

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MARCH 11, 2024 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board Meeting was called to order at 3:02p.m. by Chair, John Rheinberger.

Members Present: John Rheinberger, Chair
Tim Behrends, Vice Chair
Diane Blake, Treasurer
David Nuccio, Public Relations and Information (attended virtually due to illness)

Staff Present: Jay Riggs
Shari Larkin
Tara Kelly
Elissa Thompson

Other Agencies: Matt Lundberg, NRCS

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

One item was added under New Business for the Resignation of Bob Rosenquist from the Board. A motion to approve the revised Agenda was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Items to approve this month are the 2024 RCWD Water Monitoring Agreement in the amount of \$12,913; the 2024 SWWD Task Order – Extra ESC Inspections in the amount of \$5,550; the 2024 Ramsey County Parks AIS Watercraft Inspections in the amount of \$9,999; the 2024-2025 Chisago SWCD NFWF Statement of Work in the amount of \$95,000; and the 2024 CMSCWD Technical Services Agreement Amendments L and M in the amount of \$8,600. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 13, 2024 minutes was made by David Nuccio and seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Items to note are Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$5,930.00 for lab charges; MJ Mobile Testing and Services LLC in the amount of \$688.50 for first aid/CPR training; Anderson & Koch Ford in the amount of \$30,009.22 for the new truck; and Metro Blooms in the amount of \$600.00 for the 2024 Blue thumb partner fee. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, subject to audit, was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by David Nuccio. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel – Nothing to report.

Budget and Finance – Nothing to report.

Cost-Share – One item under New Business.

Communications and Outreach – Nothing to report.

AGENCY / PARTNER REPORTS

County – Jay has reached out to the County regarding the 2025 budget. The Groundwater Plan process is moving forward. We are still waiting for an update on the ballot item for Land and Water Legacy.

NRCS – There is a CRP general fund sign-up open until March 24th. There are nine CSP applications in Washington County and seven pre-approved EQIP applications. The Local Workgroup meeting will be held on May 8th, after the regular Board meeting. Matt Lundberg has accepted the position of District Conservationist in Farmington.

BWSR – We are continuing to work on two of the resolutions recently passed.

MCD/Area IV – The MCD meeting was February 28th. Remote attendance was discussed, as was Children's Water Festival and the Envirothon. The next Area IV meeting is in two weeks.

Watersheds – The way BSWR is distributing funds for the metro Watershed-Based Funding is based on watershed boundaries. Convening meetings are being held to discuss projects.

MASWCD – Day at the Capitol is on Wednesday.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **WCD and EMWREP Outreach** – *See Attached and Newspaper Article Binder.*
- b. **Presentation** – 2023 BMP Program Review – *Tara Kelly and Elissa Thompson*

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Facilities and Equipment** – The security panels will be updated soon. We are still waiting for a proposal for flagpole lighting. We are going to advertise the sale of the Focus and Toyota soon.
- b. **Program Updates** – Nothing to report.
- c. **Position Announcements Updates** – The closing date for the new Educator position was a couple weeks ago, and we have interviewed five people. Second interviews will be conducted sometime in March. Interviews for Water Monitoring, BMP Maintenance and Erosion/Sediment Control seasonal positions will be held soon.
- d. **2024 DATC** – The Day at the Capitol schedule was given to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **2023 Audit Proposal** – Approval was requested to accept the proposal from Peterson Company Ltd. for the 2023 audit. The fee will be \$6,000. A motion to approve entering into the agreement was made by Tim Behrends, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.
- b. **2024 PC Force Agreement** – The proposal for 2024 IT services from PC Force was included in the packet. Approval is requested to enter into the agreement. A motion to approve entering into the agreement was made by Diane Blake, seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.
- c. **LSCP Watershed Based Implementation Supplemental Funding** – Support is requested to approve an amendment to the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Fund work plan to include \$167,615 in supplemental grant funds, and to authorize the LSC Steering Committee to direct these supplemental funds toward Activity(s) that most effectively meet goals of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. A motion to support the amendment was made by David Nuccio. Seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.
- d. **Water Monitoring Equipment Purchase Request – Rack-It** – We need to purchase a rack for the Ford Maverick to haul the canoe. Approval is requested for the purchase of a Rack-It

rack, at a cost of \$2,990. A motion to approve the purchase was made by David Nuccio, seconded by Diane Blake. Motion carried.

- e. **WCD ESRI GIS License Renewal** – Approval is requested to for our annual GIS license renewal, at a cost of \$2,525.44. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Diane Blake. The motion was seconded by Tim Behrends. Motion carried.
- f. **FY24 CPL Grant Encumbrance Request – Landbridge Little Car Park** – Stillwater Township and Washington Conservation District (WCD) applied for Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPL). The CPL Grant Program funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. For the Expedited Grant Cycle, projects must occur on public lands or waters. WCD has been working in conjunction with council members of the Stillwater township board. The council members would like to restore savanna on a 4-acre parcel on Little Carnelian Lake. Stillwater township has a \$5,000 agreement with WCD to administer the grant which will also be used as match. The council members requested project proposals and have approved a Landbridge as a contractor with a budget of \$50,000 of grant funds. Once the grant contract is signed, WCD staff requests the encumbrance of \$50,000 of CPL grant funds and entering into a contract with Landbridge Ecological to restore Little Carnelian Park. A motion was made by Tim Behrends, to approve a contract with Landbridge Ecological and the encumbrance of \$50,000 for the FY2024 Conservation Partners Legacy grant as outlined. No second to the motion is required, as Tim Behrends is the Chair of the Cost-Share Committee. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- g. **FY24 NFWF Grant Encumbrance Request – SWWD Glacial Valley Park** - The Washington Conservation District (WCD) is assisting the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in the implementation of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Pollinator Grant in Washington County. Grants are awarded to projects that create and sustain interconnected monarch and pollinator habitat. Priorities include: restoring and enhancing breeding and migration habitat to support ample milkweed and diverse nectar plants; protecting and improving overwintering habitat; and developing sustainable and affordable supplies of native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seeds and seedlings that support habitat restoration efforts. Of the \$250,000 grant, \$95,000 of funds are for pollinator restoration and enhancement on public and private land in Washington County. South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) owns and manages the Glacial Valley Park Property. Part of the restoration, the “Rolling Meadows”, is low quality and requires additional enhancement. SWWD would like to partner with WCD and Chisago SWCD to use NFWF Monarch and Pollinator Grant funds to purchase a diverse seed mix and assist with the labor costs for interseeding and management. WCD staff requests the approval of a contract with SWWD as the landowner of the project area and the encumbrance of \$20,000 of NFWF grant funds for this project. A motion was made by Tim Behrends, to approve a contract with South Washington Watershed District and the encumbrance of \$20,000 for the FY2024 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Monarch and Other Pollinators grant as outlined. No second to the motion is required, as Tim Behrends is the Chair of the Cost-Share Committee. All members voting yes. Motion carried.
- h. **Resignation of Bob Rosenquist from the Board** – Bob Rosenquist has decided to resign from the Board.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

After discussion, it was decided to have the Board meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., starting with the April meeting. Tim Behrends made a motion to change the meeting day going forward. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tim Behrends moved to adjourn the

public meeting. Diane Blake seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is April 10, 2024 at 9:30a.m.

Secretary

Approved Date