

MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 17, 2006

Public Budget Hearing for 2007 at 7:00 pm

Regular Meeting 7:30 pm

Bell Tower Plaza

118 Lake Ave. N.

Spicer, MN 56288

PRESENT: Gordy Behm, Joe Flanders, Robert Hodapp, Robert Zenner, Ruth Schaefer of the Board; Tom Fischer-BWSR; Ann Latham-Adm. Asst; Maggie Leach-MPCA; Tom Bonde-Technical Advisor; Dennis Peterson-Kandiyohi County Commissioner; Diane Sander-CROW River Joint Powers Board, Doug Hanson-SWCD, Frans Rosenquist and Dwaine Buer of Atwater, Roger Walsh-New London and Julie Klocker-St. Cloud.

A public hearing was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman, Robert Hodapp, for the purpose of reviewing and receiving comments from the public on the proposed 2007 MFCRWD budget. See attached "MFCRWD Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007". The proposed budget was made available to all individuals in attendance. The chairperson asked for comments from the public on the proposed budget.

J. Klocker stated that in accordance with MN Statute 466.06 "Liability insurance can be a separate line item in the proposed budget". In reviewing the insurance policy required by law this would allow the WD to move \$2,624.00 from the general fund. This was discussed among the Board and public audience, no opposition was voiced.

A motion was made R. Zenner and seconded by R. Schaefer to add \$2, 624.00 to the proposed 2007 budget in accordance to MN Statute 466.06. Board members voting in favor were: R. Hodapp, J. Flanders, R. Zenner and R. Schaefer. A Board member voting against the motion was G. Behm. The motion passed. The revised amount will be sent to the county auditors.

As no further comments were brought before the Board a motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by G. Behm to accept the proposed 2007 budget of \$252,624.00. The motion passed. As no further comments were brought before the Board the public hearing was closed at 7:20 pm.

The business meeting was opened at 7:20 pm by Chairman R. Hodapp.

A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders to revise the agenda. D. Sanders-C.R.O.W. Administrator is allowed to present her information prior to the Old Business due to scheduling conflicts. The motion passed.

New Business # 8 Crow River Clean Up Day- D. Sander-C.R.O.W. Administrator

“Clean up the Crow Day” is scheduled on September 16th from 8-12 noon. The 2005 “Clean up the Crow Day” had over 200 volunteers removing 5 tons of trash and removed over 15 tons in 2 years of cleaning. Diane is asking the WD to donate money to cover expenses and advertise the WD on the T-shirts, which would be given to the volunteers. The T-shirts would also list the sponsors on the back of the shirt. Canoes and a Team Leader from the WD are also needed for the event. A Latham volunteered to send a message to the Citizens Advisory Committee to advertise the event. R. Schaefer volunteered to be the Team Leader. R. Schaefer will contact D. Sander through email and update the Board as the event will occur prior to the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by J. Flanders to donate \$200.00 for the CROW River Clean up Day. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Approve/revise the minutes of the July 20th meeting. M. Leach pointed out 2 omissions to the minutes and they will be corrected by the secretary. (Add: Steve Erickson and Maggie Leach to the attendance roster and correct a typo). A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by G. Behm to approve the minutes with above noted corrections. The motion passed.

3. Treasurers Report-G. Behm presented the August report, see attached report. Treasurer’s report was reviewed and a motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the Treasury Report subject to audit. The motion passed.

4. Approve/revise bills to pay-G. Behm presented the August bills to pay, see attached list. The Board discussed the amount due to Kandiyohi County (\$40,000); the WD can pay the entire amount now or pay one half. It was decided to pay one half now. A motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the August bills. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Clean Water Legacy- Grant options were reviewed by the Board and members of the public. D. Hanson stated that two employees from SWCD are going to a workshop to learn more about the grant. T. Fischer stated, “Matching dollars are not required for the Legacy grant.” Projects discussed were:

-Buffer strips cost and incentive payments to farmers. D. Sander stated the C.R.O.W.’s incentive money goes fast, her Board provides a one time payment to the farmer for the buffer strip. D. Hanson stated that the SWCD sends out a mailing to farmers advertising the Buffer Strip Program. G. Behm asked what happens to unused money in the grant program and D. Hanson stated unused money goes back to the state.

F. Rosenquist stated that the majority of his farm ditches have buffer strips in place.

-J. Klocker asked “if Best Management Practices (BMP’S) could be implemented that would focus on the most sensitive areas within the subwatershed areas?” This was discussed and it was decided to create a subcommittee which would meet to determine the focus of the grant application.

-D. Hanson encouraged the Board to promote the use of “rain gardens” throughout the WD. He also stated that he met with Josh Cavannah of Ducks Unlimited to review possible projects.

-The subcommittee will meet August 24th at 7:30pm. It was determined that the WD and SWCD would partner on the request to the Clean Water Legacy grant. A. Latham will invite Loren Engelby and Jeff Bredberg of Kandiyohi County and D. Hanson will inform Rick Reimer of the upcoming meeting.

6. Clean Water Partnership MPCA grant- **M. Leach** stated that grant money will need to be equally matched by the applicant for the grant. Grant money can be used for water monitoring and educational programs with an emphasis on the educational portion. Both the Legacy grant and the MPCA grant will require the WD to partner with a local governmental unit as the Comprehensive Plan for the WD has not been completed.

Possible projects discussed were:

- Implementation projects on the Diamond Lake (see 319 grant application);
- Diagnostic studies on the Hubbard chain of lakes;
- Equipment for monitoring which would assist the WD in implementation projects and improve water quality within the WD area;
- Projects can have a subwatershed district or district wide focus.

The application format for the MPCA grant is short and will not allow for a lot of specific information on each project. It was decided to narrow down the focus with a smaller group of people.

A meeting will be scheduled for Monday August 28th at 8:00 am at the WD office for those willing to assist in the grant proposal. J. Klocker offered to assist the WD with the grant, R. Hodapp will attend on behalf of the WD.

7. Comprehensive Plan update- **Mike Sharp** of Mid MN Development Commission dropped off Chapter 2 for the Board to review and comment on at the August 24th meeting.

9. Administrator update- The Board has interviewed 3 qualified individuals for the Administrator position. The final decision has not yet been made. Further updates will occur over the course of the next few weeks.

10. Monitoring update- **R. Schaefer** The WD received a grant for the “Monitoring Plan Trainings for Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs” on September 22, 23 and October 6, 2006. The training session has room for 1-2 extra participants. The Board discussed the names of other possible interested parties and they will be contacted by R. Schaefer.

Several property owners expressed an interest in the shoreline restoration project needed for the DNR Grant application. We now have participants from: Calhoun, Green

and Nest Lake which is more than enough for the grant application. More property owners could become involved if the grant is approved.

R. Schaefer will be representing the WD at the MN Waters conference in Duluth September 7-9th. The WD was asked to present on Friday September 8th as part of the “Watershed Organizations in MN: Many Forms, Many Functions.

Tom Bonde and R. Schaefer met to review portions of the monitoring information. Some parts of the WD are have extensive monitoring data and perhaps could be monitored less next year. However, there are areas within the WD that have never been monitored or have minimal data available. This information will be gathered at the end of the monitoring season and presented to the Board.

11. Office update-A. Latham. See attached report.

11.1 -2007 budget forms will be signed and sent to S. Moddermann.

11.2 –WD received the Special Taxing District book for review.

11.3 – Clean Water Legacy and MPCA grants reviewed tonight.

11.4 – Invasive Species- A. Latham reported that in the course of discovering Eurasian Milfoil in her area of Green Lake she learned that a “Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) must be completed by a DNR approved Surveyor /Contractor prior to any treatment of the invasive species. A LVMP was done for Green Lake in 2003; one of the 3 recommendations was an annual survey of the E. Milfoil. Concern was expressed that the WD make invasive species a high priority. D. Peterson reported that the DNR feels the E. Milfoil is not spreading in Green Lake. A few lake associations are addressing invasive species.

11.5 –Old Mill Inn water sampling site is no longer available to the DNR. R. Schaefer contacted Skip Wright-DNR to discuss an alternative site for gauge samples. S. Wright stated that no other area within the WD provides the flow data necessary. This data will no longer be available to the DNR.

11.6 – A. Latham was asked to inform those who inquire about the Administrators positions that the Board is meeting to further discuss the applicants and a decision has not been made.

Minutes will be emailed to the Administrators of each county within the WD, who will pass on the information to each county commissioner. Other interested agencies are receiving the minutes by email as well.

As no further business was brought before the Board a motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary
8-27-06