The Board convened workshop at 1:00 p.m.

Attendance: Board members, Patricia Preiner, John Waller, Steve Wagamon, Mike Bradley, and Barbara Haake.

Absent: None.

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Communications & Outreach Coordinator Beth Carreño (portion of meeting); Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting); Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; and District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering (HEI), Becky Rice-Metro Blooms (portion of meeting), and Sage Passi-Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Watershed Education Specialist (portion of meeting).

Administrator Belfiori requested the addition of Halls Marsh Project update, 5.61 Extended medical/family leave, and Manager Haake requested the addition of Temporary Office Space for MAWD Administrator.

**Discussion on Blue Thumb (BT) 2017 Report.**

Communications & Outreach Coordinator Beth Carreño informed the Board that Metro Blooms is nearing the October 30, 2017 deadline for Phase 1 of the BT license and transfer agreement with the District. She distributed an updated final report from Metro Bloom and gave a presentation which outlined the framework for the Board’s decision to transfer the program to Metro Blooms. She updated the Board on Metro Blooms accomplishments that met or exceeded the agreements benchmarks and goals. Communications & Outreach Coordinator Carreño also reported that on October 4, 2017, Metro Blooms sent out a notice to the BT partners mailing list for input and comments by October 16, 2017, on the final transfer of BT. The District also posted this notice on our website. Staff will gather and share these comments with Board before their final vote at their October 25, 2017 regular meeting. The Board asked questions regarding the staffing budget and Becky Rice of Metro Blooms reviewed their staffing budget over the past 2-years and informed the Board of their current staff member John Bly who is the lead contact for the program. Sage Passi with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District and representing a public BT partner spoke to her positive interactions with Metro Blooms and the new lawn care partnerships. Manager
Waller suggested they contact Citizen Advisory Commit (CAC) member Marcie Weinandt who works for the MN Dept. of Agriculture to discuss these BT lawn care initiatives. Communications & Outreach Coordinator Carreño also informed the Board that the current membership for public partners is too narrow and there isn’t a mechanism for stepwise governmental agencies to become partners. This would have to be addressed moving forward. The Board thanked Metro Blooms.

Discussion on 2017 Urban Stormwater Remediation Cost-Share Program, Washington County Applications.

Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell wanted to review with the Board the two proposals received for USWR cost-share program to see if the Board would like any further information/clarification before the October 25, 2017 public hearing. The first proposal is from the City of Forest Lake project: TH61 West Ditch Drain Tile Extension. The total cost of the project is $49,600 and the cost-share request if $24,800. This is a flood control and conveyance drainage improvement project for landowners whose outlets currently are at different elevations. The CAC recommended funding for 50% not to exceed $24,800.

Water Resource Specialist Axtell reviewed the second proposal from the City of Hugo for the purchase of a Vactor Sewer Cleaning Equipment. The City would use this equipment to increase storm sewer sump clean out. This equipment is different than the enhanced street sweeper that the Board approved in the past for funding because at this time there are no studies or data available to document the benefits of this equipment. At this time, cities are required to vacuum out the sediment once a year. Water Resource Specialist Axtell stated he contacted SWCDs and there is not a lot of information out there. The CAC recommended not to fund this project. The Board discussed the potential of using this equipment on ditches, culverts and sediment ponds. Water Resource Specialist Axtell informed the Board that this equipment does not have the capacity to use on a sediment pond i.e. Long Lake, Locke Lake. The Board discussed with staff the idea of having this be a demonstration/research project where the city would collect data to document the benefit of the equipment and staff would include language in the cost share agreement documenting this. The Board by consensus agreed to this direction.

Discussion on Proposal for Clear Lake Improvements Feasibility Study.

Water Resource Specialist Axtell stated this proposal is with the City of Forest Lake to use the city’s engineer Bolton & Menk to develop a feasibility study to identify and analyze potential water quality improvement and groundwater use reduction BMPs in the 11th Avenue SW subwatershed of Clear Lake. The engineer’s detailed proposal is attached to agreement. This study would include potential projects and construction cost estimates for each. Manager Bradley questioned what the difference between the recent conservation district subwatershed assessments are to this feasibility study. Water Resource Specialist Axtell replied this is a more focused effort and preliminary engineering will be included. Administrator Belfiori replied that this is a very important study since it is one of the District’s Watershed Management Plan (WMP) capital improvement projects (CIP). Manager Waller stressed the importance of these
studies and inclusion in the WMP because they are the building blocks. Manager Bradley requested names of people to talk to at the cities to make them aware of these studies as part of their local water planning. The Board will act on this item at their October 11 regular meeting.

**Update on Halls Marsh Project.**
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the driveway was paved on Friday and that the Engineer as informed him that the paving was as wide as previous condition according to the data. There have been some landowner comments regarding the width of the driveway. HEI will calculate the pre-width/post-width available to landowners. District Engineer Otterness stated that with the removal of trees the project area may appear more opened and therefore the driveway may appear narrower. He stated the project has complied with the DNR permit, and stated there are much better site conditions with additional sanitary sewer and pipe insulation. Manager Waller stated he visited the site on Sunday. Good water flow. Neighbors have no large complaints. District Technician Berger had made a site visit and informed and discussed with residence the Districts cost share program.

**Discussion on Carp Management Program Using Whoosh Equipment & Possible Carp Management MAWD Resolution.**
Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian informed the Board that the U of M received the LCCMR grant they applied for last year to test new technologies (Whoosh equipment) for removing carp. The District wrote a letter of support for the grant and committed funds for the rental of the equipment if the grant was awarded. Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian informed the Board that Carp Solutions will be testing the equipment in coordination with the electrical barrier sometime in the Spring. Carp Solutions will be presenting a more detailed proposal and budget for the District consideration in December.

Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian presented a proposed draft MAWD resolution: Aligning commercial carp fishing regulations with clean water goals, and promoting markets for invasive carp. He informed the Board that he has been in contact with other watershed district but has not received any feedback at this time. The Board and staff agreed the issue of important should be entire state. The final resolution will be considered at their October 11 meeting with a deadline for staff to submit the resolution to MAWD by 10/20/17.

**Discussion on Bylaws Comments.**
Administrator Belfiori stated the consideration of the general revisions to the bylaws was tabled at the September 13, 2017 regular meeting. The 10/9/2017 workshop packet contains Manager Waller’s written comments from the 9/13 meeting, Washington County Board of Commissioners letter and the 9/13/17 bylaws.

Manager Wagamon stated the Board followed proper procedures. The Board began with a working committee, then had a full Board review and comment during several workshops.

Manager Waller replied he was following procedure and process regarding 30-day notice to the Board for comment on the proposed general by-laws revision. Even though 4 members
disagreed with his bylaw amendments, that doesn’t prevent him from presenting his
amendments at a regular Board meeting to be discussed. Also, in the beginning of the process,
he requested to be on the subcommittee and he was not.
Manager Haake replied the bylaw discussions occurred during open meetings and all board
members were in attendance.
The Managers started reviewing Manager Waller’s written revisions to proposed general by-law
revisions. Manager Bradley commented regarding Manager Waller’s new section 3 under
Article III proposing 3 special taxing districts, Manager Bradley’s opinion is that it is contrary to
the Washington County Board’s letter second bullet. The Board by majority consensus agreed
against the revision.
Manager Bradley requested using Manager Waller’s proposed revision Article VI Code of Ethics
section 8 (a) “Managers shall perform their duties with objectivity, impartiality, accountability
and transparency”, and moving it to the 9/13/17 bylaws Article V. Officers and Board, section 5,
new item (j). The Board by agreed by majority consensus to this revision.
The Board discussed Manager Waller’s proposed revision to Article VI. Code of Ethics section 8
and the Washington County Board’s suggestion to move much of the content in this section to
a policy and procedures manual. The Board discussed this at length and by majority consensus
agreed to leave this section the same as it is in the proposed September 13, 2017 bylaws
document.
Manager Waller requested an addition of “workshops” to Article VII. Meetings of RCWD Board
of Managers to follow section 2. He stated workshops should be for discussion only and any
business should be forwarded to a business meeting. Manager Waller had a complaint that the
workshop packets weren’t available on the website as regular board meetings are.
Administrator Belfiori replied the previous direction from the Board was based on the Board’s
mindset that these materials are drafts/not complete policy because staff is requesting
additional preliminary discussion for the Board so more complete documents can be acted on
at regular meetings for better efficiency.
Manager Wagamon replied that the District doesn’t want people to have incomplete
information.
Manager Preiner also agreed that draft information may be construed as final information.
Manager Bradley’s suggested language: **WORKSHOPS:** There shall be at least one workshop
per month. A workshop shall normally be scheduled for the Monday preceding the first
regularly scheduled meeting. Additional workshops shall be scheduled at the call of the
President. No official board action will be taken at a workshop.
The Board requested Administrator Belfiori to consult with SmithPartners on how to continue
the process of amending the bylaws.
Administrator Belfiori requested clarification from the Board on their proposed revisions.
Discussion on Outstanding Watershed District Employee Award.
The Board discussed the item and decided by majority consensus to nominate Administrator Phil Belfiori.

Update on requested personnel matter
Administrator Belfiori stated per the RCWD employee handbook, the Board must approve and employees request for Extended Family and Medical Leave Request. He reviewed the request with the Board. The Board by consensus agreed to add this to the Board’s October 11, 2017 consent agenda.

MAWD Administrator temporary office space.
Manager Haake updated the Board on RCWD office as a potential temporary office space for MAWD staff. Due to the extended period of time housing the employee, the District will not have a desk/office available. The District employs an intern each year beginning in mid-May until late August. The Board by consensus agreed that the District could not provide the temporary office space.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.