



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
January 8, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of January 8, 2020, 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
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Viet-Hanh Winchell, Attorney for District
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Bruce Copley, Crestview Addition

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Mary Fitzgerald, Permit Inspector
Stan Martin, Twin Lake
Burt Johnson, President Twin Lake Association

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Manager Ward requested to add Item 9F, Communication Position, to the agenda.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2019

B. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2019

Nicole Soderholm noted that for the minutes of December 11, 2019, under Permit #19-50, the first paragraph, it should state, "...there is an existing building within the floodplain, and in order to do an expansion, the ~~building~~ proposed addition would not meet the freeboard requirements." Within the same paragraph, it should state, "...staff would not recommend approval if this action would cause adverse impacts to the floodplain..." In the fourth paragraph, it should state, "Nicole Soderholm stated that the existing first floor elevation is ~~939.3~~ 940.4." In the tenth paragraph, it should state, "Nicole Soderholm stated that the parcel boundary on the west side is very close to the building and a berm would require more ~~wetland~~ floodplain fill and could cause additional ~~flood~~ wetland impacts."

Brad Lindaman referenced the December 11, 2019, minutes, line two, of paragraph 16, noted that it should state, "Brad Lindaman stated that this would most likely return to the Board at the February meeting with the preliminary design however easement acquisition and permit approval may extend the process for several months but the information could be distributed before that time for review." He referenced the minutes of December 17, 2019, it should state, "...to reduce the flood risk to habitable structures without purchasing structures. System modifications in the draft study provide one option for mitigating flood risk and in many locations additional feasibility studies would be required to optimize mitigations."

Manager Swope noted that in the December 11, 2019, minutes, under the MAWD Annual Meeting Discussion, the second paragraph, it should state, "...awards of recognition were given out to Watershed Districts that had been in existence for 50 years or more."

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Manager Aichinger asked for additional clarification on fund 531 and asked if that was used for the Aldrich Arena and Frost Avenue projects. Tina Carstens noted that those projects would be funded through the targeted retrofit fund. She noted that there was discussion related to using the 531 fund for the Target projects this year.

Manager Ward asked if subtotals could be added for the different budget categories. Tina confirmed that could be added to the document.

Manager Ward asked for what caused the overage on the Keller Creek project. Bill Bartodziej stated that Ramsey County will be reimbursing the District for some of the costs of the Wetland A restoration, which will bring some of that cost down. He believed the reimbursement amount is \$25,000 which will offset the \$15,000 overage currently shown.

By consensus, the December 8, 2020, bill list was approved as submitted. No motion was made.

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Copley stated that a group of residents submitted comments related to the draft Beltline Study. He stated that the residents appreciate the opportunity to provide their comments and feel that the study is important and relevant. He stated that one piece of the study provided additional detail on the seasonal pumping of West Vadnais Lake, and noted that it appears that there would be an advantage to the Crestview residents to pump water out of West Vadnais Lake. He stated that he would like to see the Board take another serious run at trying to do that, to decrease the water levels. He stated that pumping West Vadnais Lake seems to be more cost effective and provide more protection than the other option, which involved the pipes.

Burt Johnson, 205 Twin Lake Trail, spoke in representation of the Twin Lake Association. He stated that the Association was formed to deal with three issues: to return an outlet to Twin Lake, to reroute West Vadnais, and to improve water quality. He stated that the petition related to ditch 16 stands before the Board and thanks the Board for the action taken at the last meeting. He stated that he would appreciate a more open dialogue between the Association and District staff. He stated that he was unable to attend the draft Beltline Resiliency Study meeting and therefore when he read the information without a presentation, he was unable to fully understand the information and therefore could not provide comments.

Stan Martin, the resident that submitted the petition to the District, noted that he is present to address any questions the Board may have when that agenda item comes forward. President Ebensteiner noted that because that petition is on the agenda, there is consensus of the Board that if there are questions the Board can address those

and have discussion with Mr. Martin. Manager Swope suggested moving the item forward on the agenda to discuss next. President Ebensteiner confirmed that the Board should move that item to be considered next on the agenda.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

E. Petition to Repair Ditch 16

Tina Carstens noted that included in the packet was the petition filed by Mr. Martin, as well as additional information from Tracey Galowitz. Viet-Hanh Winchell stated that the petition is a request to repair, rather than a threat for litigation, which is why the item can appear on the agenda rather than in closed session. She stated that the procedure and timeline was included for review of the petition in that manner and provided a brief summary of that process. Manager Aichinger agreed that the Board should just continue to consider and take action on this matter, rather than requiring involvement from Ramsey County.

Viet-Hanh stated that a feasibility study has already been completed that would address the concerns in the petition. She suggested that a written response be provided to the petition.

Manager Swope asked if Mr. Martin would be satisfied if information is presented and reviewed at either the February or March meeting. Mr. Martin stated that as long as the water from the Frattalone property is taken away from the lake, he would be satisfied. He stated that the intended idea for the petition is to have the Frattalone fields dry and keep the water away from Twin Lake.

Manager Aichinger provided additional details on having the option to have the outlet closed to prevent water from the MnDOT wetland to flow back into Twin Lake. Brad asked if Mr. Martin is asking that no water from the Frattalone property drain to Twin Lake. Mr. Martin clarified that his request would be for water to not flow from the Frattalone property under normal conditions. He acknowledged that under large storm events, water would drain from the Frattalone property into Twin Lake. Brad stated that he would not want to imply that under certain conditions the water would not flow there.

Manager Swope asked how the Board would like to address the petition going forward. Manager Aichinger stated that the petition has been acknowledged, the Feasibility Study has been completed, a concept plan has been reviewed, and the Board is working to develop the specifics (design and operating plan) that will add more detail to the project.

Brad explained that details of the operating plan are important to determine the risk to downstream structures. Manager Aichinger stated that the Board accepts the petition and that action is necessary and will continue to determine the details that will provide the best option in moving forward.

Manager Swope asked if the resident would be in agreement with leaving the petition open, pending the development of the operating plan for the Twin Lakes overflow option. Mr. Martin confirmed he would be in agreement with that. Tina noted that the Board would also need to respond to the petition. President Ebensteiner noted that the purpose tonight is to acknowledge receipt of the petition and provide a response, rather than to discuss the options. Viet-Hanh explained that the response of the Board does not have to be satisfactory to the resident. Manager Ward asked that the response summarize what is already known based on the data already collected and outline the issues still to be decided. She noted that the Board already decided to move forward with option four. Manager Aichinger stated that a timeline for the proposed project could also be included.

Viet-Hanh stated that the scope and depth of the response is the decision of the Board, noting that it could be done in summary form or could include additional detail. President Ebensteiner confirmed the consensus of the Board to respond in written form. Tina suggested that the response outline what is known, the facts the decision is based on, outline the decision made at the last meeting, and outline the timeline and next steps. Viet-Hanh confirmed that she would work with Tina to draft the response letter. Brad stated that staff has begun the design process for the outlet and hoped to present a draft design to the Board at the next meeting.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #20-01: Carver Elementary School Addition – Maplewood

Nicole Soderholm stated that this would add an addition to the elementary school.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #20-01. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit #20-02: Conway Recreation Center Athletic Fields – St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm stated that this will include underground filtration drainage for the synthetic turf with a seasonal dome. Manager Aichinger stated that it appears the turf area drains to the north and does not actually go through the underground filtration system. Nicole provided additional details on the function of the drain tile.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #20-02. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Updates

Nicole noted that she, Tina Carstens and Brandon Barnes met with staff from the City of Woodbury the previous week as the City is declaring a State of Emergency this week for their drinking water related to PFAS contamination. She reported that six drinking water wells were closed and anticipate peak demand issues in the summer months. She stated that the City is working to develop a water treatment system. She stated that the City may move forward with a temporary grading permit prior to the main permit coming forward, and therefore the activity may begin prior to the Board reviewing the permit. Brad Lindaman stated that staff could provide a presentation related to PFAS in the future if desired. Manager Skinner suggested that the presentation be made more specific to this region.

Nicole stated that the wetland replacement line for the gold line should come before the Board at the next meeting.

C. Monthly Enforcement Report

During December, two notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (1) and install/maintain perimeter control (1).

D. Permit Summary 2017 – 2019 and Inspection Presentation

Nicole Soderholm stated that she could address any questions the Board may have related to the information she submitted in the packet. She noted that violations decreased even with the number of inspections increasing. She stated that the increase in the fee also helped to cover the cost of inspections. Manager Skinner stated that perhaps staff include the percentage of permits that experienced violations as well. She noted that would make it easier to compare years, as each year has a different number of permits which can relate to the number of inspections.

Mary Fitzgerald presented to the board on 2019 inspections for both permits and the stewardship grant program.. She provided a summary of the permit inspections that she conducted this past season, provided statistics on private and public projects and the number of inspections completed. She displayed a chart identifying the different violations issued. She noted that the rainfall events made it difficult for some contractors to maintain erosion control measures. She stated that ongoing inspections helps to build the relationship between staff and the contractor and maintain accountability. She stated that she also performed BMP inspections, which inspect permanent stormwater systems for closed permits and reviewed those results. She highlighted some of the improvements that were needed for those projects that received lower grades.

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

- A. Applications - None.
- B. Budget Status Update - No comments.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Board of Managers Annual Meeting

Tina Carstens reviewed the three items that require action by the Board.

Manager Ward stated that she believes that things are working great. She asked if it would be helpful to rotate different officers. President Ebensteiner stated that she has participated on a number of Boards and most do not rotate through officer positions as some people prefer not to hold certain positions. Manager Aichinger stated that things are going well and President Ebensteiner runs a great meeting.

Manager Ward stated that she would like to be Secretary. Manager Swope stated that he would be Treasurer.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, Marj Ebensteiner as President, Cliff Aichinger as Vice President, Lawrence Swope as Treasurer, and Dianne Ward as Secretary for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to appoint Barr Engineering, Galowitz Olson, and Redpath and Company to continue as the consultants for 2020.

Further discussion: Brad thanked the Board for their continued confidence with Barr. He noted that Barr staff get excited to work on District projects.

Viet-Hahn Winchell stated that the law firm also enjoys working with the District. Manager Aichinger stated that it is great to see how the law firm has adapted with new staff members.

Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Aichinger referenced the change in newspaper coverage and asked for additional details on the attempt to publish in *Pioneer Press*. Viet-Hahn provided details on a previous attempt to work with *Pioneer Press*. She stated that there is a higher cost to use the *Star Tribune* or *Pioneer Press*. She confirmed that the newspapers as proposed would meet the requirement of the law. Manager Aichinger noted that notices are also listed on the District website.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the current Official Bank of Deposit and designate the *White Bear Press*, *Shoreview Press* and *Stillwater Gazette* as the official newspapers and direct staff to investigate the cost of using the *Star Tribune*. Motion carried unanimously.

President Ebensteiner commented that this is a great team of Board members and staff.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (Continued)

- A. Meetings Attended - No comments.
- B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates - No comments.

- C. LMCIT Insurance Dividend

Tina Carstens stated that this information was included for informational purposes.

D. City of Maplewood Pond Maintenance Loan

Tina Carstens stated that these three ponds were included in the CIP Maintenance and Repair Project. She stated that the bid prices were good, but the City does not have the funds available to complete all of the work this year and therefore is asking the District to fund the work with the City reimbursing the District in later years. Manager Aichinger stated that the City would basically be committing \$100,000 per year to the District to pay for these three pond projects. He asked if there would be additional maintenance on ponds needed during those future years and whether the City budget would be increased to cover the additional maintenance expenses that would occur. Tina stated that she is uncertain the plans of the City if there are additional maintenance needs in the next two years.

Manager Swope stated that the work on these ponds is needed and therefore it would be in the best interest to complete this work now, with the City paying back the additional funds in the next few years. Manager Aichinger agreed that the District has a good relationship with Maplewood, and this would help to ensure the necessary work is completed.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Maplewood for pond dredging. Motion carried unanimously.

E. ~~Petition to Repair Ditch 16~~ (discussed earlier in the agenda)

F. Communication Position

Tina Carstens stated that this week she posted the position description to two different job boards and also forward to different agencies that could assist in posting the position. She noted that the position will also be listed on the District website. Manager Ward stated that she attempted to find the draft Beltline Study on the District website, which was very difficult to find. She noted that some other information seems out of date. She suggested that perhaps a contractor be hired to make the website more up to date and accessible, if the position is not soon filled. Manager Swope stated that a communications person may not have expertise in website updating and perhaps staff should investigate the cost of a consultant to update the information and make it more accessible. Tina confirmed that staff could look into that.

10. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. New Project Memo: Beltline and Battle Creek Pipe Inspection

Brad Lindaman confirmed that they are at the five-year point for inspections. He noted that there would be a little less effort for this inspection compared to the last inspection. He summarized some of the safety elements required for staff. He noted that a summary of the report would be provided and would be used for documentation and identification of when certain issues may need repair. President Ebensteiner noted that the large and secondary repairs have been completed. Brad reported that staff is hoping to find very little major repair needs during this inspection because of the repair work that was completed after the last round of inspections.

B. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

i. Twin Lake Emergency Response Management 2019

Manager Ward commented that the West Vadnais Lake bypass pumping system has been setup and asked if some West Vadnais water could be pumped now to bring the water down before the larger solutions. Brad Lindaman stated that the purpose of the bypass pumping was to take the overflow and prevent it from getting to Twin Lake because of the low home that could be impacted. He stated that would be the purview of the Board as to whether to go down that path. He noted that the District would have to talk to MnDOT as that is not the purpose of that pipe. He stated that his comments would only be speculation as to the degree of benefit that would be provided but believed that the benefit to West Vadnais would be small and perhaps not even noticeable. Manager Aichinger stated that with snowmelt and spring rain, that could easily put the water that was pumped out back with no effort. Tina stated that staff could complete some calculations and could also provide a cost estimate.

ii. Beltline Resiliency Study

Manager Swope stated that staff was going to develop a process for potential review of the draft study and asked the next step.

Tina Carstens stated that there will be a similar presentation as was given to the board, given to city, county, and agency stakeholders on January 17th. She proposed to end the comment period at the end of January. She confirmed that she would put that deadline on the District website. She stated that the report would eventually be finalized, but would spawn additional studies going forward.

Manager Swope stated that he would want to ensure that people understand that the options in the study may not move forward based on the board receiving additional information and feasibility studies being completed.

Lawrence Manager Swope referenced the Keller and Phalen adjustments and asked for additional information on West Vadnais. Brad noted that additional study for West Vadnais outlet would be needed related to the specifics and sizing of the pipe that would be required. He stated that he would recommend a Feasibility Study to determine challenges that may in the way of accomplishing that action. He stated that a cost benefit analysis would be provided in the Feasibility Study. He stated that was not originally planned to come forward in February but that could be changed, if desired. He noted that was not one of the top three studies (Owasso Basin, Willow Creek and Ames Lake) listed as priority. He stated that originally three scopes of work, or elements of the Resiliency Study, for continued analysis along with the scope of work for the changes to the Keller and Phalen outlet structures were planned to come forward to the Board in February. Brad noted both the constant flow and the off-season pumping options would require a larger pipe through 694.

The consensus of the Board was to direct staff to bring forward a scope of work for the West Vadnais options as well. Manager Skinner stated that she does not have any problem including this scope, but does not want to see the Board forgetting about the rest of the District that is at risk just because of some squeaky wheels. Brad noted that he would bring forward the scope for four Feasibility Studies and one design project at the February meeting.

Manager Aichinger stated that perhaps it would make sense to have more localized meetings on the draft Beltline Study further along in the process in order to gather better input. Manager Skinner agreed that would be a good idea. Tina Carstens noted that also Ramsey County Commissioner is going to hold public meetings in different flood prone areas and perhaps that would be a good opportunity to present that information.

iii. Point Douglas Drive Study

Tina Carstens noted that this project was requested by the City of St. Paul.

iv. Twin Lake Flood Risk Mitigation Feasibility Study

v. FEMA Flood Mapping

vi. West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting

Manager Swope asked when the stakeholder meeting would be and who the stakeholders are. Tina Carstens stated that meeting is taking place this coming Friday and reviewed the stakeholders involved. Manager Ward asked the next step. Tina stated that the meeting would provide feedback and the District would continue working on the permitting process. Brad Lindaman noted that the design work for lowering the outlet has begun, in anticipation that support would be gained from the stakeholders.

vii. 500-Year Atlas 14 Modeling

Manager Swope asked if there could be a presentation about Atlas 14. He asked how Atlas 14 works. Manager Aichinger noted that it would be a fairly simple presentation that the Board has received in the past but acknowledged that most likely occurred prior to the newer members of the Board joining. Brad Lindaman confirmed that staff could provide a brief presentation, as it is important to understand how the data was gathered and how it is used. Manager Aichinger noted that a written distribution of the information would probably suffice.

- viii. Hillcrest Golf Course
- ix. Automated Lake Monitoring Systems
- x. Iron Aggregate Pond Research Project
- xi. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- xii. Kohlman Lake Macrophyte Management
- xiii. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2020 Project
- xiv. New Technology Review: BIPOD Stormwater Planter and Nutrient Removal Device

Manager Aichinger commented that the pods are interesting but expensive.

- xv. Natural Resources Program
- xvi. Education Program

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - No comments.

12. REPORTS OF MANAGERS - No comments.

13. ADJOURN

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Ward, Secretary