

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AUGUST 12, 2009 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair, Louise Smallidge.

Members Present: Louise Smallidge, Chair
Tom Meyer, Vice Chair
Gary Baumann, Secretary
Rosemary Wallace, Treasurer

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin
Wendy Griffin
Jyneen Thatcher
Lynnae Howe

Other Agencies: Michelle Wohlers (NRCS)

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval was requested for the 2010 DNR Wells Agreement in the amount of \$1,830; and the 2007-2010 MPCA Brown's Creek Biota TMDL Agreement Amendment contract extension. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF JULY 8, 2009 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A correction was made to the July 8, 2009 minutes. Rosemary Wallace made a motion to approve the amended July 8, 2009 Board Minutes. Seconded by Tom Meyer. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Items to note were a \$317.10 charge from Minnesota Valley Testing Labs for water monitoring expenses; \$1,500.00 payable to Arcola Mills for a buckthorn project; \$2,500.00 to Bonestroo for the Barb Medinger property; \$1,000.00 payable to Donna Hanson for the Weed Management Grant; \$2,070.00 to High Monkey for the MS4 Toolkit; and \$1,540.00 to MMC Associates for editing of the summer newsletter. Two charges on the same date payable to ING were explained as well. Our deferred compensation plan is now being handled by ING. During the switch from one to another, we had gotten paid, so there were two payroll cycles to enter once we were able to with ING. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Tom Meyer. The motion was seconded by Gary Baumann. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS

County Board – the Washington County Conservation Plan will be discussed at a meeting tomorrow night. A follow-up presentation will be made to the County Board in September.

NRCS – Michelle talked about the Stewardship Program. A mailing will be going out to all operators in Washington, Ramsey and Dakota counties. The Conservation Stewardship Program is like the Conservation Securities Program. The idea behind it is to reward the best operators and inspire the rest. Sign up is between now and the end of September.

BWSR - BWSR will be meeting in Winona this month.

REPORTS OR PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Presentation** – *St. Croix River Association and Other Interesting Tidbits* by Steve Hobbs – Steve presented on interesting tidbits in regards to the St. Croix River.
- b. **Newspaper Articles and Other WCD Outreach** – The 3-ring binder of the past month's newspaper articles was brought to the meeting for the Board to look through if they wished. Also, Jyneen presented a slideshow of our annual staff retreat.
- c. **WCD and NACD** – NACD would like to use our Conservation District and the MIDS effort as one of the three 'showcase' side boxes to the LID story. They sent a draft for Jay's approval, which was included in the Board packet.
- d. **MCIT 2009 Dividend** – We have received our 2009 Dividend Notice. The 2008 financial audit conducted by Eide Bailly LLP and the analysis performed by Actuarial Advisors affirmed the soundness of the MCIT program and the fact that funds were available for dividend distribution. This year's dividend is \$13.0 million. Our 2009 Dividend is \$4,522 allocated as: \$3,684 in Property/Casualty, \$838 in Workers' Compensation.

OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

- a. **MASWCD Awards** – the awards form is ready to be submitted to MASWCD. Board members signed the last page. Once again this year, we had enough points to earn a Superior Status. A motion was made by Tom Meyer to approve the MASWCD forms and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.
- b. **County Fair Debriefing** – a small staff subcommittee will be meeting soon to discuss possible improvements for next year's booth. The raffle winners were also drawn for this year's bundle of trees winners. The seed packets were a big hit as our handout this year.
- c. **319 Grant Updates** – We applied for two big grants, but did not get them. We did not have any TMDL Implementation Grants we could apply for.
- d. **2010 Budget Update** – Based on the numbers we currently have, our budget looks like it will be slightly down from 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Seasonal Water Monitoring Technician – Welcome Lynnae Howe** – Lynnae was introduced to the Board.
- b. Fiscal Year 2010 SWCD Base Grant Agreement** – We have received notification that we are only receiving about 50% of what we normally do for the Base Grant. A motion to approve the 2010 SWCD Base Grant Agreement was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Gary Baumann. Motion carried.
- c. MCD JPA Approval, Delegate Ratification, and LRP 2010 Hours** – There are three things that we need to do for the Metro Conservation District. Review and approve signature of the JPA. Second, we need to give formal approval for our delegate to go to the metro meeting and vote on it. Third, we need to approve the hours for next years landscape restoration agreement. We have submitted our request for the same amount of hours that we have received the past few years, which has been 400 hours. The hourly rate will remain the same at \$40 per hour. A motion to approve signing of the JPA was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Gary Baumann. A motion to approve Tom Meyer as the Delegate Ratification was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Tom Meyer. A motion to approve the LRP 2010 Hours was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Gary Baumann. All motions carried.
- d. CWMA Grant Reimbursement Requests:**

Bob Mendlik – Mr. Mendlik had cleared 5 acres of buckthorn from his oak forest, at the time of application for this grant. He has used the grant to purchase additional herbicide and applicator equipment, to continue clearing his acreage. This is a partial payment request of \$366.01 out of the \$500. Project installation is in progress according to the project standards and specifications, and approved by the district technical representative. Additional follow-up will be done by WCD staff. Motion by Gary Baumann, seconded by Tom Meyer, to approve partial payment for State cost-share contract 08-CWMA-15, located in Section 21 of May Township. The district technical representative (Jyneen Thatcher) has reviewed the land occupier's receipts/invoices, and certified by signature that the work performed was completed according to standards and specifications for the practice of brush management for control of invasive species. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

City of Mahtomedi – City of Mahtomedi has been working on removing buckthorn from Katherine Abbott Park for several years. In 2009, they purchased seedlings from the WCD to replant the cleared area with a diverse mix of canopy and understory tree seedlings and shrubs. The request was to return the \$300 that was spent on the seedlings. Match was provided by 40 hours of volunteer labor. Buckthorn management by hand pulling and herbicide application will continue. Project installation was completed according to the project standards and specifications, and approved by the district technical representative. A motion was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Gary Baumann, to approve final payment for State cost-share contract 08-CWMA-04, located in Section 32, T30N R21W, in Mahtomedi. The district technical representative (Jyneen Thatcher) has reviewed the land occupier's receipts/invoices, and certified by signature that the work performed was completed according to standards and specifications for the practice of brush management for control of invasive species. A summary was attached.

Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

Lake Elmo – Gary Baumann and Tom Meyer – Pebble Park was cleared of 10 acres of buckthorn, from an oak forest, using Sentence to Serve and community volunteers. Grant funds were used to purchase herbicide for stump treatment, seedlings for replanting, and educational signage about the project. The total payment request is \$700, of which \$300 was for purchasing trees from us, the remainder of the funds were used for signage and herbicide for the project. Project installation was completed according to the project standards and specifications, and approved by the district technical representative. A motion was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Tom Meyer, to approve final payment for State cost-share contract 08-CWMA-05, located in Section 9, T29N R21W, in Lake Elmo. The district technical representative (Jyneen Thatcher) has reviewed the land occupier's receipts/invoices, and certified by signature that the work performed was completed according to standards and specifications for the practice of brush management for control of invasive species. A summary was attached. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Tom Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Baumann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:35p.m. Next scheduled meeting is September 9, 2009 at 4:30p.m.

Secretary

Approved Date