



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
April 3, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of April 3, 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 (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Simba Blood, Natural Resources Specialist
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician
Laurann Kirschner, Galowitz Olsoen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ebensteiner at 6:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tina Carstens requested to add an Item 8D, Proposed Equity Grant Program for Permit Applicants, to the agenda.

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2019

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

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve the April 3, 2019, bill list as submitted. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

6. PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2019 RWMWD PROPOSED RULE REVISION

Tracey Galowitz stated that the public hearing had been properly noticed in the required newspapers and publications.

President Ebensteiner called the public hearing to order at 6:37 p.m. No comments made.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to close the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Paige Ahlborg noted that there were some written comments received during the public comment period that will be reviewed prior to the next Board review in June.

7. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-10: Radio Drive Trails – Woodbury

Nicole Soderholm stated that this is a Washington County trail project but noted that the District is the sole permitting authority for this project.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-10. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Permit #19-11: Xcel Energy East County Line – Maplewood, Oakdale, NSP

Nicole Soderholm explained that Xcel is replacing existing gas line within the public right-of-way. She stated that a variance for temporary wetland disturbance is requested for this project.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-11 with the variance. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Permit #19-12: Xcel Energy County Road B – Maplewood and North St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm noted that this is a wider project that spans the watershed. She stated that a variance for temporary wetland buffer disturbance is also requested for this project. She noted that the applicant is also working with the DNR on a sensitive area of the project that will go under Keller Creek.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-12 with the variance. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Permit #19-13: FHR Storage Facility – St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm stated that this project has a very small disturbance area, but because they are grading within the floodplain a permit is required.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-13 with the special provision. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Permit #19-14: Shoreview 2019 Street Improvement Project – Shoreview

Nicole Soderholm stated that the main portion of the project is the reconstruction of the existing roadway, but advised that a trail will also be added. She advised that there are four or five sections of pavers, noting that most will be in intersections. She stated that there is a section of pervious pavers already in the project area from a 2015 project.

Motion: Dr. Pan Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-14 with the special provisions. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Permit #19-15: Spooner Park Improvements – Little Canada

Nicole Soderholm stated that this is a project that will redo the park, the trail and include ADA updates.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-15. Motion carried 4-0 (Ward absent).

Dianne Ward arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Permit #19-16: Q3 Contracting – Little Canada

Nicole Soderholm stated that this project is located within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) and provided additional details.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-16 with the special provisions. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit #19-17: Woodbury 2019 Street Improvement Project – Woodbury

Nicole Soderholm provided details on the project and the site conditions, noting that because of site constraints, the applicant is requesting to make a payment into the stormwater impact fund.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #19-17. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During March zero notices were sent.

8. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #19-07 CS: Laes – Rain Garden

Paige Ahlborg stated that this would be a project through the Master Water Stewards program that will create a curb cut to catch runoff from the street.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-07 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Budget Adjustment Request

Permit #18-21 CS: McGuire

Paige Ahlborg stated that this was approved the previous year, but in working with the contractor staff identified a few elements to add to the plans. She noted that the additional fund request will bring the project to a total of \$12,200. She advised that the project would qualify for 75 percent reimbursement and the homeowner would be responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the budget adjustment request for Permit #18-21 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Budget Status Update

No comments.

D. Proposed Equity Grant Program for Permit Applicants

Paige Ahlborg stated that the Board discussed the equity grant initiative at the end of 2018, which would allow the District to target retrofit projects that otherwise would not be able to be completed. She reviewed some of the

previous requests that the Board has reviewed and discussed. She provided additional details on a potential program the District could create. She also provided details on the St. Paul Urban Tennis project that the Board previously reviewed and additional elements that are being required by St. Paul. She noted that the elements required by St. Paul would not make the project feasible for the organization and this could be a great fit for the program.

Tracey Galowitz stated that the challenge is to determine what the need is. She stated that an organization should be a 501.C.3 in good standing, but the challenge would be to ensure that the criteria could be applied fairly.

Manager Ward stated that perhaps this could be done on a trial basis and adjustments could be made after one or two projects come through. Paige agreed that this would be a pilot program. Manager Aichinger stated that perhaps this not be limited to only 501.C.3 organizations after the pilot, as there may be other organizations that may not fit that category.

Manager Aichinger asked if the maximum amount of funding should still meet the requirement for cost effectiveness. Paige agreed that could be an element.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve staff to move forward with development of an equity grant program for permit applicants and allow St. Paul Urban Tennis Center to serve as a trial project for the program. Motion carried unanimously.

9. ACTION ITEMS

None.

10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

Tina Carstens provided an update on recent meetings that she has attended.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Tina Carstens provided an update on upcoming meeting dates. She stated that she attended the 3M groundwater settlement meeting today and noted that there will be grant funds available in the future for natural resource improvements. She noted that the meeting today focused on groundwater modeling that is being completed.

Dr. Pam Skinner stated that in the future she would like to continue to see information related to groundwater and the contamination and modeling.

C. Spring Flooding Actions and Updates

Manager Swope asked why Grass Lake is projected to still overflow. Brandon Barnes stated that the snowmelt peak has already passed, but with Grass Lake there is a lot of volume stored upstream. He explained that the peak in Grass Lake does not occur for one to two weeks after the peak in Owasso and Wabasso occurs. He stated that there is an area that is designed to overflow, and sandbags have been placed in that area to direct the flow to the culvert to the east under Gramsie Road. Dave Vlasin stated that the water level is getting close to the overflow, but everything is setup and in place. He noted that the sandbags are in place and the berm was constructed to direct that overflow should it occur. President Ebensteiner confirmed that the work the District completed was beneficial for the overflow that may occur to prevent the situation that occurred three years ago. Brandon confirmed that everything is working as it was designed thus far.

D. Board Discussion on Legislative Matters

President Ebensteiner confirmed that any member of the Board could bring forward a potential legislative initiative for discussion. Manager Aichinger noted that if a legislative topic were to arise that would not have sufficient time to wait for a Board meeting, Tina Carstens could reach out to the Board through email. The Board could then respond with individual comments and, if there is enough support, Tina could express the support of the Board.

E. West Vadnais Lake – Drinking Water Sampling Report

No comments.

F. Watershed Partners and East Metro Water Resource Education Program Reports

No comments.

11. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. Presentation: Beltline Resiliency Study, Phase 2

Brandon Barnes explained that tonight's discussion will focus on phase two of the resiliency analysis. He reviewed the areas that were included in phase two, noting that the intent of the study is to provide the Board with information to determine if there are modifications to the system that could be done. He reviewed the areas of inundation that were identified through the study. He provided an overview of the potential modifications that could be done, starting upstream and moving downstream, and provided details on each of the potential modifications near Willow Creek and Kohlman Creek.

Manager Ward asked how many of the modifications would be tied together and would need to be constructed with another project. Brandon explained that in a project that would increase in capacity you also have to look downstream and complete that project. He explained that the projects that add storage are independent and could be construction on their own. He noted that this phase focused on modifications that could be done to eliminate the flood risk to structures without storing water on park sites and advised that a future phase will look at those opportunities. He noted that some of the modifications would be fairly significant, but there are some potential modifications that could be made without making significant acquisitions and without making significant changes on the Phalen Chain.

President Ebensteiner asked the cost for the different modification options. Tina noted that as the process moves further along there would be planning level estimates. Brandon noted that potential cost estimates were provided for phase one, but that level of detail has not yet been developed for phase two. Manager Aichinger stated that in the future if some of these projects are done in conjunction, he would imagine that the District would need to consider creative funding mechanisms.

President Ebensteiner stated that she would also imagine that additional options would be reviewed, such as storing water in parks. She noted that there would also be a difference in how long the water would be stored in a park, noting that perhaps it would only be three days. Manager Swope stated that parks and trails are a high priority amenity for some residents and therefore that is not always an option to store water on those amenities as it would impact the quality of life.

Manager Aichinger stated that at that point there would be public meetings where options are discussed, and input is obtained. Tina Carstens noted that is the difference between emergency planning, where water could overflow into a park for a short period of time and planning for future projects.

B. Ongoing Project and Program Update

- i. Flood Risk Response Planning
- ii. Owasso Park Stormwater Master Plan
- iii. Beltline Resiliency Study

- iv. District Parking Lot Retrofit
- v. Twin Lake Public Meetings
- vi. FEMA Flood Mapping
- vii. West Vadnais Lake Outlet Permitting
- viii. 500-Year Atlas 14 Modeling
- ix. Wetland Restoration Site Search
- x. Auto Lake Monitoring Systems
- xi. Maplewood Mall Monitoring
- xii. Spent Lime Pond Application Research Project
- xiii. Iron Aggregate Pond Application Research Project
- xiv. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project
- xv. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- xvi. Roseville High School Campus Project
- xvii. Willow Pond CMAC
- xviii. Cottage Place Wetland Restoration
- xix. Markham Pond Aeration
- xx. Aldrich Arena Site Design
- xxi. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019 Project
- xxii. New Technology Review – Preserver Pretreatment

Manager Ward commented that this looked interesting and perhaps in the future the District would like to do a match with the cities and counties. Manager Aichinger commented that perhaps if a sump manhole is used, a method of pretreatment should also be required. Tina Carstens noted that this has been talked about a lot in the past. She stated that the rules are performance based and a method of treatment is not prescribed. She noted that if a performance measure could be developed that would require a similar treatment measure, it could be an option. Nicole Soderholm noted that often underground treatment options are coming forward and therefore that measure would be redundant. It was the consensus of the Board that the item should come back for discussion at a future meeting.

- xxiii. Natural Resources Program
 - 1. Presentation: Glyphosate Use

Simba Blood stated that she was asked to serve on a Pesticide Advisory Commission with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation. She provided background information on glyphosate, which is the most widely used herbicide in the world, is non-selective, and is most effective during active growth. She reviewed the usage trend for the past twenty years and highlighted the areas of the country that use glyphosate the most. She stated that there have been over 800 studies on glyphosate and cancer, noting that the general consensus is that there are not many significant associations for most cancers. She reviewed the different classifications that have been given by different agencies and explained that discrepancy in reporting between those agencies. She provided additional details on the types of studies that have been done and reviewed those results. She noted that glyphosate is just one tool that the District uses in its overall management and reviewed situations in which glyphosate is used and when other methods for management are used. She reviewed the District's herbicide safety training and the personal protective equipment.

Dr. Pam Skinner stated that she was pleased to see the safe application of glyphosate the District has been implemented. She noted that the general use of glyphosate has been linked to an increased resistance of pesticide resistance weeds and could have contributed to the loss of butterflies and bees. Simba stated that the District is using glyphosate to increase natural habitat while agricultural use tends to have an opposite desire.

- xxiv. Education Program

Manager Aichinger stated that he was surprised to see that a private landowner could work on public property and asked if there was a collaboration with the city. Bill Bartodziej stated that the District has designed and will be

supervising the project and did obtain permission from the city. He noted that the resident will establish a volunteer group to assist with planting.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No comments.

13. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

Manager Swope reported that the City of Shoreview hosted an event where Bill Bartodziej conducted a great presentation. Manager Ward agreed that it was a great presentation and the audience was grateful and appreciative for the work.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary