

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

APRIL 13, 2022 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m. by Chair, John Rheinberger.

Members Present: John Rheinberger, Chair
Jim Levitt, Vice Chair
Tim Behrends, Public Relations and Information
Diane Blake, Treasurer
Bob Rosenquist, Secretary

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin

Other Agencies: Mark Goldberg, DDA Human Resources, Inc.
Matt Lundberg, NRCS
Steve Schmaltz, CLFLWD Board President

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A third item was added to the Consent Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Jim Levitt. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Items to approve this month are the 2022 VBWD Water Monitoring Agreement in the amount of \$70,346; the 2022 CMSCWD Technical Service Agreement Lawns to Legumes Addition in the amount of \$6,960; and the Ramsey County AIS Agreement in the amount of \$9,976. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Bob Rosenquist, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 16, 2022 minutes was made by Jim Levitt and seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Items to note are Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$1,713.75 for water monitoring expenses; and Viking Industrial Center in the amount of \$914.22 for water monitoring expenses. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by Jim Levitt, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel – We are still looking for AIS Watercraft Inspectors. The closing date for the Landscape Restoration Specialist is this Friday.

Budget and Finance – Nothing to report.

Cost-Share – Nothing to report.

Communications and Outreach – The WCA compliance letter was sent out, and the response has been positive.

AGENCY / PARTNER REPORTS

County – The maps for redistricting options were given to the Board. The public hearing on redistricting options is April 19th. They have to make the final decision by the end of April, because Candidate filings open up on May 17th. The Board will meet to further discuss the options on April 19th at 8:00am.

NRCS – The Local Workgroup meeting will be held immediately following the regular Board meeting.

BWSR – Nothing to report.

MCD/Area IV – MCD will be meeting at the end of the month.

Watersheds – Metro Watershed Based Funding convening groups will be happening in April and May.

MASWCD – Some follow-up meetings will be happening soon with the Senate.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **WCD and EMWREP Outreach** – *See Attached and Newspaper Article Binder.*
- b. **Presentation** – None this month.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **COVID-19 & Telework Policy** – BWSR announced that employees will likely be going back into the office on July 1st. We will have been following their plans, and will continue to.
- b. **Building and Vehicles** – Nothing to report.
- c. **Equity Follow-Up** – Diane Blake and Jay Riggs completed the online training through Cornell, and have met with the Equity Committee. There will be a follow-up workshop with staff.
- d. **Project and Program Updates** – The Lower St. Croix Partnership Policy Committee meeting will be held on April 25th. There will be a discussion on Joint Powers Entity versus Joint Powers Collaboration. After discussion, it was decided to remain with a Collaboration at this time.
- e. **2022 Budget and Workplan** – Nothing to report.
- f. **DATC Debriefing** – Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Salary Analysis Presentation** – Mark Goldberg presented the salary analysis information to the Board.
- b. **2022 Cost Share Policy** – The 2022 Cost Share Policy was included in the packet. After discussion, it was decided to change the amount for heavy equipment operation from \$60 per hour to \$75 per hour. A motion to approve the policy, with that change, was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.
- c. **ESRI Renewal Quote** – Approval was requested to renew the maintenance and subscriptions for the access to ArcGIS Online databases. The total cost is \$2,381.76, of which \$345 will be billed to BCWD, and \$345 will be billed to MSCWMO. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Bob Rosenquist, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.
- d. **Green Corps Application Resolution** – Board support is requested for us to apply for (and host) a Green Corps member starting later this fall. They would be assisting with a variety of activities. The required Board Resolution was included in the packet. A motion to support the resolution was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.
- e. **AmeriCorps Climate Impact Corps Application** – Approval is requested to apply to host a Climate Impact Corps member through a newly developed AmeriCorps Program. They serve

an 11-month term beginning on August 29, and would have a community forestry focus and conduct a variety of activities. A motion to approve submitting the application was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

- f. Soil Health Grant Application** – The Board of Water and Soil Resources has an open Request for Proposal for the Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants program. The program will provide funding for farmers, via local government units, who own or rent land to enhance the adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to public water supplies. Priority for this program will be given to new adoption and understanding of soil health practices through the following efforts:

- Building local knowledge;
- Facilitating partnerships;
- Demonstrating clean water benefits;
- Identifying methods to increase long term adoption of soil health practices; and
- Scope and scale of implementation efforts in locally prioritized areas that show a direct benefit to public water supplies.

Applications submitted must request state funds that equal or exceed \$30,000. A 10% non-state match is required. The application deadline is Monday, May 9th 2022. WCD staff are discussing Soil Health Grant application opportunities with Lower St. Croix partners, and would either apply directly or partner to apply. A motion to approve directly applying or partnering to apply for a FY22 BWSR CWF Soil Health Grant was made by Bob Rosenquist. The motion was seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.

- g. BWSR Lawns to Legumes Workplan and Agreement** – WCD staff applied for the 2022 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood grant. WCD submitted one application using the pollinator prioritization framework that has been developed for Washington County to select neighborhoods for targeted outreach and implementation of 4 types of pollinator practices. Three demonstration neighborhoods were selected for the grant application with the installation of at least 15 pollinator practices. WCD was awarded the Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood grant for \$40,000. The grant deadline is June 2024. Staff will work with the BWSR in the coming weeks to develop a work plan. Once the work plan is completed, staff requests permission to allow the District Manager to sign the grant contract with BWSR. A motion was made by Bob Rosenquist, seconded by Diane Blake, to approve signing a contract with BWSR by the District Manager. Motion carried.
- h. Blasko Baseline Assessment and Habitat Management Plan** - Belwin Conservancy, the City of Afton, and the Land and Water Legacy program are likely moving forward on a land protection project on a 20 acres parcel located on Valley Creek in Afton, MN. This project would close before the end of June 2022. A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) will be completed as part of this project funded either by the City of Afton or the Land and Water Legacy program. Additional assistance may also be needed to develop a Baseline Report, a document that is referred to in the easement to record current property conditions. If WCD staff are needed to contribute to the HMP, the cost to develop the plan is estimated to be up to \$4,250 in technical assistance. If WCD staff are needed to contribute to the Baseline Report, the cost to develop that document is estimated to be up to \$2,500. Staff requests permission to have the District Manager enter into an agreement with the City of Afton and/or Washington County Land and Water Legacy program for up to \$6,750 for the development of a Habitat Management Plan and Baseline Report. A motion was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake, to approve signing a contract with the City of Afton and/or Washington County for Blasko project support by the District Manager. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

Bob Rosenquist moved to adjourn the public meeting. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 11, 2022 at **9:00a.m.**

Secretary

Approved Date

WCD Board met on April 19, 2022 at 8am. All Board members were in attendance.

Final WCD Comp Plan Approval – WCD Board approved the Final WCD Comp Plan. Motion by Jim Levitt, seconded by Diane Blake, unanimous. Motion approved.

Redistricting Options Conversation – WCD Board selected Map Options B1 as preferred and C1 as secondary for redistricting and direct WCD Manager to send information to County Staff. Motion by Jim Levitt, seconded by Tim Behrends, unanimous. Motion approved.

Motion to Adjourn by Jim Levitt at 9am, seconded by Tim Behrends, unanimous. Motion approved.