

**WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**APRIL 7, 2010 BOARD MINUTES**

**APPROVED**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chair, Louise Smallidge.

Members Present: Louise Smallidge, Chair  
Tom Meyer, Vice Chair  
Gary Baumann, Secretary  
Rosemary Wallace  
Sarah Hietpas, Public Relations and Information

Staff Present: Jay Riggs  
Shari Larkin  
Wendy Griffin  
Karen Kill  
Sara Wein  
Pete Young

Other Agencies: Michelle Wohlers, NRCS  
Tim Wilson, NRCS

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

None.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of the March 10, 2010 minutes was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Items to note were \$225.00 from MACD for the 2010 dues; \$25,469.83 payable to Metropolitan Council for water monitoring charges; \$14,657.88 payable to Blue Cross Blue Shield for the February and March health insurance; \$160.00 from Fulcrum Web Technologies for website work; \$1,206.17 payable to Hach Company for SWWD water monitoring charges; \$1,330.00 from MMC Associates for newsletter editing for the spring newsletter; \$767.15 to Sandi Alexander and William Whalen for a Water Quality Cost Share Grant; \$1,883.98 payable to Impressive Print for printing the spring newsletter; and \$900.00 payable to the Postmaster to add postage to our bulk meter account. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Sarah Hietpas. The motion was seconded by Gary Baumann. Motion carried.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Cost Share Committee** – the items will be covered under New Business.

**Communications and Outreach Committee** – the Committee is still working on some Marketing Plan updates.

### **AGENCY PARTNER REPORTS**

**County Board** – The County’s MS4 program was audited this month. It went very well. Out of that audit process, there is motivation to update the right of way ordinance. The County is planning on having a workshop to discuss stormwater issues.

**NRCS** – All of our EQIP contracts for this year are signed. There are six for Washington County. Three of the pilot projects are in Washington County. They are talking about having a high tunnel workshop the first part of May at the Dakota County office. There are three high tunnel projects in Washington County.

**BWSR** – BWSR’s funding continues to be cut.

**MCD** – Bi-law changes were discussed at the last meeting. We still do not have an official agreement with MCD to administer the stormwater retrofit program. A motion was made by Tom Meyer and seconded by Sarah Hietpas to approve sending a memorial or flowers to the services of the MCD Co-chair that recently passed away.

### **REPORTS OR PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Newspaper Articles and Other WCD Outreach** – A 3-ring binder of the past month’s newspaper articles is available for the Board to look through if they wish.
- b. **Upcoming Events: (FYI)**
  - i. **Tree and Rain Barrel Handout – April 30 and May 1, 2010**
  - ii. **See Calendar on WCD Website**
- c. **BCWD Biota Water Quality Improvement Study** – Karen presented on the BCWD Biota Water Quality Improvement Study.

### **OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES**

- a. **2009 Year-End** – a draft of the 2009 year end report was just received prior to the board meeting. We will discuss further next month.
- b. **New Vehicle Purchase** – A decision on the purchase of an additional vehicle will be made once we find out the final numbers for 2009 year end.
- c. **Seasonal Technician Positions Update** – Tara Kline has been hired as the Seasonal BMP Technician, and Sara Wein has been hired as the Seasonal Water Monitoring Technician.
- d. **Green Acres and Rural Preserves Program Update** – Nothing new to report.
- e. **Legislative Update and WCD Budget Implications** – An update from Judy Erickson was included in the packet. According to the most recent information, it appears that we will be getting a 4-6% cut in WCA/NRBG funding.
- f. **NPEAP Application Update – 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church** – On September 10, 2008, the WCD Board of Supervisors gave approval to staff to apply for NPEAP funds to design Phase 2 of the First Presbyterian Church water quality improvement project. The proposed project will improve water quality in the St. Croix River by installing bioretention cells and pervious pavement within an existing parking lot. Runoff from the project currently flows to the storm sewer system. NPEAP funds will be used to complete engineering design of the project. NPEAP funding was previously allocated to the Church as part of a separate project to install bioretention cells that treat a different portion of the Church campus. No NPEAP application has been submitted for this project due in part to Church budget concerns. The contractor (EOR) recently submitted a

revised concept design and cost estimate for the project. WCD staff will be moving forward with the NPEAP application in the near future. No board action is requested at this time.

- g. **MCD Stormwater Retrofit Program in 2010** – Anoka Conservation District received \$1 million from the legislature for the metro-wide eleven county stormwater retrofit program. It ended up equating to about \$6,000 per year for stormwater assessments, and around \$50,000 in cost-share in each of the eleven counties. All agreements are verbal at this time. The grant with BWSR has been signed. Pete has already starting doing some subwatershed assessments under that program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **MCD Landscape Restoration Program – October-December, 2010 Funding** – The Metro Conservation Districts (MCD) is requesting to extend funding of the current Landscape Restoration Program (LRP) through the end of the 2010 calendar year. Historically the project was on a Federal fiscal year (October to October), even though most partners (including the WCD) are on a calendar year budget cycle. Making this change would not affect our 2010 budget as we currently have \$16,000 (400 hours) allocated to the program for 2010. Accordingly, we are requesting board approval to fund the LRP through December 31, 2010. The most recent hours summary of the LRP was included in the board packet. A motion to approve extending the MCD Landscape Restoration Program agreement through the end of the calendar year was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.
- b. **LCCMR Grant Support** – Jay requested formal support to submit the application that was included in the board packet. There is no cash match involved. We will likely be using some of the EMWREP program as an in-kind match due to some marketing being involved with the application. Some of our technical assistance will also be an in-kind match. Tom Meyer made a motion to approve supporting the application. Gary Baumann seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. **NPEAP Software Purchase** – In order to support the urban subwatershed assessment projects currently underway, WCD staff is in need of additional modeling software. MCD has identified WinSLAMM as a primary tool that WCD should be using. WinSLAMM was originally developed to better understand the relationships between sources of urban runoff pollutants and runoff quality. It has been continually expanded since the late 1970s and now includes a wide variety of source area and outfall control practices (infiltration practices, wet detention ponds, porous pavement, street cleaning, catch basin cleaning, and grass swales). WinSLAMM is strongly based on actual field observations, with minimal reliance on pure theoretical processes that have not been adequately documented or confirmed in the field. WinSLAMM is mostly used as a planning tool, to better understand sources of urban runoff pollutants and their control. WinSLAMM has been used in many areas of North America and has been shown to accurately predict stormwater flows and pollutant characteristics for a broad range of rains, development characteristics, and control practices. Board action is requested, approving WCD staff to move forward with an NPEAP application (\$320.00) to purchase WinSLAMM. There would be no cost to WCD. A motion to approve submitting an NPEAP application to purchase WinSLAMM was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.
- d. **BWSR Buffer SCS Encumbrance Request – Grey Cloud Project** – Grey Cloud Island is situated on the Mississippi River and possesses important biological and

archeological/historical sites. The landowner will restore 30 acres of oak savanna/prairie, adjacent to the river and associated backwaters. The buffer will reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the Mississippi River due to degraded and unstable areas near the river. Proposed activities include woody invasive plant removal, site prep, seeding, and installation maintenance, all according to BWSR program requirements. After installation, the site will be maintained through mowing and spot spraying. This project qualified for funding through BWSR's native buffer cost-share grant and will be installed over the course of the next 2 years. The overall cost estimate for the project is \$120,000.00. The District Technical Representative recommends encumbering a total of \$76,000.00 in State-Cost Share native buffer grant project funds, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. If funding for this project is encumbered, \$76,000.00 in project funds remains to be encumbered from the FY2010 native buffer grant. Motion by Gary Baumann, seconded by Tom Meyer, to approve contract number 10-01NB to construct Critical Area Stabilization (D1) in Section 36 in Cottage Grove at 75% of the total cost estimate or \$76,000.00 whichever is less. Project funds totaling \$76,000.00 are encumbered from the FY2010 native buffer grant. The total cost estimate to construct the practice is \$120,000.00. The district technical representative is Pete Young. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- e. **BWSR Buffer SCS encumbrance Request – Lost Valley SNA MnDNR** – The project will be installed at the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). The DNR proposes to restore 16 acres of historic agricultural field and clear 7 acres of invasive woody species adjacent to the restoration site. The buffer will reduce sediment and nutrient loading to a tributary of the St. Croix River. Proposed activities include woody invasive plant removal, site prep, seeding, and installation maintenance, all according to BWSR program requirements. After installation, the site will be maintained primarily through mowing, burning, and spot spraying. This project qualified for funding through BWSR's native buffer cost-share grant and will be installed over the course of the next 2 years. The overall cost estimate for the project is \$85,000.00. The District Technical Representative recommends encumbering a total of \$63,750.00 in State-Cost Share native buffer grant project funds, or 75% of the total eligible cost, whichever is less. If funding for this project is encumbered from the FY2010 native buffer grant. A motion was made by Tom Meyer, seconded by Gary Baumann, to approve contract number 10-02NB to construct Critical Area Stabilization (D1) in Section 20 in Denmark Township at 75% of the total cost estimate or \$63,750.00 whichever is less. Project funds totaling \$63,750.00 are encumbered from the FY2010 native buffer grant. The total cost estimate to construct the practice is \$85,000.00. The district technical representative is Pete Young. Applicant will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- f. **Request for MCC Clean Water Legacy Projects** – A number of planned projects would benefit from additional installation and maintenance with labor support. The Minnesota Conservation Corp (MCC) is a young adult non-profit program similar to the 1930's CCC to conduct X. A motion was made by Sarah Hietpas and seconded by Rosemary Wallace to approve the application. Motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Update on summer tour/activities.

Tom Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Hietpas seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:23p.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 12, 2010 at 4:30p.m.

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Secretary

Approved Date