



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
November 6, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of November 6, 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
Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Eric Korte, Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Reese Sudtelgte, ISG/Elim Care
Sheila Otto, Crestview Addition
Mark McCabe, Ramsey Co. Parks and Recreation
Burt Johnson, 205 Twin Lake Trail
Joe and Chris Kammerer, 466 Suzanne Ave
Terry Telega, 253 Twin Lake Trail

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Gus Blumer, Ramsey County Parks
Bruce Copley, Crestview Addition
Ken Otto, Crestview Addition
Steve LaBerge, Crestview Addition
Amit Chandra, 3331 Twin Lake Ct.
Stan Martin, 289 Twin Lake Trail

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2019
- B. 2020 BMP Program Service Agreement with Washington Conservation District
- C. 2020 BMP Program Service Agreement with Ramsey County

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve the November 6, 2019, bill list as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Copley expressed concern with prioritization of the Beltline Study, noting that it is not clear how the criteria were selected and there has been no citizen input to date. He requested that the prioritization criteria be published and that the public is provided opportunity to comment. He noted that the residents that he represents would be impacted by certain actions within the study. He commented that the uniquely flat characterization of the area means that if flooding occurs it would take longer than normal to drain. He hoped that many of the projects could be completed concurrently. He suggested that the Owasso shunt and pumping of West Vadnais Lake occur to assist the residents in his area. He commented that a minimum pumping of West Vadnais Lake should occur this winter until a more permanent solution could be found. He asked that more water be brought out of his area.

Sheila Otto stated that the situation in her neighborhood is pretty grave, noting that the water is high in both Snail and Grass Lake and their yards are flooded. She stated that there is concern that additional homes will be flooded as well. She noted that winter does not provide any solace as the pumps freeze and water still rises. She commented that their homes are dependent on the Suzanne Pond pump, which was never meant to run continually. She commented that one neighbor was walking in his yard and his foot went into a sinkhole from water. She asked for more coordination with the City of Shoreview. She stated that when the City assumed responsibility for the pond, she would not imagine that the City would have believed the pumps would have to run continually. She stated that the residents in this area do not want this to be their normal as they are unable to use the trails or their backyards. She commented that one neighbor is removing water equal to one sixth of their swimming pool daily with his pumps. She stated that these residents have been waiting patiently for over four years. She noted that there are solutions and they are asking the District to implement them.

Burt Johnson stated that on behalf of the Twin Lake Association they urge the District to implement the West Vadnais bypass, reestablish the Twin Lake outlet on the southeast side, and that the District continue to communicate with the association/residents in the same manner it has. He asked for an update on the negotiations with the property owner to the southeast side of the lake, as that could impact whether an outlet could be reestablished. He echoed the desire for citizen input related to the Beltline Study.

Chris Kammerer stated that the previous week water was raising in her yard quite rapidly. She stated that she alerted public works and they have continued emergency pumping for the past six days. She noted that the water has still not receded to the previous level and she is concerned going into the winter under these conditions.

Amit Chandra stated that he represents the second lowest lot on Twin Lake and is concerned. He stated that there has been a lot of flooding and his home needed sandbagging. He commented that for all the hours spent they would like to see some advancement related to the water level. He understood that the District has responsibility to a greater area but believed that there has to be a solution to the problem.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-46: Snail Lake Beach Improvements – Shoreview

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-46.

Further discussion: Lawrence Swope referenced the 100-year highwater mark that is identified and asked where the previous 100-year highwater mark was. He asked what assurance there would be that the area would not flood again.

Gus Blumer commented that there is no assurance that the area would not flood. He commented that the 100-year highwater mark has not changed, they are simply building the beach up.

Dianne Ward asked what would be done if the water level decreases.

Gus Blumer replied that there would simply be a larger beach if the water levels decrease.

Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

Permit #19-47: Valley Creek-Woodlane Redevelopment – Woodbury

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-47. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

Permit #19-48: Elim Care Assisted Living – Maplewood

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-48. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During October, 15 notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (1), install/maintain perimeter control (3), install/maintain construction entrance (2), sweep streets (3), stabilize exposed soils (1), remove discharged sediment (1), maintain/protect permanent BMPs (1), install/maintain energy dissipation (1), and maintain temporary sediment basin (2).

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

None.

B. Budget Status Update

No comments.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2020 CIP Maintenance and Repair Project Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid

Erin Anderson Wenz advised that there are a lot of city paid for pond dredging projects proposed for 2020 and provided a brief summary of the details of each project. She provided additional details on the estimated costs for the pond dredging, explaining that because the sediment test results had not been received as of the Board meeting, a range of total potential dredging costs were presented for the engineer's opinion of cost. Also, some of the projects within the 2020 CIP bid package may be bid as alternates since it's not clear that the cities will choose to pursue some elements of the overall project, depending on cost. She stated that the range for the engineer's opinion of cost is from \$650,000 to \$1,100,000 but the most likely estimated opinion of project cost of \$512,800 (based on the total budget that the member cities had set aside for the work). She confirmed that a portion of that cost would be reimbursed from the member cities.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve the preliminary design, estimated costs, and proposed project schedule, and direct staff to finalize the design and bidding documents and advertise the project for bid.

Further discussion: Lawrence Swope asked if this would simply prepare the design documents and advertise for bid but would not be ordering the work.

Erin confirmed that the bids received would be brought back before the Board for final approval and award. She stated that the bid would include the first list of projects and the ponds that would be likely to be completed with alternates for two additional ponds that may or may not be completed. She confirmed that the work for the ponds listed in the bid would be reimbursed by the cities.

Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

9. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. Presentation: Ongoing Program and Program Updates

- i. Grass/Snail Lake Area Flood Risk
- ii. Twin Lake Emergency Response Management 2019

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that since the last Board meeting West Vadnais elevation did increase, and the bypass project has been mobilized. She stated that on October 22nd the large structure was delivered to the site but given the wet conditions it was not ideal construction conditions and the decision was made to move the structure further north. She stated that the structure has not been installed as of yet because of the wet conditions. She reported that there is a temporary sump. She noted that although West Vadnais is high, the overflow has slowed and pumping is no longer needed at this time. She reported that staff is ready for the project.

Dave Vlasin reported that the city plans to let the Twin Lake pump run out of gas and then pull them out of the area.

Lawrence Swope asked what the current level of Twin Lake is.

Tina Carstens reported that today's elevation is 871.95.

Erin stated that they are also looking at different options to manage Twin Lake going forward, noting that those study results will be presented at the December Board meeting.

- iii. Beltline Resiliency Study

Erin Anderson Wenz noted that a report will be provided to the Board at a workshop in the near future.

- iv. FEMA Flood Mapping

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that this project has been ongoing for some time to update the 100-year flood mapping data used by FEMA.

- v. West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that upon the completion of the EAW, the decision has been made that an EIS is not necessary and therefore they can move forward to address the necessary steps for permitting. She confirmed that she could provide an updated timeline for the permitting process at the next Board meeting.

Lawrence Swope commented that there are funds in the budget for a drawdown and asked if that has been discussed for this winter.

Erin noted that would not occur this year, advising that a feasibility study would need to be completed to determine if there would be a benefit provided.

Lawrence Swope commented that if the level of West Vadnais is not addressed, the problems with flooding in that area will not be solved.

Erin noted that they are attempting to move through the options systematically. She confirmed that those bigger discussions will occur at the workshop in December in attempt to find a larger scale long-term solution.

Cliff Aichinger noted that this is a problem related to climate change and that cannot necessarily be engineered out of. He explained that the groundwater level is high and there are some problems that the District will not be able to solve. He used the example of pumping Wetland A, which did not provide a solution.

Lawrence Swope disagreed that there was not a benefit in pumping Wetland A.

vi. 500-Year Atlas 14 Modeling

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that flood risk maps were created for the entire watershed to determine where there are structures at risk for the different storm events, ranging from 2-year to 500-year events.

Tina Carstens noted that these maps will be used to meet with the member cities, similar to what was done with the Atlas 14 maps and information. She explained that not all of the at-risk areas are the responsibility of the District. She stated that she will be starting the public works forum meetings that will meet at least monthly going forward.

Cliff Aichinger suggested that a paragraph on the District website related to flooding from last spring be updated.

Erin noted that once the freeze levels are known, they can begin modeling in attempt to determine spring levels and that information would be shared.

President Ebensteiner asked and received confirmation that this information would be shared with the cities and counties.

vii. Hillcrest Golf Course

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that the property was purchased by the St. Paul Port Authority, noting that the entire site would be redeveloped as mixed-use light industrial. She stated that the city is working with Port Authority to determine how that site could be developed in that manner and still meet the goals and desires of the city as well.

President Ebensteiner noted that there has been mention of potential soil contamination.

Tina Carstens confirmed that the work the District is doing on the project helps to provide additional information.

Erin stated that it is a very interesting site and staff has been working to determine existing stormwater flow leaving the site, as well as flow rate capacity of adjacent, downstream storm sewer systems as well as permitting requirements.

viii. Wetland Restoration Site Search

Erin Anderson Wenz identified the sites that were part of the initial scope, noting that was expanded to include other flooded wetland areas. She noted that a technical report will soon be reviewed with District staff and the Board will discuss that information in a future workshop.

ix. Auto Lake Monitoring Systems

Erin Anderson Wenz provided a photograph of an automated lake monitoring system. She noted that the locations of the stations are identified on the map.

Dave Vlasin provided an update on the installation process which will soon be complete.

x. Maplewood Mall Monitoring

Erin Anderson Wenz noted that some areas of the project have gardens that are now 10 years old. She advised that there has been some tree replacement on site and some of the gardens that were not functioning properly are being rebuilt. She commented that work should be completed in the next week or so.

xi. Spent-Lime Pond Research Project

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that this is a research project that received an extension for next year. She stated that a spent lime application in a small pond south of Wakefield Lake ("Wakefield Pond") and subsequent monitoring will be completed next year to determine the impact on internal loads.

xii. Iron Aggregate Pond Application Research

Erin Anderson Wenz advised that this is another research project (in partnership with SAFL) that will help to determine if iron would reduce internal loading in stormwater ponds. This application will be at a pond in Shoreview Commons (City Hall campus).

xiii. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that excavation has begun, noting that this is part of a larger project.

xiv. Targeted Retrofit Projects

Erin Anderson Wenz highlighted some of the retrofit project locations which will be online next year. She noted that District staff has been working with two Target properties and a Motel 6 in hopes to bring those forward.

xv. Willow Pond CMAC

Erin Anderson Wenz provided photographs, noting that a test run was completed.

Dianne Ward asked if part of the results will include the benefit compared to the cost.

Erin confirmed that a cost benefit analysis had been presented to the Board before the project was constructed (based on modeling) and could be calculated again after more monitoring data is collected at the site.

xvi. Cottage Place Wetland Restoration

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that the concept has been completed and this has been tabled until the larger wetland discussion with the Board is completed.

xvii. Aldrich Arena

Erin Anderson Wenz reported that this project is nearing completion.

Mark McCabe commented that the last lift of pavement will occur next spring. He advised that mulch was installed today.

Gus Blumer provided details on an area of contamination that was discovered and therefore a rain garden was not installed on that location.

President Ebensteiner commented that this was an area that was previously not attractive and will now not only function well but will also be aesthetically pleasing.

xviii. Kohlman Lake Macrophyte Management

Bill Bartodziej stated that the model has been completed and will be used to help monitor shallow lakes more effectively. He noted that once the data is completed and finalized it would be available to share with other agencies/organizations.

xix. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019 Project

Erin Anderson Wenz provided an example of a project that was removed from the contractor's list because of the high-water conditions that prevented the work from being completed. She stated that the remainder of the work has been completed.

Tina Carstens noted that when conditions improve, the District can rebid the project.

- xx. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2020 Project
- xxi. 2019 Tanners Lake Alum Facility
- xxii. New Technology Review: In-Situ Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring
- xxiii. Natural Resources Program
- xxiv. Education Program

Lawrence Swope noted that the first page mentioned the higher than normal rainfall. He asked why Grass Lake overflowed in 2014, but not 2015 but then overflowed again in 2016.

Tina stated that it may have been event based.

Cliff Aichinger noted that there were some large rain events that occurred during certain years.

Lawrence Swope commented that he believes the events in 2014 caused the conditions that still exist today. He was curious as to why it happened again in 2016 but did not happen in 2015.

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

No comments.

C. MAWD Annual Meeting Information and Delegate Designation

Tina Carstens noted that President Ebensteiner and Lawrence Swope are planning to attend.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to appoint President Ebensteiner and Lawrence Swope as delegates for the MAWD annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

Cliff Aichinger noted that he may drive up for the day Friday.

Tina Carstens noted that this is the last meeting before the MAWD Annual Meeting and therefore this is the last opportunity to discuss any resolutions or Committee recommendations. She stated that the Committee did oppose the resolution submitted by the District because of a mention of a specific Twin Cities area. She suggested that the delegates amend the resolution on the floor to remove the urban language.

Cliff Aichinger noted that the urban information could still be shared and lobbied for at the legislature.

Lawrence Swope stated that he would be open to removing the urban language.

President Ebensteiner stated that it is her opinion that there is no point in attempting to debate on the floor at the conference. She stated that she would prefer the follow Cliff Aichinger's suggestion to bring the data to the legislature rather than bring this forward at MAWD.

Cliff Aichinger stated that he did not have any conflicts with the list of recommended/not recommended resolutions.

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dianne Ward mentioned a study at Michigan State related to the benefit of linking natural areas. She commented that could be considered as a benefit of ranking the wetland restoration sites.

Lawrence Swope asked for an update on the Communications Manager.

Tina Carstens noted that she is reviewing resumes and continuing to search for the right candidate.

Lawrence Swope asked if there would be a wetland meeting and Beltline Resiliency Study in December.

Tina Carstens noted that she would take guidance from the Board. She confirmed consensus to hold the Beltline Resiliency Study workshop in December and the wetland workshop in January.

Cliff Aichinger referenced the new technology review related to algal bloom monitoring, noting that he found the item interesting although expensive.

Lawrence Swope asked for an update on the restoration project around Wetland A.

Bill Bartodziej stated that the project is driven by the County and is mainly focusing on buckthorn removal in the upland areas. He noted that is following the project schedule and will continue into 2020.

12. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

No comments.

13. ADJOURN TO A CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: NOTICE OF CLAIM

Tracey Galowitz requested that the meeting move be closed to executive session specific to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd.3 for attorney-client privilege discussion regarding a claim served by a homeowner to 10 public entities that threatens sufficient imminent damages and requires consultation with legal counsel.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting to closed executive session regarding notice of claim at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

The meeting returned to open session at 9:05 p.m.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Pam Skinner absent)

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary