



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
April 4, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of April 4, 2018, 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 (arrived at 6:36 p.m.)
Dianne Ward, Treasurer
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Simba Blood, Natural Resources Specialist
Evan Christensen, Barr Engineering
Carol Stadler, Snail Lake Resident
Bruce Copley, Crestview Resident
Lauren Clavens, Kimley Horn

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Chris O'Brien, Communications Coordinator
Amy Thomas, Snail Lake Resident
Brendan Elegert, Kimley Horn

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (Cliff Aichinger absent)

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2018

Tina Carstens noted that under Managers Present, the roles for Manager Skinner and Manager Ward should be reversed. She noted that under the Project and Program Status Report, the comments from Brad Lindaman should be moved from the CIP Maintenance/Repairs 2018 to the Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel item.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. (Cliff Aichinger absent)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve the April 4, 2018, bill list as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Cliff Aichinger absent)

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #18-06: Phalen Retail Development – St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm noted that the applicant is requesting to bank the additional credits for future use.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-06. Motion carried unanimously. (Cliff Aichinger absent)

Permit #18-07: Wakefield Park Improvements – Maplewood

Nicole Soderholm stated that this is a rehabilitation of buildings and trails. Tina Carstens noted that this is the first phase of the park project. She advised that the District is working with the parks department and City of Maplewood for larger improvements. She noted that there is a public open house meeting this week. President Ebensteiner asked if there is space for an urban garden. Tina noted that there are still ongoing discussions and advised that she could bring up that idea.

Manager Aichinger arrived.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #18-07. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During March zero notices were sent.

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #18-04 CS: Vesterholt – Shoreline Restoration

Paige Ahlborg stated that this is a large shoreline restoration project and noted that the resident has already signed up with the District for maintenance. Manager Ward noted that perhaps the District could advertise in their association newsletter to alert other homeowners to the project and advertise the District program.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #18-04 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit #18-05 CS: Lionsgate – Rain Garden and Native Habitat Restoration

Paige Ahlborg stated that this is a new school in Shoreview, explaining that the applicant is renovating an old industrial property and turning it into a charter school. She provided additional details on the rain garden and native plantings. President Ebensteiner asked if there is a chance for an urban garden. Paige replied that would not be applicable in this location because the area is all asphalt, exception for this space.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-05 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Skinner referenced a rock ditch near the Harley Dealership and asked if that would be an opportunity for a District project. Tina Carstens replied that site utilizes underground treatment. Paige provided additional details about upcoming shoreline restoration projects in that area.

B. Budget Status Update

No comments.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Change Order No. 6 – Beltline and Battle Creek Tunnel Repair Project

Brad Lindaman stated that the deadline had been extended to March 15th. Since then through yesterday, the contract administration, the time that being in the tunnel that Barr and others have used, is at \$15,600. He stated that there are still some items remaining for the next few days. He stated that if the change order is approved, the substantial completion date would then be changed to this Friday, April 6th. He stated that there were additional quantities than included on the original bid form, noting that equates to extra work but does not require a change order. He stated that the contractor has as many people in the tunnel as they can safely have in order to get this work completed. He stated that the work began two years ago, and the contractor was aware of the scope of the job, noting that additional time was allotted last spring and summer as well. He stated that because of the work that has occurred in the past few weeks, he believes the date could be extended to the end of this week. He estimated that the cost would range about \$20,000 by the end of the week.

Manager Skinner asked and received confirmation that the contractor could have had the additional workers before the past few weeks. She received confirmation that the additional costs incurred are for the Barr Engineering staff that must be on site and the equipment. She recognized that there were additional quantities which equated to additional work. Brad noted that the Board can accept the extension and not accept the liquidated damages. He stated that the contractor has done about 11 percent more than the bid document.

Manager Aichinger stated that because there was additional work, he would be okay with the two weeks that it required to finish the work. Dave Vlasin noted that the contractor was allowed to work an additional 1.5 months the previous spring and summer.

President Ebensteiner asked for legal opinion. Tracey Galowitz stated that it is the decision of the Board to allow for the overage in return for the additional work. She believed it to be reasonable. Tina Carstens also noted that staff believes it reasonable to approve the extension.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Change Order No. 6 for the Beltline and Battle Creek Tunnel Repair Project. Motion carried unanimously.

9. BOARD EDUCATION PRESENTATION: GROUNDWATER 101

Evan Christensen, Barr Engineering, stated that based on the input of the Board, he has developed presentations on specific requested topics. He noted that tonight he will focus on groundwater. He stated that most of the core twin cities area is covered by two deep water aquifers. He stated that in almost all cases, groundwater and surface water are connected. He provided information on local and regional flow systems and provided additional details on the water interaction between groundwater and surface water and the different categories.

Evan provided the applicable categories. He noted that there are multiple elements that impact the volume of a lake, rather than just the groundwater interaction. He confirmed that all the lakes in the District are categorized and provided a map which highlights the different water bodies and their category. He stated that along with that categorization report, there was also a vulnerability report included that identifies if a water body would be vulnerable to a change in the groundwater system. He provided a map identifying groundwater flow directions, noting that in the District groundwater tends to flow towards the Mississippi River. He stated that groundwater recharge can come from infiltration of precipitation or leakage from a lake or stream. He provided figures on groundwater recharge in the District throughout the past five years. He noted that the past five years have been wet and therefore the groundwater is higher overall throughout the District. He used the Grass Lake subwatershed as an example and provided groundwater recharge information from 1988 through 2016. He noted that the last five years have been very high groundwater recharge years, which results in high groundwater levels. He stated that a big storm water event can raise the groundwater for a small amount of time, but these high recharge years can raise the groundwater regionally which takes longer to dissipate. He stated that historically the groundwater levels near Snail Lake are further away from the lake stage and explained that the potential is there for more water

to leave the lake into the groundwater system. He stated that in wet years that potential is lost and there is not as much water leaving the lake. He provided details on the White Bear Lake lawsuit. He reviewed data on simulated effect of pumping for scenarios involving and regional reductions, irrigation, and individual permits. He reviewed potential impacts to the District because of the lawsuit. He provided information on per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and stated that every landfill contains those materials. He stated that PFAS were designed to resist degradation and travel more quickly through groundwater. He identified the locations of the 3M disposal sites and noted that although the sites are outside of the District, the groundwater contamination is going to move through the District towards the Mississippi River. He reviewed details of the 3M lawsuit and stated that it may be helpful for a representative from the District to be a part of the discussions for the groundwater treatment that will result from the lawsuit.

Tina Carstens noted that the District staff has begun discussions. Chris O'Brien stated that there is fairly wide discretion as to how the funds will be used. He stated that the funds should first be used for drinking water related projects, but after that, projects that the District does would be eligible. He stated that the projects do not need to be geared to remove the PFAS, but rather stop runoff and improve wildlife habitat. Evan stated that there is one group that will focus on drinking water and how to ensure that will be safe. He stated that there are things that the District could do and should be aware of. He agreed that it could be a pool of money for the District to draw from.

Manager Skinner noted that every person has accumulated PFAS in their body. Evan agreed that every person in the world has PFAS in their blood, noting that even polar bears in the arctic has PFAS. Manager Skinner referenced the plant harvesting projects that the District is doing and stated that it would be helpful to know if that harvested material contains PFAS. She asked if there is a way to get rid of PFAS. Evan stated that there has been a lot of investigation, but thus far there is nothing natural that removes PFAS. He stated that there are ways to treat drinking water to remove PFAS.

Manager Skinner asked what else was in the barrels that leaked from the 3M barrels. She stated that she has asked at the 3M level and government level and has been told that they do not have to release that information. She noted that she is concerned with the unknown elements.

President Ebensteiner commented that this was a very well-done presentation and thanked Evan for sharing the information. Manager Aichinger stated that this is a great explanation of why Snail Lake is high and has been high and that it will take longer for the water level to decrease because of the increased groundwater.

President Ebensteiner noted that the 3M lawsuit could be an opportunity for the District to gain funds for projects. Chris stated that staff has reached out to the PCA and will attend a meeting on April 10th to gain additional information. Manager Skinner suggested that staff look for opportunities to collaborate with other entities, such as the DNR.

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

No comments.

C. Watershed-Based Clean Water Funding

Tina Carstens stated that staff continues to meet with the counties noting that staff is looking at targeted retrofit projects and the Wakefield Park project.

D. Legislative Update

Chris O'Brien stated that there is a House and Senate bill that would provide limited liability to private applicators of salt in exchange for those applicators taking PCA training. He noted that there has been bipartisan support for the bills. He stated that staff continues to follow this closely. He stated that St. Paul is looking to possibly pass a resolution of support. He stated that there is a collation of several watershed districts and the Freshwater Society that support this and have asked the District if they would like to join. He stated that this seems to be a good step forward as the cities that have taken the training have reduced the amount of salt they use.

Tina Carstens stated that staff has talked to the MAWD representatives on a number of the issues at the capital. He stated that MAWD has not been heavily involved but they are following this in support. She stated that if the Board is supportive, staff could alert the coalition and the District could be added in support. The consensus of the Board was to join the coalition.

Tina stated that there were some emails from the west metro watersheds on using funds from the watershed based clean water funds for chloride education. Tina noted that if the Board agrees staff would also send a letter in support to local representatives. It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to send the letter.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to support the Stop Over-Salting coalition. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

A. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

i. Flood Control/Beltline Resiliency Study

ii. Snail Lake/Grass Lake Study

Manager Swope asked for details on the March 28th meeting with the DNR. Brad Lindaman stated that the topic of lowering the outlet elevation was discussed and the response was that the DNR would like District staff and Barr Engineering to meet with a larger group of DNR staff. He stated that there seems to be a path to that discussion. He noted that today staff met with representatives from St. Paul Regional Water Supply and that it seemed that operating at a lower level had some promise as an option. He was optimistic that the lake level could be moved down a little. He stated that there was quite a bit of discussion on the water quality piece, noting that phosphorus was a concern as well as other chemicals. He noted that staff has that list and will determine the cost to test for those elements. He stated that both meetings were good, and staff is optimistic. He stated that they are making headway hauling clay near Gramsie Road to begin that work.

iii. Snail, Grass and West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting

iv. District Wide Atlas 14 Modeling

v. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project

vi. BMP Design Assistance

vii. Owasso Basin Improvements

viii. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel

ix. CIP Maintenance/Repair 2018

x. Frost/Kennard Project

xi. Willow Pond CMAC Project

xii. Natural Resources Program

Manager Aichinger was wondering if it is getting more difficult to catch the Carp and stated that perhaps an educational video could be made on how to fish for Carp that could be played at Waterfest or YouTube. Simba Blood stated that the problem that they had with Carp this past year was the infrastructure and not the fish themselves. She agreed that an educational video could be a great component. She agreed that the staff could gain input from the consultant assisting on the

shallow lakes video. She noted that Phalen would be a good location for fishing, because netting has not been as successful in that lake.

xiii. Education Program

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No comments.

13. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

Manager Swope stated that he had the opportunity to tour sites around the District with staff to see some of the projects that have been completed. He noted that it was very helpful to see projects that have been completed and not just see them on paper.

Tina Carstens asked the Board to respond if they are able to attend the award presentation from the Freshwater Society.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary