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; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasics; and District Engineers Chris Otterness and Garrett Monson-Houston Engineering (HEI) (portion of meeting); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting).

Administrator Belfiori requested moving project updates items 1 & 2 after the Discussion on Draft Repair Report for WJD2 Br to accommodate staff and consultants who will be presenting.


District Engineers Garrett Monson & Chris Otterness gave a presentation to the Board outlining the draft repair report. They reviewed the District’s typical repair process, the current conditions of the system, and two repair alternatives. District Engineer Garrett Monson pointed out to the Board that this was a different system repair report because this ditch system has an official mediated profile and the other ditch repairs had As Constructed Subsequently Improved Condition-ACSIC. Repair alternative 1 would be a full repair to the official mediated profile, and alternative 2 was a partial repair that would avoid potential wetland impacts. The District Engineers recommended repair alternative 1, which is a full repair, and provided cost estimates, and recommended to the Board that the project will be paid through ad valorem funds as this is a truck system. District Engineer Monson noted that the District will have to work with the City of Hugo through the WCA process and they have estimated 1.84 acres of wetland mitigation based on 0.92 acres of wetland impact.

Manager Bradley questioned if the District will have to obtain a DNR permit. Drainage Attorney Kolb replied that since there is an established profile and the District is addressing the threatened & endangered species and that a spoil management plan will be developed, all the District needs from the DNR is a letter of permission. Manager Waller questioned how many credits the District has achieved through Browns Preserve and the current...
breakdown for the planned use of those credits. Manager Preiner requested it be presented at the next workshop. Administrator Belfiori replied that the Board has developed a long term plan for possible drainage repairs for the next 5-years and that there would appear, based on estimates provided by HEI, to be enough credits available for the 5 drainage repair projects listed in this long term plan. Manager Waller suggested the District should investigate other opportunities for a wetland banking. For example, the Rice Lake basin. Washington County has bonding funds available for these types of projects and it could be a shared opportunity with the County and the Washington Conservation District. Manager Bradley questioned why this repair project isn’t being funded 60% ad valorem /40% water management district like the previous repair projects. Administrator Belfiori replied that, per the Watershed Management Plan, WJD #2 is designated as a “Trunk System” and that repair and maintenance of Trunk Systems is paid for by ad valorem funds. The Board by consensus agreed to accept the engineer’s report and to hold the public hearing at the City of Hugo Council Chambers by February 2018. The Board also reached consensus that it will forego a landowner information meeting at this time unless it is deemed necessary in the future.

**Update on AWJD 4, Branch 4 Easement.**

Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt updated the Board on the acquisition of an easement to allow for the re-route of a portion of branch 4 to avoid an excavated pond that has rendered the branch upstream of it non-functioning. The pond was created by the original owner of the property located at 18555 Fenway Ave n. in Forest Lake. For the last two years, the District had been working with the bank that owned the property for an easement to re-route the tile around the pond. Before the District received final easement approval, the property was sold. The District met with the landowner to discuss the re-route and then sent him an easement for his review. Because of the nature of the obstruction (man-made), the District’s expectation would be that there would be no fee for the easement. The landowner in return sent revised easement documents requesting payment for the easement. District Attorney Kolb replied that the previous owners were agreeable to the easement without reimbursement, but the new landowner is not. District staff explained the obligation and burdens to the new landowners and that, as the owners of the property that has caused the obstruction/damage, they could be held financially responsible for the costs of restoring the drainage function to upstream landowners. The Board discussed with staff/consultants the landowners concerns and what kinds of liability or reasonable claims could or could not be made. As the payment request from the landowner was nominal, The Board by consensus agreed to pay what the landowner has requested for the easement.

**Update on Halls Marsh Repair Project.**

District Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that HEI incurred additional cost due to the unforeseen sanitary sewer issues. The additional activities are identified in the revised task order that was provided to the Board in their agenda packet. The additional cost is approximately $9,700. This task order was approved by the Board before the project had
begun. District Engineer Otterness reviewed the additional work that was provided by HEI during the construction phase of the project. The Board by consensus agreed to the revised task order and have the president sign it.

**Discussion on Proposed Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Resolutions (consideration at 11/8 Board meeting).**

District Administrator Belfiori and the Board reviewed each resolution and the MAWD/District recommendations. An additional resolution #10: Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force to Establish Recommendations for Effective Watershed Implementation was distributed for the Boards review and approval. District Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that Ray Bohn and the MAWD Board of Directors directed him to provide a draft resolution (resolution #10: Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force to Establish Recommendations for Effective Watershed Implementation) for the MAWD convention. These proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions will be an action item at the Board’s 11/8 meeting.

Manager Waller requested clarification on the resolution process following the vote at MAWD convention. Manager Haake explained that resolutions that aren’t acted on will be brought back the following 3-4 years. If the resolution is passed at the convention it is active until next legislative session, lower on priority or bring back next December. Manager Haake also informed the Board that at the 11/8 meeting they will be nominating 2 delegates and alternate for the MAWD convention.

**Update on Washington County Budget Workshop.**

District Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 14th after the County Commissioners 9:30 a.m. meeting-around 10:30 in the council chambers. The meeting has been noticed per the direction of President Preiner.

The workshop was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.