

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AUGUST 11, 2010 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chair, Louise Smallidge.

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

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin
Jyneen Thatcher
Erik Anderson

Other Agencies: Michelle Wohlers, NRCS

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval was requested for the 2010-2013 St. Croix River Association – Lake St. Croix Watershed Improvement Project – Top 50 P Agreement in the amount of \$146,717; the FY11 BWSR Base Grant in the amount of \$31,380; and the 2010-2012 CMSCWD/WCD 10-Lakes TMDL Service Agreement which will be \$91,214 in MPCA funds passed through to CMSCWD. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items was made by Rosemary Wallace and seconded by Gary Baumann. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the July 14, 2010 minutes was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Items to note were charges of \$311.39 and \$51,369.35 payable to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the return of FY2009 funds; a charge of \$3,530.10 payable to Bolger for EMWREP materials; charges of \$2,760.00 and \$5,960.00 payable to Metro Conservation Districts for the landscape restoration program; \$1,470.00 payable to MMC Associates for newsletter editing; \$412.51 payable to the Postmaster for adding postage to our bulk account; \$1,839.55 payable to Dave and Barb Schriber for a WQCSG project; \$1,206.17 payable to Hach Company for SWWD water monitoring expenses; \$2,185.59 payable to Joyce Heinisch for a SCS 09-02 final payment; and \$728.53 payable to Theresa Frogner for a SCS 09-02 final payment. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, subject to audit, was made by Gary Baumann. The motion was seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications and Outreach Committee – Washington Conservation District now has a Facebook page.

AGENCY PARTNER REPORTS

County Board – We did receive an update from the County regarding our 2011 allocation. We will be at the same level as we are for 2010.

NRCS – Three Conservation Stewardship program applications for Washington County were pre-approved. Michelle is still hoping for additional pre-approvals for that program. The payments range from \$21 an acre to \$37 an acre. Sign-ups will continue. They are hoping to have two sign-ups per year. NRCS did a 75th anniversary video. Some staff members from Michelle's office were in the video. It is an outreach and history piece of where NRCS started and where they have been. Michelle has the panel for another DC position, so there will be an additional staff person to assist Washington County.

BWSR – the August meeting will be in Moorhead.

MSWCDTSAJPB (MCD) – A special meeting will be held September 1st to discuss multiple outstanding issues.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 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. Gary would like Angie to look into having a show on Channel 2 like Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has.
- b. **Presentation – State of the Waters – Erik Anderson.** Erik Anderson presented on the State of the Waters in Washington County with regard to the 2009 water monitoring reports.
- c. **2010 MCIT Dividend** – A notice regarding our 2010 Dividend was included in the Board packet. Our \$6,873 dividend is allocated as \$4,944 for Property/Casualty and \$1,929 for Workers Compensation. The total dividend amount is the largest ever in the history of the Trust.

OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

- a. **County Fair Debriefing** – The set-up and content of this year's booth was discussed. In addition, the winners of the trees and shrubs were drawn.
- b. **Grant Updates: LCCMR Award, CWF Round** – Staff and St. Croix River Association will be meeting soon to talk about the LCCMR award and recommendations. The Clean Water Fund round of grants is open right now. We will be submitting multiple grants. The deadline for the Clean Water Fund grant applications is September 15th. Those items will be on the September agenda.
- c. **Green Acres/Rural Preserves Update** – Additional information was included in the packet regarding the Conservation District's role in the Rural Preserves program. We have been seeing an increase in questions from County residents in the past month. One change was made to the policy document. Based on new information we have received, the information regarding the timeline has been updated. Jay requested a motion to approve the updated language in the policy document. A motion to approve the updated language in the policy document was made by Rosemary Wallace and seconded by Gary Baumann. Motion carried.

- d. **Conservation Center and Office Space** – HRA is still interested in a joint office space. In the meantime, Jay continues to look at existing office spaces. Due to the boundary changes with South Washington Watershed District, our desired office location will be shifting to the South and East from what we previously thought.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2011 Workload Projections** – Jay presented the 2011 workplan estimator as it stands right now. The workload looks solid for 2011. We are currently at a positive 545 hours for the year hours. That total is above and beyond the full time staff plus MCD, the seasonal staff members and Jyneen at half time.
- b. **College Student Interns – Center for Urban and Regional Affairs Intern (CURA) & Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA)** – We have two internship opportunities that have been presented to our office. Information on the two programs was included in the Board packet. Both are paid internships paid for by other entities, and would be just under 200 hours. They would both be working with Angie on education related activities.
- c. **FY2010 BWSR Native Buffer Fund Reallocation** – On January 28, 2010, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved \$190,000 in FY2010 native buffer cost-share grant requests for the Lost Valley SNA and Grey Cloud Island projects. The Lost Valley SNA project is moving forward on schedule and will be completed within the grant period. The landowner for the Grey Cloud Island project (Hugh Schilling) unfortunately no longer wishes to install a buffer project on his property and therefore the funding for that project must be returned to BWSR unless alternative sites are proposed. If alternative sites are found, WCD must request for BWSR to allow the transfer of funds to any new projects. Two alternative sites are proposed for the funding that is now potentially available, totaling \$95,000 (including \$76,000 for project implementation and \$19,000 for WCD administrative costs). O'Connor's Nature Preserve is a former 20-acre tree farm, now owned by Denmark Township. The master plan for the park designated this land as a nature preserve, recognizing the existing prairie remnant in the northeast corner of the site. The Township has prepared a master plan, including restoration of native prairie as the first phase, with additional ecosystem restorations planned for later phases. Denmark Township has approved expenditures for the first phase, which will be used as a match against this native buffer grant. This project will enhance and restore one acre of native prairie remnant, this and rejuvenate lowland forest along two acres of stream corridor buffering Connor's Creek. An additional three acres of old-field and evergreen tree farm will be restored to prairie. The City of Lakeland operates a public beach on Lake St. Croix (St. Croix River) near the I-94 bridge. The City has been working with the Middle St. Croix WMO to come up with a plan to address significant erosion problems that are occurring on the non-beach areas of the property. The project will focus on restoring a section of eroding riverbank using bioengineering techniques, incorporating native plant species to create a native buffer to the river. The District Technical Representative recommends shifting a total of \$95,000.00 in State-Cost Share native buffer grant project funds to alternate projects. A motion was made by Sarah Hietpas, seconded by Rosemary Wallace, to request the shift of \$95,000.00 in BWSR Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant funding from the Grey Cloud Island project to alternate projects. The district technical representative is Pete Young. BWSR and applicants will be notified of Board's decision within 15 days. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

- d. **NPEAP Application – Lakeland Native Buffer** – The proposed Lakeland Beach native buffer project will improve water quality in the St. Croix River by stabilizing an eroding section of riverbank and creating a native buffer. If approved, NPEAP funds will be used to complete engineering design of the project. Funding for this project will be requested through the BWSR native buffer cost-share program. Upon approval from the WCD Board and BWSR to shift cost-share funds to this project, WCD staff will prepare a request for proposals, to be sent to prospective engineering firms. Approval to proceed with an NPEAP application for the Lakeland Beach Native Buffer project is requested. The maximum amount of the request will be \$10,000. A motion to approve the NPEAP application was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Rosemary Wallace. Motion carried.
- e. **AgBMP Loan Request – Hald ISTS** – On July 23, 2010, WCD received an AgBMP Loan Application from Frederick Hald of Lake St. Croix Beach requesting the amount of \$9,695.00 for replacement of a failing Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS). WCD has established a \$15,000 maximum for loans to individuals for failing ISTS replacement projects. The proposed project consists of the removal of a failing ISTS and installation of a new system. Failing septic systems are a threat to surface and groundwater quality in Washington County. The site is located approximately 800 feet from the St. Croix River. Based on the water quality threat to the surrounding area, WCD staff recommends approving this AgBMP Loan Application as submitted. A motion to approve submitting the AgBMP loan request was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.
- f. **AgBMP Loan Request – Walton ISTS** – On August 2, 2010, WCD received an AgBMP Loan Application from Jason and Alicia Walton of West Lakeland Township requesting the amount of \$10,700.00 for replacement of a failing Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS). WCD has established a \$15,000 maximum for loans to individuals for failing ISTS replacement projects. The proposed project consists of the removal of a failing ISTS and installation of a new system. Failing septic systems are a threat to surface and groundwater quality in Washington County. The site is located approximately 2.3 miles from the St. Croix River. A motion to approve submitting the AgBMP loan request was made by Gary Baumann and seconded by Sarah Hietpas. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

Sarah Hietpas moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Baumann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:11p.m. The next scheduled meeting is September 8, 2010 at 3:00p.m.

Secretary

Approved Date