



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

The Regular Meeting of February 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
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Chris O'Brien, Communications Coordinator
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Matt Kumka, Barr Engineering

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.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from January 2, 2019
- B. District Liability Insurance Coverage Waiver

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

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the February 6, 2019, bill list as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-05: 3M Innovation Blvd/19th St Reconstruction – Maplewood

Nicole Soderholm provided details on the project. She stated that one of the bid alternates includes expansion of a parking area and the stormwater facilities have been properly sized to accommodate that possible expansion.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-05. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During January zero notices were sent.

C. TAC Permit Rule Update

Nicole Soderholm stated that this item was introduced at the last Board meeting and the proposed rule changes were highlighted within the Board packet. She reported that a TAC meeting was held in September to allow those members to see the proposed changes. She confirmed that the biggest changes would be the change in rates and the increase in the cap on filtration from two inches to 2.5 inches. She stated that from the comments received thus far, most parties were surprised the District had not raised its rates sooner, as the rates have remained stable for over ten years. She stated that during the informal comment period there were comments received by the Saint Paul Port Authority and provided a summary. She stated that Board action is not requested tonight, but she will ask the Board to approve the start of the formal comment period at the next meeting, which would begin the 60-day review window, with review for adoption in June.

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

None.

B. Budget Status Update

No comments.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board of Managers Annual Meeting

Tina Carstens noted that these are items that require annual action from the Board. Manager Aichinger commented that he likes the changes to the Board packet that have been made, especially with the project status section. Dr. Pam Skinner requested to add an item to the Board packet regarding new opportunities that are being reviewed by the District to make improvements. President Ebensteiner stated that she believes that everyone should be open to sharing ideas and communicating openly. She hoped that everyone felt comfortable sharing their ideas and opinions. Manager Aichinger stated that for the Board packet he would rather there be more information versus less information. President Ebensteiner stated she likes the opportunity to allow staff to talk about projects included on the list to provide additional details. Manager Aichinger stated that he has appreciated that Barr Engineering continues to bring in new staff members for different projects and presentations that have different areas of expertise.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to maintain the same Board officers, maintain the same consulting staff, and maintain the same official bank of deposit and official newspapers. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Snail Lake Shoreline Restoration Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bids

Tina Carstens stated that if the Board approves, staff will put this project out for bid and bring back the bids for approval at the next meeting. Paige Ahlborg provided additional details on the proposed restoration project. Manager Swope asked for details on the County's plans for that area. Paige was unsure of the County's plans and noted that

this project would not impact any of the County projects or the beach. She stated there are 26 homeowner properties involved in the project and estimated that the project would be completed within two years.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope 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. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 2019-2020 BMP Maintenance Program Request for Qualifications

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to direct staff to finalize the documents and distribute the request for qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Tina Carstens confirmed that the Managers would be invited to attend the conference and tour in August.

C. District Office Updates

Tina Carstens noted that technology updates for the conference room, as well as updates for the front door area and painting were included.

D. Operations and Maintenance Conference Tour and Abstract Submittal

Tina Carstens stated that more information will be provided as the planning for this item continues.

E. MAWD Legislative Briefing, Reception, and Day at the Capital

Tina Carstens noted that the legislative platform was included for informational purposes.

10. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. Project Technical Reports and Presentation: Maplewood Mall 5 Year Project Inspection, Inventory, and Recommendations for Maintenance and Improvements

Matt Kumka stated that a review of the infrastructure and the health of the trees was conducted as this was the five-year anniversary of the completion of the Maplewood Mall project. He stated that the information was gathered this past summer in order to measure the success of the BMPs and health of the trees. He stated that overall the project is doing well, even with the large amount of vehicle traffic and snowplowing program. He stated that the tree trench design is innovative and is showing success on certain species, while not as much success for other species. He stated that the tree trench design is effective in function and design.

Matt explained that all of the hard infrastructure was reviewed and only 24 elements were identified in poor condition. He stated that the rain gardens look fantastic and the plants are thriving. He stated that two rain gardens have failed, as they always appear to have standing water. He stated that is a sign that the soil was compacted in the installation process and therefore it would be recommended that the soil be lifted out, the drain tile be rebuilt, and new plantings and medium be installed. He moved to the tree trenches and reviewed the grading system that was used to rate each of the trees, which ranged from A to F2. He reported that about 25 percent of the trees are dead or not looking good. He stated that the tree trenches are wetter than expected, partly because of the weather that has been experienced. He stated that the trees were chosen based on the expectation that there would be hot drought like, parking lot conditions.

Matt provided photograph examples of the different health conditions of the trees. He stated that for water quality it is better to have the weirs in. He stated that as trees are replaced, the weirs would be left out of the shallow groves. He stated that if there are dry conditions, the weirs could be put back into those areas. He stated

that overall there are 70 trees rated D or F1. He reviewed the recommendations for trees to be replaced and the recommended species. Manager Swope asked if diversity would be kept ensuring that a problem would not occur, similar to Emerald Ash Borer. Matt confirmed that diversity would be an important element.

Manager Aichinger stated that the data collected should be available to be shared as well, perhaps for a future conference, as this is a critical review at the five-year mark. He asked if the tree trenches are working as designed. Erin stated that for a while the water levels were being monitored. She stated that the question of whether to have the weirs in or out is a good questions that should continue to be monitored. She confirmed that there is retention in the flow. She reviewed some of the tree trench monitoring that will be conducted this year. She noted that the majority of the raingardens continue to be a shining example of success.

B. Project Technical Memo: District Office Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Retrofit Options

Matt Kumka stated that the porous asphalt parking lot is not draining in all areas as designed. He described how the parking lot area is designed to function. Manager Aichinger provided details on the previous maintenance, noting that the necessary equipment was not available. He stated that the puddling started to occur over time as the pores began to clog. Matt stated that a variety of options were reviewed and summarized those potential options. He confirmed that the structural integrity of the parking lot is strong.

Manager Aichinger stated that option one could be done and if that does not work successfully, a trench drain could be installed in a section which would direct the drainage away from the parking lot area. President Ebensteiner noted that if option one does not work, the District is not out much, but if it does work that could be a simple solution that others could use as well. Erin Anderson Wenz agreed that this continues to be an experiment that others can learn from. She stated that this is a path of discovery.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to select option one for the District Office Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Retrofit. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

i. Groundwater

Manager Skinner stated that she would like information on gaps in groundwater and would also like to see if there is the ability to determine what was in the barrels that leaked at 3M.

- ii. Owasso Park Stormwater Master Plan
- iii. Beltline Resiliency Study
- iv. Subwatershed Feasibility Study
- v. Lake Owasso 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. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project
- xi. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- xii. Roseville High School Campus Project
- xiii. Willow Pond Spent Lime Filter
- xiv. Aldrich Arena Site Design

President Ebensteiner stated that this is a very noticeable piece of property and an opportunity for the District to do something great. Matt Kumka stated that staff has been working closely with Ramsey County on this project. He stated that there is room available for surface treatment and displayed a concept that would treat the water with rain gardens. He stated that the design incorporates rain gardens and reduces impervious surface.

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that because the parking could be rearranged and there are adjacent open space areas, 1.1 inches can be captured throughout the entire site. She stated that the cost estimate is higher than originally budgeted. She explained that the original budget was about \$500,000 for construction and the rough estimate at this time without contingency would be \$890,000. She noted that contingency is about 15 percent of that construction budget. Manager Aichinger stated that the opportunity fund would have available funds.

President Ebensteiner stated that she would be concerned with the strip that abuts White Bear Avenue, as she would like that to be more aesthetically pleasing. Erin noted that something could be designed, but it would be for aesthetics and not water quality purposes. President Ebensteiner commented that Ramsey County should be interested in assisting that aesthetic value. Manager Aichinger stated that would reduce the need for mowing on that steep incline, and that might interest the County. President Ebensteiner stated that a piece of public art would also be a nice incorporation for the project. Erin stated that this is a highly visible site and therefore that has been considered and there is a public art line item included. Manager Skinner noted the interactive water feature at Maplewood Mall and stated that something similar could perhaps be added to this project. Manager Aichinger stated that in terms of public art, this could be a great public challenge project opportunity.

Erin noted that these plans simply reflect reaching the 1.1 inches, but the other comments add another layer to the discussion. Tina Carstens noted that this is the water quality portion of the project and staff can continue with the additional suggestions. Erin noted that this was already an increase in cost just for water quality and confirmed the consensus of the Board to continue to work on additional elements. She stated that this project would provide a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000 per pound of phosphorus removal, which is very efficient. She described the path that water takes from this site and noted that the reduction provided at this site would have a positive impact in other areas that it drains to.

- xv. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019 Project
- xvi. New Technology Review – Modular Wetland System Downspout

Manager Aichinger asked if this is an enhanced rain barrel. Matt Kumka confirmed that it would be similar to a rain garden in a box. He noted that there is specific media that would require to be swapped out. He stated that he is working with another watershed district that is offering a rain garden in a box to residents. Manager Aichinger suggested that the District do a demo project at the office site. Tina Carstens stated that staff is already reviewing plans for the back patio and that could be incorporated.

- xvii. Natural Resources Program
- xviii. Education Program
- xix. Communications Program

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No comments.

12. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

A. Summary of Closed Meeting held February 6, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

Cliff Aichinger reported that a closed meeting was held today, February 6th at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular Board meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Administrator's performance. All Managers were in attendance. Job duties, performance, and salary were discussed.

B. Other

Manager Skinner stated that she met with a Senator from Cottage Grove that is sponsoring a bill regarding groundwater chemicals from 3M. She stated that the District watershed is also highly impacted. She explained that there has not been enough research to determine the impacts from these chemicals. She stated that the bill would provide funds for public health researchers at the University of Minnesota to do further research. She stated that perhaps the Watershed District could provide a letter of support. Manager Swope stated that he would like additional time to review the bill. Manager Aichinger confirmed the consensus of the Board to direct staff to draft a letter of support within the next week, pending comments from the Managers after review.

13. ADJOURN

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary