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

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

Absent:

Staff: Administrator Phil Belfiori, Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt; Technician Ashlee Ricci; Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian; Office Manager Theresa Stasica (portion of meeting).

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness—Houston Engineering (HEI), Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan.

Visitors: Duane Gillette, Jo Gillette, Steve Smits, Gary Anderson, Mary Ann Anderson, Tom Hansen, Megan Olsen, Mike Verdoom.

Discuss Anoka County Ditch 31 Landowner Request.

Technician Ashlee Ricci gave background information regarding Mr. Duane Gillette’s (17016 Vassar Street NE. Columbus, MN) request to have a culvert removed that was installed during the ACD #31 repair project. The RCWD (as part of the ordered project) installed several new crossings for inspection/maintenance access at various locations throughout the system. One of these crossings resides on Mr. Gillette’s property.

Mr. Gillette is requesting that the crossing on his property be removed because it is causing flooding/damage on his property. The Public Drainage inspector, The District Engineer, and staff feel that the culvert crossing is critical for inspection/maintenance access and should remain in place. It was noted that no damage/flooding was observed after inspection upon request of Mr. Gillette.

As the crossing was included in the order for repair, staff feels that Board direction should be obtained prior removing this structure.

Mr. Gillette explained that water froze in the culvert during the winter and the ice held water back in the spring and has made his yard wetter. He stated that there was garbage placed in the ditch during the repair project, and later clarified that the garbage he was referencing was the
tree chippings from the repair project. Staff further clarified that the referenced “trash” was actually the material used to create the crossing and cover the installed culvert.

Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt added that ACD 31, including the branch around Mr. Gillette’s property, is slated for minor maintenance this construction season as part of the maintenance program.

The Board discussed options to resolve the landowners concern including a larger culvert or spraying the channel and monitoring for another year.

The Board directed staff to consider each option and to notify the landowner of the plan outcome.

**Update on Public Drainage Maintenance Program.**
Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt updated the Board on the maintenance program. There are two excavation contractors and one tree contractor, as well as four beaver trappers. The contractors will be completing the list presented at the last workshop meeting.

**Discuss Lower Rice Creek Restoration Engineering Proposals.**
Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian reviewed the 8 engineering proposals received from the District’s RFP to the Engineering Pool and a proposed timeline for review and selection of a project engineer for the Lower Rice Creek Restoration Engineering Proposals.

Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian recommended to the Board inviting Barr Engineering, Emmons & Olivier Resources, and Wenck Associates to an interview following the Boards May 22 meeting. All three of these firms provided proposals that demonstrate an understanding of the project, their experience completing similar projects, and had proposed fees that fit within the District’s budget. At this interview, the candidates will be invited to provide brief presentations that highlight their proposal, followed by any questions from Managers and Staff.

The Board by consensus agreed to staff’s recommendation to invite Barr Engineering, Emmons & Olivier Resources, and Wenck Associates for interviews at a special Board Workshop on May 22, 2019 immediately following the regular Board meeting in the council chambers.

**Follow-up Discussion on Salary Structure Analysis.**
Manager Bradley stated this item was brought back to workshop to address his concerns regarding the recommended option that was given by Gallagher Consulting at the Board’s February 27, 2019 workshop. Also, Manager Waller requested Gallagher Consulting also contact the State of MN for their salary data to use in this study. Gallagher Consulting has brought back an additional option 3 and collected data from the State of MN that was available.

Megan Olsen from Gallagher Consulting gave a presentation including the background of the salary survey study, executive summary, their methodology, analysis of data, and their recommendation. Ms. Olsen stated Gallagher Consulting was contracted by the District along with South Washington & Capitol Region watershed districts to conduct this salary survey.
Ms. Olsen stated that Gallagher Consulting’s recommendation based on their findings is Option 2 which updates grades by Overall Market Trend Factor.

The Managers expressed their opinions on which option they preferred and why. The Board asked the Administrator for his opinion. Administrator Belfiori stated his opinion to the Board is option 2 per Gallagher Consulting’s recommendation. The Managers also supported the recommendation to upgrade the Office Manager 2 position from Grade 8 to Grade 9.

The Board by majority consensus directed staff to bring the proposed salary structure for the employee handbook using Option 2, and the change in the Office Manager 2 position to the next regular Board meeting for action.

The workshop was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.