

Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District
Board of Managers Meeting
October 5th, 2010
174 Lake Ave
Spicer, MN 56288

Present: J. Flanders, G. Behm, B. Wing, R. Hodapp, R. Schaefer of the Board; C. Anderson-Administrator; S. Jacobson-Technician; A. Ripple-Attorney; T. Fischer-BWSR; C. Mehem-Wenck Engineering; W. Holmby, J. Ruter, J. Johnson, B. Nelson-Nest Lake; H. Meint-Diamond Lake; J. Kavanagh-Ducks Unlimited and T. Schaefer-Kandiyohi SWCD.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman R. Hodapp.
2. The District Mission Statement “We exist for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed” was read by Chairman Hodapp.
3. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approve the minutes of the September 7th meeting.
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. October bills to pay
7. Permit #10-14: Johnson Shoreline project
8. Permit #10-15: Wertish Infiltration project

A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders to approve the Consent Agenda items 4-8. The motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Discussion of Diamond Lake Chain of Lakes: J. Kavanagh from Ducks Unlimited (DU) presented possible project involving a temporary drawdown of the lake level of Schultz, Hubbard, and Wheeler, Lakes. The purpose of a drawdown would be to improve the quality of Diamond Lake’s principle inlet by eliminating most of the carp and establishing native vegetation in the Chain of Lakes. An initial look at elevations indicates that a drawdown of the Chain may be possible. A water control structure to allow the drawdown would be installed, and work would have to be done in Hubbard and Wheeler to temporarily reverse flow through Schultz. Prior to actual implementation, 75% of the land owners around the Chain of Lakes would need to approve the project, and a Public Hearing would be required prior to project. The DNR would not be a financial partner (no funding for lakes without a public access) in the project but would offer technical assistance. DU will look to local partners like the Diamond Lake Area Recreation Association and the WD to partner with on a feasibility study to determine the likelihood of success of a project of this nature. Estimated cost of a feasibility study was \$20,000-\$35,000 of which DU could contribute the majority; approximately \$10,000 from local sources. Ducks Unlimited is looking at 2011 to

conduct a feasibility study. Diamond Lake Association and Ducks Unlimited are in favor of the project. If the feasibility study would indicate that success would be likely, the challenge would be in funding the project. The WD, as a local government unit, would be the lead partner on the project. All permits would need to be obtained by the WD. C. Anderson asked if the feasibility study would include the effects of reduced flows into Diamond Lake for the years that the drawdown would be implemented; J. Kavanagh stated it would. B. Wing asked, "What are the implications of this project?" J. Kavanagh stated the actual structure would be placed on private property. G. Behm and J. Kavanagh will talk to the potential land owners and report back to the Board at the next meeting. The goal of this project is to reduce the carp population, which stir up the lake bottom thus increasing the phosphorus in the water column, and potentially the chlorophyll A.

10. Nest Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed Engineering Report was presented by C. Meehan. See power point handout from the Nest Lake Improvement Association (NLIA) presentation made by Wenck Engineering. The Initial Plan was presented to the Board and a review of the problems caused by the invasive plant. 2009 was a year of intensive harvesting done by the lake association. Harvester drivers were hired and methodically worked the lake until early July, 2009. Members of the lake association reported significant improvements in water quality and less curly leaf pondweed noted. The Board would need to accept the Report in November and proceed to appoint an appraiser. The Project would first start in 2012 due to the tax levy information required for Kandiyohi County to add in 2011 in order to collect in 2012. The Board discussed harvester staff requirements, who would employ them and insure the drivers. It was decided that a Technical Advisory Committee would be needed to develop a plan of action. The appraisal process was reviewed. NLIA reported "... that 60-70% of the property owners are currently paying all of the cost of the current treatment program. The cost would be less per property owner if 100% of the property owners contributed". The Nest Lake Association would like to maintain control of the harvester, and request that the WD lease back the equipment to the NLIA. NLIA feels this would keep costs down, as they would charge property owners for cutting for boat navigation; they would also maintain a heavy sense of ownership in the program. NLIA feels that payroll is difficult for their Association to do and would prefer that the drivers be considered WD employees. A. Ripple raised concern on potential liability and safety issues for the WD. The possibility of giving the drivers the title of Independent Contractors rather than employees may be best. These concerns were discussed and will be addressed at future meetings.

11. Administrator's Report:

11. a Review of Calendar-November Board Meeting will be changed to Monday November 1st.

11. b Review of Project Status

11.b.1 Belgrade Stormwater project update-A meeting at WSB Engineering was attended by City of Belgrade, J. Michels-EOR, M. Leach-MPCA, W. Cymbaluk-Stearns SWCD and D. Sander-CROW to discuss options. The group felt that the clay soil was brought in for the road construction of Hwy 71 and perhaps this may allow for the clay soil to be removed; it is planned that the lighter underlying soils will still be used for infiltration. This year was a wetter year than usual and the high water influenced the water tables, so a new set of plans is being developed to see if the plan can go forward. MN DOT funds are available for this project until June 2011.

11.b.2 Clean Water Partnership Continuation Grant

11. b.2.a Cost Share Contract K-5-10 Dybevik Shoreland Stabilization request was reviewed by the Board. On the north shore of Diamond Lake (along with K-6-10 Brekke Shoreland Stabilization-see below), this project will stabilize the shoreline

and enhance habitat along approximately 200 contiguous feet of shoreline. Hydrologist of the DNR met to review the steep slope of the shoreline. R. Riemer is designing the toe, and native plants will be planted along the banks. Project cost for the cost share contract is not to exceed 75% of the estimated project cost of \$7,000. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve K-5-10 and K-6-10. The motion passed.

11.b.2.b Cost Share Contract K-6-10 Brekke Shoreland Stabilization (see description above). A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve K-6-10 to enter into a cost share contract not to exceed 75% of the estimated project cost of \$7,000. The motion passed.

11.b.3 Clean Water Partnership EWM/Stormwater Study update-WD staff collected vegetation samples at 30 equidistant sites along the 8 foot contour of Green Lake by casting a double sided rake out in four directions from a boat. In the WD office, the vegetation was separated into EWM and non-EWM piles by site, dried, and weighed for baseline data points. Sediment cores will be collected this winter.

11.b.4 Park Lane easement maintenance update-Three staff members removed approximately 150 pounds of sediment and removed weeds from the channel, and the area where the culvert comes in from County Road 10. The grit chambers were cleaned in May by the City's construction engineering firm. The City of Spicer is responsible for maintenance of the grit chambers and major maintenance of the channel, whereas the WD is responsible for the regularly scheduled, light maintenance.

11.c Administrative matters

11.c.1 Future office needs-The Board and staff have met with D. Day Architect from Long Lake to help determine space needs. The Board discussed contracting with D. Day to provide a floor plan, which could be used with either new construction or the remodeling of an existing building. A. Ripple stated that if the cost is less than \$25,000 the WD can hire whomever; if the cost is over \$25,000, public bids would need to be obtained and the WD would need to follow through on the lowest bid. The Board discussed the difference between a General Contractor and a Construction Manager.

11.c.2 3rd Quarter actual expenditures-see form.

11.c.3 Vehicle update- A claim was filed with the insurance company for an accident with the truck (a deer was struck). After meeting the deductible of \$500, the cost will be covered. Estimated cost is \$1800 to repair of the bumper and transmission cooler.

11.d Follow up on September administrative matters

11.dd.1 MAWD Annual Meeting-Board members and staff will be attending the December meeting. S. Jacobson will organize the reservation.

12. Legal Counsel Report-A. Ripple inquired about the status of the recording of prior property transfers. C. Anderson stated he will start the process this month.

13. Public Access-CAC meeting was held in September with a good turnout. H. Meints and Troy Block were elected as co-chairs, with Trudie Guptill as secretary. Volunteers were recognized for their years of service to the WD.

14. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary