where the sculpture will be placed, and it will be visible from the roadway. She discussed some of the discussion that has occurred in relation to making the sculpture more secure.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-03 CS in the amount of \$6,000. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

B. Budget Status Update

Paige Ahlborg stated that the budget this year was increased to allow for some bigger projects that are anticipated.

8. ACTION ITEMS None.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended Noted.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Chris O'Brien provided additional details on the upcoming Phalen Freeze Fest. He stated that the District will have a booth that will most likely focus on smart-salting.

C. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update – Carrie Magnuson Noted.

D. Annual Meeting Reminder Noted.

President Ebensteiner stated that it would be interesting to know prior to the meeting if a member of the Board is interested in holding an office.

E. Administrator's Review

Tina Carstens noted that she will send an email confirming availability of the Board.

10. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. Project Technical Reports and Presentations: Battle Creek, Beaver and Owasso Lake Subwatershed Feasibility Studies – Josh Phillips, Barr Engineering

Brad Lindaman suggested that the discussion tonight focus on why the subwatershed feasibility studies are done and the potential projects that are identified. He noted that the Board could discuss how the information will be used going forward. He stated that this information is meant to start the discussion on how the information is used going forward. He explained that they are looking for cost-effective and feasible alternatives that will slow the degradation of the water bodies within the subwatersheds. He stated that the at-risk water bodies are not impaired and asked how much the District should invest into the water bodies to ensure that they do not become impaired. He provided specific information on different water bodies beginning with Beaver Lake. He explained that once the potential sites for BMPs are identified on desktop, the sites must be narrowed by sites that would actually work with the real-world conditions. He explained that 56 sites were identified via desktop, which was narrowed to eight in real-world conditions, and further narrowed to five sites that could be feasible.

Manager Aichinger stated that BMP 2 does not appear to provide any real benefit as the water would go through many wetlands before reaching Beaver Lake.

Brad stated that these studies provide a list of BMPs, but noted that does not mean the District will undertake these projects. He explained that the projects could be coupled with a city street project or another project or could be implemented as a capital improvement project.

President Ebensteiner asked if Hillcrest Golf Course would be a good site for a collaborative improvement project as that site redevelops. Tina Carstens confirmed that the District has been involved with the city of Saint Paul on the discussion for the redevelopment of that site.

Manager Aichinger noted that a living streets project with Saint Paul is another opportunity to improve the quality of the lake as well, similar to what has been done in Maplewood. He stated that in lake treatment for Beaver Lake would possibly be much more beneficial than reducing the contributions that come into the lake. Tina noted that will be discussed in the next year as well because that is also true for other lakes within the District. Manager Aichinger noted that this area is pretty much developed, with the exception of Hillcrest, and therefore that redevelopment should be closely watched, but there are not a lot of other development opportunities in that subwatershed.

Brad noted that the total load reduction that would be gained through the practical projects is small, but explained that there could be benefit if those are used as demonstration and educational projects. He provided additional information on the cost benefit analysis for the projects, noting that some of the potential projects have a high cost per pound of removal.

Bill Bartodziej asked if there would be flood level benefits to the projects. Brad noted that it would be minimal. He explained that this was a water quality study and therefore flood reduction was not a focus of the Beaver Lake study. He moved on to the Lake Owasso study and provided background information on the lake and study area. He provided specific information on Lake Owasso. He stated that the desktop analysis began with 41 sites and was narrowed to ten sites. He stated that there were limited sites that would provide benefit and noted that perhaps those projects would be candidates for stewardship grant funds.

Manager Aichinger identified a site owned by Roseville that could be a potential site for a project. He stated that a small improvement to control the curly leaf pond weed could improve the water body. Tina noted that carp management would also continue. Bill replied that curly leaf pond weed has been decreased in the last few years. He agreed that it is beneficial to continue to reduce the carp biomass in the lake.

Brad provided a cost benefit analysis of the potential projects, noting that the cost for some of the projects is near \$10,000 per pound of reduction. He provided similar cost benefits of other District projects which range in \$500 to \$4,000 per pound of removal. Tina stated that the District typically looks for a cost benefit of less than \$5,000 per pound for projects.

Brad reviewed the results of the Battle Creek study and provided specific information on the water body. He stated that the list of projects the District has done in the subwatershed has helped to improve the water quality. He stated that watershed runoff remains the primary source of loading for the lake. He stated that 50 desktop sites were identified, which was narrowed to twelve sites which were visited and was then narrowed to five sites. He stated that four of the sites would be rain gardens, which do not provide a large reduction. He stated that the 694/494 interchange does present a substantial opportunity. He stated that a pond could be retrofitted and would provide a large load reduction.

Manager Aichinger noted that there are research studies regarding excavation of ponds and those results could be implemented in the District. He noted that continued inspections and maintenance will continue to play a large

role as well. He believed that this subwatershed provides a lot of opportunities to improving ponds. Tina noted that wetlands would also be an element along with ponds.

Brad asked the threshold for future studies as projects are identified. He stated that it would be helpful to judge the projects against each other based on a unified approach. He stated that community engagement and education opportunities are harder to judge. Manager Swope said the educational element of a project that does not provide much of an impact. Tina stated that even though a project may not make a huge water quality impact in its location, it does have educational value to the public. Brad explained that projects do help people to think about the amount of runoff that is generated and how that runoff could be reduced.

President Ebensteiner stated that spending \$10,000 per pound for removal does not seem logical. She commented that some of the opportunities identified and would be highly visible deserve a first look because they do contribute to educational impact. Tina noted that other benefits would also be reviewed in addition to water quality, such as impervious surface removal and pollinator friendly projects. Manager Aichinger stated that if the cost exceeds \$5,000 per pound, perhaps then in lake treatment options are reviewed. Tina stated that the District has a robust cost benefit database and staff could update the review of that to provide an average and range. Bill stated that phosphorus is just one element that is removed through projects like rain gardens and stated that other harmful elements are also removed.

Brad confirmed that the projects identified in these studies were simply a list of opportunities and is not a prioritized list. He explained that, while some could be considered as a capital improvement project, like the 696/494 interchange, other projects would be good candidates for the stewardship grant program.

Manager Swope asked if other benefits could be factored in, such as those mentioned by Bill Bartodziej. Brad confirmed those could be factored in when reviewing a potential project, it is simply not included in the modeling process. He confirmed that staff will take these potential opportunities along with the additional opportunities mentioned by the Board tonight to develop a scoring criteria that includes some of the other factors that have been mentioned to develop an opportunities list. Tina noted that the opportunity results from the other subwatershed studies that have been completed are all being compiled onto a list and GIS layer, noting that these will be added.

Brad reviewed some of the elements that have been implemented to address internal loading within the lakes, as well as things to consider moving forward. He stated that the Board will need to discuss how far they would like to go to protect some of the at-risk lakes in the future.

B. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

- i. Owasso Park Stormwater Master Plan
- ii. Beltline Resiliency Study
- iii. District Office Parking Lot Retrofit
Brad Lindaman noted that Matt Kumka will provide an update at the next meeting on this item.
- iv. Lake Owasso Emergency Response Plan
- v. Grass Lake/Snail Lake Area Emergency Response Plan
- vi. FEMA Flood Mapping
- vii. West Vadnais Lake Outlet Permitting
- viii. 500 Year Atlas 14 Modeling
- ix. Auto Lake Monitoring Systems
- x. Maplewood Mall Monitoring

Manager Aichinger referenced the Maplewood Mall monitoring, noting that the inspection phase has been completed and asked if staff have comments to share. Brad Lindaman noted that Barr Engineering will provide a presentation with recommendations at the next Board meeting.

President Ebensteiner noted that there are some trees near the entrances and exits of the mall parking lot and it would be helpful to ensure sightlines are clear. Dave Vlasin noted that the mall had trees around the perimeter of the parking lot and those are most likely trees planted by the mall and not the trees planted within the District project area. Tina Carstens noted that staff can follow up with mall staff to discuss that issue.

- xi. 2018 Grant Applications
Tina Carstens noted that this is in regard to the spent lime project. She stated that Barr Engineering received the grant with the District as a partner.
- xii. Kohlman Basin Weir Test System
- xiii. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project
- xiv. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- xv. Roseville High School Campus Project
- xvi. BMP Design Assistance and Review
Paige noted that under shoreline restoration projects, Duck Lake should actually be Snail Lake.
- xvii. Aldrich Arena Site Design
- xviii. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel
- xix. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019 Project
- xx. Natural Resources Program
- xxi. Education Program
Manager Aichinger stated that the look of the report was different this month and asked if there was a purpose. Tina Carstens noted that Sage provided some reflections on some of the things she has been thinking of and contacts that she has had conversations with. She noted that the typical format would resume next month.
- xxii. Communications Program
Bill Bartodziej stated that the County selected a contractor for the Vadnais/Snail Regional Park project and some changes will occur over the winter season. He stated that there are five signs on key locations along the walking path and Chris O'Brien has been providing updates on the District website as well.

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS No comments.

12. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

Manager Ward thanked staff for the holiday party, noting that it was a nice time.

13. ADJOURN

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 (Skinner absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary