



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 10, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of October 10, 2018, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Cliff Aichinger, Vice President
Dianne Ward, Treasurer
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary
Lawrence Swope, Manager

ABSENT:

Marj Ebensteiner, President

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Chris O'Brien, Communications Coordinator

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Simba Blood, Natural Resources Specialist
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tina Carstens requested to add two items to the agenda, Item 8A Watershed Excellence Awards Approval and Item 8B Change Order No. 1 for Willow Pond CMAC Project.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2018
- B. City of Maplewood Local Water Management Plan – Resolution 18-07
- C. Change Order No. 7 – Beltline and Battle Creek Tunnel Repair Project

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the October 10, 2018, bill list as submitted. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

5. **VISITOR PRESENTATIONS** There were none.

6. **PERMIT PROGRAM**

A. Applications None.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During September, 12 notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (3), install/maintain perimeter control (3), install/maintain construction entrance (2), sweep streets (1), contain liquid/solid wastes (1), and remove discharged sediment (2).

Manager Swope asked for details on some ongoing projects. Tina Carstens stated that Barr Engineering is working with Roseville High School to identify additional opportunities which could include underground storage. Paige Ahlborg provided additional details on a townhome project.

7. **STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

A. Applications

Permit #18-21 CS: McGuire – Rain Garden and Native Planting

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #18-21 CS. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

Permit #18-22 CS: Biga – Rain Gardens and Native Planting

Vice President Aichinger noted that this project has great visibility.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-22 CS. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

Permit #18-23 CS: Finsness – Pervious Driveway

Paige Ahlborg noted that this resident was first interested in a rain garden, but his property was not appropriate and because his driveway needed repair, it was determined that this would be a better project.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #18-23 CS. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

Permit #18-24 CS: Richardson Elementary Addition – Filtration Basin

Paige Ahlborg stated that this project came forward last month for a permit and the District staff discussed additional projects that would go above and beyond. She stated that the applicant was interested in stormwater reuse, which will provide additional treatment and is in line with other similar projects. She stated that there is a good operation and maintenance schedule proposed. She advised that this funding would come from the school retrofit funds. Vice President Aichinger asked which ponds would be infiltration basins and which would be reuse ponds. Paige noted that two basins would be filtration basins and two would be for the reuse.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-24 CS. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

Permit #18-25 CS: Adam's Food and Fuel – Rain Garden

Paige Ahlborg stated that the applicant was interested in a rain garden and after discussions with staff, the project would qualify for use of the retrofit funds.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #18-25 CS. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

B. Budget Status Update

Paige Ahlborg stated that a line item was added for the 2017 carryover and provided a summary of the budget status. She stated that staff has begun telling potential applicants that staff is holding off on new projects until 2019 as staff already has a large workload and most contractors are not accepting additional projects for 2018.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Watershed Excellence Awards Approval

Tina Carstens stated that the list of proposed award recipients was provided to the Board for review. Vice President Aichinger commented that this is a good list of recipients.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve the recipients for the Watershed Excellence Awards. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

B. Change Order No. 1 for the Willow Pond CMAC Project

Brad Lindaman stated that the contractor felt the retainage language in the contract was out of date with current statute. Tracey Galowitz stated that the law was changed in 2016, noting that although the District was not in violation, this will clean up the language. She noted that she has also provided suggested language for contracts going forward.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Willow Pond CMAC Project. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

Vice President Aichinger asked about the O&M Conference Planning items in the meetings attended section of the report. Tina Carstens advised of a conference hosted by ASCE that will be held in the metro area in August of 2019 and noted that a planning meeting was recently held.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Manager Skinner stated that she will be gone the first week of January.

C. MAWD Annual Meeting

Tina Carstens stated that if any Managers plan on attending and need hotel rooms, those should be booked soon. Vice President Aichinger stated that he will be attending, but will not require a hotel room. Managers Ward and Skinner noted that they will not be attending. Manager Swope commented that he is unsure if he will be attending. Tina provided a summary of some of the new aspects of the annual meeting this year.

D. Spent Lime Pond Treatment Grant Proposal

Tina Carstens advised of the partnership project that will be submitted for grant funds. Vice President Aichinger stated that the proposals are divided into categories and there are 21 big projects competing for four or five spots, therefore, it will be competitive. He stated that the year before there were less funds available and two or three smaller scale projects were approved. He stated that the big projects in review will be two to three-year research projects.

10. MANAGER SWOPE REQUESTED BOARD ITEM – PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF WETLANDS

Tina Carstens noted that Manager Swope made a request at the last meeting that the Board discuss the restoration of wetlands and put together a packet for the Board and staff to review. Manger Swope stated that at the meetings that he has attended as a Board member and as a resident the discussions around wetlands were not as focused as he would have liked to have seen. He stated that next year the Board will be looking at wetlands that need improvement and therefore he thought this was good timing. He referenced a newspaper article which discussed the use of the wetland bank. He stated that there are a number of older wetlands in the District and the

permitting process looks to ensure there is adequate infiltration and that the water is used properly. He noted that there are areas that may need more restoration and believed that the Board should begin the thought process on how to go about that, whether there is support for others to do that, or whether the District looks to do it themselves.

Vice President Aichinger provided background information on the process the District has undergone in the past to classify the wetlands and review wetland mitigation potential. He stated that most of the wetlands in the District have been used for stormwater discharge, which began long before any wetland rules, therefore most of the wetlands are degraded.

Manager Skinner stated that when there is a red colored wetland that is pristine and there is a larger setback that wetland should be protected. Vice President Aichinger agreed that some wetlands have potential for restoration and mitigation. Tina stated that the District is currently going through the process to determine how screening will occur to identify potential restoration and mitigation opportunities. Manager Ward agreed that the first step will be the survey. She stated that this really fits well with the flood work that the District is completing with Barr Engineering. Manager Skinner stated that she agrees that it would be helpful to know what restoration of a wetland would look like and what would make the wetland function better. Tina agreed that could be a good exercise for the Board and staff to do together to identify potentials.

Vice President Aichinger stated that the District is a highly urbanized area and there are limited potentials as stormwater will need to discharge to certain wetlands, but agreed that there could be additional opportunities investigated for treatment of water prior to discharge. Brad Lindaman provided additional restoration opportunities that could improve the function and values associated with a wetland. Manager Ward stated that the given is that the wetlands will continue to receive stormwater, but perhaps the functionality could be improved.

Manager Skinner asked about the potential that sediment and tree removal could occur within a wetland. Vice President Aichinger stated that as long as the District can prove that this is restoration being done to restore the original condition, agency approval could be gained. Manger Skinner also suggested looking into preservation or enhancement of wildlife corridors.

Manager Swope stated that his intention was simply to get the discussion started as this will be a topic in the coming year. Manager Skinner noted that perhaps this would be a good topic for a future tour, as seeing the different value wetlands in person helps to put the topic more into context. Tina noted that she will work with Brad Lindaman to determine when the discussion for scoping of the study could occur.

11. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

B. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

i. Owasso Park Stormwater Master Plan

Vice President Aichinger stated that he likes the pictures from the Owasso Park item and asked if a similar plan is being considered for the District parking lot. Brad Lindaman stated that option is being reviewed. He stated that Barr Engineering is reviewing the option to determine if a small top layer could be milled off to return the function, while still providing a smooth driving surface. He stated that vibration tends to drive the sediment further into the pores and the District has tried to use the vacuuming as well.

Vice President Aichinger stated that there is proof that using water and high suction machines regularly will adequately clean the pores, but noted that equipment was not readily available in the past and at this point the sediment is stuck and that method alone would not be sufficient.

Manager Skinner asked if the parking lot is still functioning, noting that it does not appear to flood. Tina Carstens noted that there is a large section that bypasses and goes directly to the catch basin. She confirmed that the water is still being treated, but there is an issue of pavement management as well at this time.

- ii. Beltline Resiliency Study
- iii. At Risk Subwatershed Feasibility Studies

Brad Lindaman noted that the Battle Creek Lake Feasibility Study looked further into doing work in the intersection of 694/94/494, but he did not have confidence that it would be worth the effort. He noted that MnDOT stated that it is too late in the process to get into the project schedule. He stated that a lot of the flow comes from the northeast and runs under the intersection and therefore there is not the opportunity that they originally believed was there. He stated that the study will be finalized and presented in December along with two other studies.
- iv. District Office Permeable Asphalt Parking Lot Retrofit
- v. Emergency Response Planning

Tina Carstens noted that there was a meeting on Monday with Twin Lake residents, District staff and Barr Engineering and provided an update. She stated that there is a desire from the residents to know how this happened. She noted that perhaps East Vadnais Lake overflowed at some point into Twin Lake. She stated that the residents are also interested in submitting time-stamped photos in an attempt to piece together a starting elevation before the water started rising in order to assist in the modeling process. She stated that the City Engineer for Little Canada is taking the lead with assistance from the District. Brad Lindaman stated that, because of elevations, there is still a long ways to go before there would be potential for flooding or damage to homes.
- vi. FEMA Flood Mapping Updates

Tina Carstens noted that survey data was received from the DNR.
- vii. Snail Lake and Grass Lake Study and Berm Raise Project

Brad Lindaman noted that the berm is complete, but there has been some erosion with the recent rains. He stated that rather than doing a change order with the contractor, it was determined to be more efficient for staff to complete the additional seeding and blanketing.
- viii. Snail, Grass and West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting

Brad Lindaman noted that not much has happened as staff is still attempting to connect to the right individuals to get additional information on permitting. He provided an estimate on the potential timeline for permitting, noting that there are a number of factors that would impact the permitting timeline.

Manager Skinner stated that pollutants in the lake are being evaluated and asked which pollutants are being monitored, as typically things like phosphorus and nitrogen would be monitored. Tina Carstens noted that there are a number of factors being monitored above the typical factors. Manager Skinner stated that perhaps this is something the District should monitor more often, referencing a list of 126 contaminants that she learned of at a recent conference. She also suggested that groundwater become more of a focus. Tina noted that groundwater is sprinkled in with different projects, but agreed that there could be additional opportunities. Manager Skinner stated that she would be interested in knowing more about what contaminants are in the groundwater. She stated that perhaps that begins with collecting data that is already available. Vice President Aichinger stated that the reason that the District has not done much with groundwater is because the District does not have the authority to management that.

- ix. West to East Vadnais Gravity Flow Evaluation
Brad Lindaman noted that the piezometer installation was completed, and it was his understanding that there was not interaction with the concrete rubble that was believed to be there.
- x. 500-Year Atlas 14 Modeling
- xi. Auto Lake Monitoring Systems
- xii. Maplewood Mall Monitoring
Vice President Aichinger asked and received confirmation that this will include monitoring of the trees and the success rate of the different types of trees. He asked if they will be able to determine if the trees are being flooded with too much water. Brad Lindaman commented that he believed that information would be made available during this process. Vice President Aichinger asked and received confirmation that there is a possibility to remove a tree that is not doing well in order to observe the condition of the roots.
- xiii. 2018 Grant Applications
- xiv. Wakefield Lake Sediment Removal
- xv. Kohlman Weir Test System
Brad Lindaman provided details on the presentation that will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.
- xvi. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project
Paige Ahlborg stated that they are in the draft phase, noting that there is an upcoming neighborhood meeting and the process will begin with review by the Parks Commission.
- xvii. Targeted Retrofit Projects
Tina Carstens stated that the District received approval for the Watershed-Based Funding. Paige Ahlborg noted that the contractors plan to start the following day and finish this year.
- xviii. Roseville High School Campus Retrofit Feasibility Study
- xix. BMP Design Assistance and Review
Vice President Aichinger noted that the Sunray Shopping Center would be a good location. Tina Carstens confirmed that is being looked at in conjunction with another project.
- xx. Willow Pond CMAC Project
- xxi. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel
Tina Carstens noted that the final payment for the contractor was approved tonight in the Consent Agenda.
- xxii. CIP Maintenance/Repair 2018
Brad Lindaman noted that this is the same contractor that worked on the Grass Lake Berm project and staff has been pushing very hard to get things wrapped up. He stated that there are still two outstanding items for the CIP project, noting that one is due to an improper order of a transition pipe. He noted that the other element is the last bit of cleanout for a project area. He stated that a letter was sent out from legal counsel providing until October 16th for the contractor to finish. He stated that if the items are not completed by that time, staff would suggest using the retainer to find someone else that could complete the work. He estimated that the contractor could complete the remaining work in about 1.5 days if the proper effort were put forth.

Vice President Aichinger asked if it would cost more for the District to end the contract and pay someone else to complete the work. Brad confirmed that the retainage would be used to pay someone else to complete the work and, while the District would look for a reasonable price, it

would not be limited to the contract prices. Tracey Galowitz stated that it may be beneficial to advise the contractor that the Board will consider this in future projects, should the contractor choose to submit bids for a future project.

Brad stated that if the last correspondence with the contractor is correct, the pipe should be installed by Monday, but is unsure whether the cattail removal would be completed by the contractor prior to the deadline. He stated that it was explained to the contractor that although he may have completed one third of the work on the element, payment would not be provided for that item unless all the work is completed. Tina asked if action is required from the Board should the contract need to be terminated and another contractor needed to complete the work.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to authorize staff to take the necessary steps to enforce the terms of the contract and move forward with any justified penalties if the demands are not met. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

xxiii. Natural Resources Program

xxiv. Education Program

Manager Skinner stated that perhaps there is a market for the burdock that is removed. Simba Blood commented that the yard burdock is different than the species that is grown for consumption.

Manager Ward asked how something would be chosen for the MAWD display. Tina Carstens noted that she, Chris O'Brien and Sage Pasi will be meeting to discuss that.

xxv. Communications Program

Manager Skinner stated that she likes the addition of the communications program report, but she does not like the pop-up for subscribing on the website. Vice President Aichinger stated that the pop-up is useful in gaining new contacts. He noted that once you close the pop-up once it will not reappear. Tina Carstens stated that staff can do analysis to determine the number of new subscribers that are gained through that method.

Vice President Aichinger asked where the shallow lakes video is on the website. Chris O'Brien stated that it is available on the bottom of the front page. He noted that he can follow up to ensure that the video can be found when searched for. Tina noted that the video has been linked in other areas too, using the example of social media.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS No additional comments.

13. REPORTS OF MANAGERS No additional comments.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri