

Middle Fork Crow River Water shed District

Board of Managers Meeting

March 1, 2011

174 Lake Avenue North

Spicer, MN 56288

Present: J. Flanders, R. Hodapp, B. Wing and R. Schaefer of the Board; C. Anderson-Administrator, S. Jacobson & V. Glieden Henjum-Technicians; A. Ripple-Legal Counsel; S. VanBuren-Westberg & Eischens and M. Larsen-Spicer. Absent from the Board: G. Behm.

1. The meeting was called to order by R. Hodapp at 7:05 pm.

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 R. Hodapp.

3. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: 4. Approve minutes of the February meeting. 5. Treasurers Report. 6. March bills to pay. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 4-0.

7. 2010 Annual Audit Report was presented by S. VanBuren. See report.

8. Administrator’s Report

a. Review Calendar-see calendar

b. Review of Project Status

1. Belgrade Stormwater project update- additional water quality improvement aspects requested by the WD for the flood mitigation project in Belgrade have been approved by MN DOT. Engineer’s estimates have come in higher than originally anticipated. CROW Joint Powers Board is considering a potential contribution of up to \$20,000 towards this project. MN DOT remains committed to 40% of implementation costs. The Board discussed increasing our current contribution of \$171,500 to \$181,500. This project was presented to MPCA-M. Leach and she stated her support for the project. Anticipated water quality improvements would be the reduction of 5-10 tons of sediment per year and a reduction of phosphorus levels in the neighborhood of 10 pounds per year. The proposed changes are not anticipated to negatively impact downstream flow or water quality. Because flows in the receiving ditch will be less than 2 ft. /second, degradation of the stream banks is not anticipated. The 42 inch pipe is needed for the amount of water anticipated. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to approve an additional \$10,000 for contract S-1-10 City of Belgrade Stormwater project. The vote passed 4-0.

2. Schultz/Hubbard/Wheeler Chain of Lakes Feasibility Study-Diamond Lake Association approved \$8000 for this study. An additional \$8000 from the Watershed District was approved at the February meeting. C. Anderson will meet with Ducks Unlimited, County staff and DNR later in March to discuss this project and to ensure that there are not regulatory issues with conducting the study. It is hoped that the Feasibility Study will be completed by the end of this summer, but 2012 may be more realistic.

3. Green Lake Stormwater/EWM study update-District staff accompanied personnel from Foth Engineering (subcontracted through EOR) on March 1st to collect lake sediment cores. The process involved drilling through the ice and using manual equipment to obtain the core samples. Non-cohesive sand or gravel prevented the collection of some sites. Samples obtained will be analyzed for grain size (% distribution sand, silt, and clay), total phosphorus, pH, moisture content, total organic carbon and total Kjeldahl nitrogen nutrients.

4. Diamond Lake TMDL update- EPA reviewed the draft TMDL and provided a series of comments. The comments will be addressed via a conference call with M. Leach-MPCA, M. Deutschmann-Houston Engineering, P. Protto-EPA Region 5 (Chicago), and C. Anderson – the conference call is scheduled for later in March.

5. Nest Lake Engineering Report-The report was finalized with C. Meehan-Wenck Engineering, J. Eisterhold & E. Jenzen –DNR. Comments were incorporated into the report and the Board will be able to review the final report.

6. Middle Fork Education Program update-Staff were able to work with 5th and 6th grade students at BBE and 4th graders at ACGC. See Administrator’s Report for further detail.

c. Administrative matters

1. Agricultural BMP incentives-C. Anderson presented “MFCRWD Proposed Agricultural Incentive Program” proposal. This proposal is an effort to increase the interest in BMP projects. Project funds could not be used for projects begun prior to Board approval, and would need to comply with state and county rules/regulations. A. Ripple stated that the incentive sheet should contain language stating the WD’s policy of not paying for practices already required under other rules. The Board will review the policy.

2. Equipment Purchase Request-Currently WD staff is using the office laptops for field work, which leaves them susceptible to issues due to weather exposure. Toughbooks are available for computerized fieldwork for approximately \$3375. A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders to approve the purchase of a Toughbook for up to \$3,500. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Board term expiration-G. Behm’s term expires in 2011. Mr. Behm has expressed an interest in serving another 3-year term. A letter of intent was sent to Kandiyohi County Administrator, to request his reappointment for another term.

4. Open House will be held June 7th 2011. A later date was chosen to attract more summer residents and avoid poor weather.

5. Substitution of Collateral Notice-A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders to approve substitution of Collateral Notice. Bank papers were signed by R. Hodapp. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Future office needs update- C. Anderson met with D. Dietz, who stated that land on county road 8 across from the DNR office is available. The price is said to be \$20,000-25,000 per acre, which would be considered to be negotiable. No action was taken.

7. Westby Student Internship funding request-This internship allows a High School student of NL-S an environmental work experience over the summer with the DNR, WD and other agencies. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve up to \$500 for the scholarship. The motion passed 4-0.

8. An extra check was requested by C. Anderson for \$2,267.23 for annual dues of the MAWD organization. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to approve \$2,267.23 for MAWD dues. The motion passed 4-0.

9. Personnel evaluation was performed at a closed meeting prior to this meeting for C. Anderson. The evaluation was favorable.

10. Personnel evaluation for Sara Jacobson is due in April. The Board will meet for a closed meeting prior to the April Board of Managers meeting.

d. Follow-up on February administrative matters

1. Health insurance options update-C. Anderson has completed the paperwork for a HSA-Flex account through Conway, Deuth& Schmiesing. Each employee will still maintain their own health insurance policy in conjunction with the HSA account.

2. Grass Lake modeling partnership with Kandiyohi County update-An agreement is being developed with input from legal counsel.

3. District Annual Report-See Annual Report. The overall response was positive for the latest Annual Report and the improvements in content and layout were discussed. The Board discussed mailing the Report out and the costs involved for this type of a marketing idea.

4. MFCRWD Marketing/Outreach efforts update- C. Anderson stated he would like to make this a higher priority and has held meetings with SWCD and NRCS, including working with them on the Agricultural Incentives Program. A radio program to promote the District was held in February.

9, Legal Counsel- A. Ripple stated that John Kolb may be attending some of the WD meetings when he has a scheduling conflict. J. Kolb has served as the WD legal counsel previously. The Board and staff were in acceptance of this plan.

10. Public Access-R. Schaefer informed the group about the latest developments in the AIS movement within the Kandiyohi County Lakes Association, State Legislature and Green Lake Property Owners Association. Other WD are being asked to fund multiple programs/projects in an attempt to combat the spread of AIS. Groups will be requesting funds from the Kandiyohi Water Task Force and most likely the WD in the near future.

A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by B. Wing to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by,
Ruth Schaefer
Secretary

3.20.11