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

Attendance: — Board members, Patricia Preiner, John Waller, Barbara Haake, Steve Wagamon and Harley Ogata.

Absent:

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; District Engineer Chris Otterness & Greg Bowles – Houston Engineering (HEI); District Drainage Attorney’s John Kolb and Kale Van Bruggen-Rinke Noonan, City of Mahtomedi representative Pete Willenbring-WSB and Associates (portion of meeting).

Strategic planning discussion on long range workplan for large capital improvement projects (CIP’s).

Administrator Belfiori reviewed two draft Long-Range CIP planning spreadsheets one with “no levy increase” and the other one more aggressive implementation with the Board. Staff highlighted the different ditch and general projects and answered Board questions. The Board requested staff to look into history and background of the previous Locke Lake maintenance project, look at spreading out funding for ACE 31/46 repair in the future, including a placeholder for a larger City partnership project, and include some placeholder for additional consideration related to lower /mid. Rice creek work. Administrator Belfiori responded that he will bring the first draft 2015 preliminary budget to next month’s workshop for the Board to review and comment.

Discuss City of Mahtomedi’s historic district permit application.

City of Mahtomedi representative Pete Willenbring-WSB and Associates presented the permit application background for this project which is Phase 1 of a 3 phase project to replace aging utilities and rehabilitate the streets within the City’s Historic District which was built over 100 years ago. It is a 5-year project where the streets were built pre-car era. The project is on the east side of White Bear Lake and this area slopes down to the lake and there are virtually no gaps between homes and roads. The City of Mahtomedi completed a study in 2012 for this project before the new District rules. The new District rules state treatment must be within the resource of concern and the city is having difficulty fulfilling this so they will be applying for a variance. Mr. Willenbring also hoped the variance could be applicable for all 3 phases of the project.

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik referenced a map which had potential treatment locations inside and outside of the resource of concern (ROC). The ROC was a new addition in the 2013 rule revision. It is part of the TMDL concept and MS4 permitting that treatment occur in the watershed of the resource being affected. He stated there are two main issues before the Board, 1) guidance to staff on the application sequencing, and 2) variance letter for treatment in Wedgewood Park which is outside of the resource of concern. Wedgewood Park is located in the Lost Lake ROC. Lost Lake outlets into White Bear Lake.
HEI has studied the area and determined that for equivalent water treatment or TP mass removal to White Bear Lake; 3 times the volume of water would need to be treated for phosphorus removal within the Lost Lake ROC to show equivalent compliance with District rules.

Board and staff discussed whether a city should look outside their city boundaries and within the same ROC and form a partnership with other cities to keep the treatment of a project in the ROC. The Board by consensus supported a municipality just looking within the ROC within its boundaries. Manager Ogata stated agreement that treatment in a different ROC should provide equivalent treatment for the originally impacted ROC. Staff indicated that the CSMP guidance would need to be adjusted to reflect this position.

Board and Staff also discussed the implications on the variance request, and if the applicant was doing their due diligence to meet the District’s rules.

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik also informed the Board that the city had already selected their contractor for the project and intended to start as soon as possible, if the city starts the project without their permit they would be in violation of the District rules. He stated the process when an applicant starts a project without a permit is for staff to send a notice of violation to the applicant and Board that a permit is required, work is at their own risk and the issue is brought to the Board for potential enforcement.

Mr. Willenbring replied that the city understood that if they started work before the permit was issued they would be working at their own risk.

Discussion / update on Anoka County Ditch 53-62.

Drainage Engineer Otterness reviewed the HEI memo: Change in Estimated Project Cost of ACD 53-62 Branch 1 Repair Project with the Board. The increase of $411,352 to $577,463 was due to the change in the scope of project per Board consensus direction after the ACD 10-22-32 project to include all segments of the open channel for excavation; unit price increases and permitting/permissions costs. Manager Haake questioned if the District would have to hold a public hearing to reveal the new cost since the change is about 30% above the original cost estimate. District Drainage Attorney Kolb replied that the District should wait until they have a bid for the project, and then they would have a public hearing, amend the order with the newly determined payment and modify the special assessments for the following years. The Board discussed if the 20% contingency was included in the new engineer’s estimate. District Engineer Otterness replied that it was.

Discussion on Anoka County Ditch 46.

Public Drainage Inspector Schmidt summarized a situation in Columbus where a private ditch is being used as a conveyance for public ditch ACD 46. In that area, the public ditch system is in disrepair. A private landowner believes his damaged driveway culvert should be replaced by the District. In a phone conversation with District staff, the landowner stated he would take legal action or fill the ditch in with rock. Public Drainage Inspector Schmidt has been communicating with the City of Columbus to try and formulate a cost-share for the replacement of his and three other culverts causing the problem. District Attorney John Kolb advised the Board that they could cost-share by providing the culverts to the city. The city would do the remaining work. The District is providing aid for local water management. The Board by consensus directed Staff to provide the 4 culverts to the City of Columbus for this project.
Discussion regarding Targeted Watershed Demonstration (TWD) grant.
The Board discussed what kind of funding mechanism they would use for the TWD grant. The Board listed past
discussion the Board by consensus agreed on Option B (as identified in the PowerPoint that was presented at
5-5 and 5-12 board workshop meetings) “pay for all of the regional flood control benefit using ad valorem
funds”. The Board also reached consensus that the flood control and water quality components of the Hansen
Park Pond Stormwater retrofit project and Mirror Pond stormwater retrofit project (both part of the TWD
grant) were to be financed by the District using ad valorem. Drainage Attorney Kolb explained that regarding
the Cities of New Brighton, St. Anthony and Roseville’s petition for a basic waters management project to
address stormwater management and flooding, Hansen Park and Mirror pond are just two components of the
grant funds. The Board was concerned that after the Hanson and Mirror project, the cities would use up the
potential regional flood storage benefit created by the Hansen Park and Mirror Park projects. The Board reached
consensus that future use of the regional flood control storage/benefit created by implementation of the project
components, will be restricted for use to resolve local stormwater management or flooding concerns unless the
value of regional flood control benefit lost is reimbursed to the Watershed District.

Brief Update - EPA proposed rule on waters of US.
District Drainage Attorney Kale Van Bruggen reviewed the Rinke Noonan memo regarding EPA’s proposed rule
on waters of US which expand their definition to include tributaries and wetlands, he stated that this would
impact the District’s work. He informed the Board that Rinke Noonan was reviewing and is writing up draft
comments and if the District would like to submit their own comments or be a part of a group submittal they
are asking a contribution of $500. Rinke Noonan will provide the draft comments to the Board for their review
and comment-at the time the Board can choose to submit their comments on their own to the EPA or be a part
of a group submittal. The Board by consensus agreed to contributing $500 to Rinke Noonan for them to provide
comments on the EPA proposed rule.

Discuss partnership program with University of Minnesota on Carp research.
Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian informed the Board that because the U of M received grants in the past
years for carp research, the District has not had to pay the previously approved $50,000 for the research. Lake
and Stream Specialist Kocian suggested the funds should be used for a proposed partnership project with Three
Rivers Park District and Ramsey-Washington Metro WD to hire a U of M research staff person to take the lead in
program services and provide support on project services. He stated that the District along with the two other
organizations had the same work plans and felt they could get the most efficient approach by implementing this
framework. The District would sign a three year JPA with the organizations. The Board discussed whether the
District should just hire their own position. That way they would concentrate all their efforts on the District.
The Board by consensus agreed to enter into the JPA and evaluate it at the end of year one to see if it would be
more beneficial to hire on a full time position or to determine if the District should modify the agreement or
financial contribution.

Update on Cities of Anoka and Ramsey County Rule Revision/Atlas 14 presentation/discussion.
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that staff and Houston Engineering will be scheduling meetings with
the cities to give a presentation and have discussions on the districts rule revision/Atlas 14.
Update on additional district vehicle
Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt presented the Board with a memo comparing the cost of purchasing, leasing, or renting a vehicle. The Board by consensus agreed to purchase a new vehicle through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Update on Blue Thumb Update
Administrator Belfiori updated the Board on the hiring of Metro Bloom’s to administer the Blue Thumb program and transition to a self-sustaining administrative and financial structure.
Administrator Belfiori passed out an amended engineer’s report (ER) for permit application 14-002 that was recently CAPROC’d by the Board. The wetland impact stated in the ER was incorrect. This permit will be added to Wednesday’s agenda so the Board can formally approve the amendment.

The workshop was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.