The Board convened workshop at 2:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; Education, Outreach and Communication Coordinator Jessica Bromelkamp (portion of meeting); District Engineers Mark Deutschman and Chris Otterness—Houston Engineering (HEI); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan.

Discussion on proposed Anoka County Ditch (ACD) 31 and 46 repair cost allocation.

District Engineer Otterness gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board discussing the history and background of these ditch systems. He outlined 7 different possible options for funding of the proposed repair projects for ACD 31 and 46 through both ad valorem and water management district funds. The Board discussed past repair projects and their funding strategies and ad valorem/water management allocations. Drainage Attorney Kolb explained if the Board followed the same procedure for each repair project, under which they looked at each system with their unique project components and then determined the allocation of the repair project costs based on those considerations, they would be able to apply the same strategy to future projects. This would give the Board a basis which to justify its expenditures. District Engineer Deutschman informed the board that each repair project cost allocation is memorialized in a charge memo and presented at the repair project’s public hearing. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the timeline was limited if the Board wanted to form a water management district that started collections next year. Administrator Belfiori stated that the Board may wish to consider starting construction of the project yet this year, but that decision would likely have budget considerations and would require that the water management district would have to reimburse the ad valorem fund when it became available. District Engineer Deutschman also commented that if the Board wanted to start the project this year, they would have to start soon on construction plans and specifications.

The Board discussed the options presented. By consensus they agreed to continue this item at the June workshop and would like to see using option 7 and make it 25% 75/25 mitigation rate. They would also like an option to represent a 60/40 split.

Discussion on Mirror Pond Project.

Administrator Belfiori provided the Board with a letter received from the City of St. Anthony in response to the Board’s May 11, 2015 workshop discussion. Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell reviewed the Board’s previously approved project goals and design criteria for the proposed Mirror Pond project and reviewed the engineer recommended alternative and the city recommended alternative. The Board then discussed items
they would like incorporated into a draft response letter to the City and alternatives for the project. By consensus, the Board agreed that staff should draft a letter to respond to the City of St. Anthony and that the draft letter should indicate that the District will provide a financial contribution of $892,000 which includes the cost of the original District-recommended alternative and an additional $60,000 to provide for an improved safety component to the project. that the City will be responsible for the design, permitting and construction of the project, and that an agreement will be made with the City which will include a timetable so the District can track grant requirements. Water Resource Specialist Axtell replied that in order to stay within the project timeline, the City should agree in principle to the terms soon and per the board consensus, the draft letter which contains what the board reached consensus on today will be brought back to the Board for their consideration at the June 10th board meeting.

Discussion on historical review memo for Anoka-Washington Judicial Ditch 3 (AWJD3).

District Engineer Otterness gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the historical review of AWJD3.

Administrator Belfiori replied the next step for the Board is to set a landowner information meeting to gain input on the historical review memo.

Update on Blue Thumb discussions.

Administrator Phil Belfiori and Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator, Jessica Bromelkamp updated the Board on current negotiations with Metro Blooms regarding the final draft agreement and license period for transferring the Blue Thumb program. Staff outlined the May 27, 2015 agenda packet memo and identified the following three concepts as being fundamental to any agreement established to transfer the program, (a) that the RCWD board will exercise discretion in reviewing program performance during the license period, (b) that if the board has acted in good faith it will not be subject to suit, and (c) that in any event, the RCWD will not be liable for litigation costs of Metro Blooms. The Board members stated that they will continue this discussion and consider the materials provided in the board packet at the Board meeting on May 27th.

Floreen Meyer, Hugo resident letter.

Administrator Belfiori distributed a letter to the Board from Floreen Meyer, 6358 145th Street North, Hugo. Ms. Meyer has questioned if Rice Lake water level may be causing flooding on her property. District Engineers Deutschman and Otterness provided several lidar/topo/arial slides to the Board showing the property and the surrounding area. The ditch that extends from Rice Lake to her property is a private ditch. Staff indicated that according to the last reading on record, Rice Lake’s current elevation is at approximately 920.8, which appears to be 2-3 feet lower than the elevation identified on the lidar for the downstream portions on the private ditch between Ms. Meyer’s property and the Lake. Mr. Schmidt speculated that there most likely some sort of blockage on the private ditch downstream of her property but before the lake that was causing the high water but there is no way to investigate it without permission from her adjacent downstream neighbor. The Board by consensus directed staff/consultants to take a couple of survey shots on her property and at the lake relay the information found to the landowner.

Buffer Legislation update.

Drainage Attorney Kolb informed the Board that the legislation was vetoed by Governor Dayton and it may be a part of the special session. He outlined the District responsibilities written in the current bill.
Request for Board meeting walk up permit 15-053.

Administrator Belfiori distributed the engineer's report for permit 15-053 to the Board. The City of Columbus is proposing to replace 3 deteriorated metal culverts with reinforced concrete culverts on Notre Dame Street from Kettle River Blvd to Broadway Avenue. The engineer concurred that the culverts will be placed at the appropriate elevation.

The workshop was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.