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

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

Board Members Absent: None

Other: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell; Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering; Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan.

Introduction on meeting purpose, outcomes and status of Strategic Direction Process
The Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Update Team presented a review of activities undertaken to-date as well as a reminder of the overall framework for the Strategic Direction process. Water Resource Specialist Axtell provided working definitions of “Administration”, “Program”, and “Project” costs, for use during this workshop. “Parking lot” topics from previous workshops will be addressed either at the end of the meeting (as time allows), at a later strategic direction workshop, or later in the WMP update process, as appropriate.

Discuss Past/Present/Future District Expenses
Water Resource Specialist Axtell and Facilitator Kolb led the Managers through a series of activities designed to compare the Managers’ personal impressions of the District’s past, present and future expenses in the three categories, “Administration”, “Programs”, and “Projects” against the actual audited costs. Managers were then asked to indicate what percentage split they would prefer to see over the course of the next WMP. The managers collectively voiced a desired split of 11% Administrative, 33% Programs, and 56% Projects.

Interactive Program Budgeting Activity
Managers were then led through an additional activity focusing on a more detailed look at future “Program” budgeting splits. The various programs operated by the District currently, including some new ideas developed during the strategic direction process, were assigned to 14 like-groups and Managers were asked to allocate portions of an arbitrary fixed budget among the program groups to identify their individual funding priorities. Results from this activity will be tabulated by the WMP team, compared to prioritization activities completed previously, and discussed with the Board during future strategic direction workshops.
Revisit “Parking Lot” Policy Discussions from Previous Workshop

The Board revisited some of their agreed upon parking lot policy discussions from the May Strategic Direction workshop related to: 1) the District’s role in lake level management, 2) the District’s role in aquatic invasive species management (versus DNR, for example), and 3) the District’s role in groundwater management. Discussions on items 1 and 2 led to them being removed from the parking lot as settled policy items for now but with a clear understanding that any or all of these parking lot policy items can be revisited and changed throughout the Watershed Plan development process.

For parking lot item 1 the Board reached consensus on a draft policy statement developed by staff: “RCWD recognizes the effect of lake levels on ecological integrity and function, drainage and flooding and considers these effects when evaluating the construction, operation and management of water level control structures throughout the District.

For parking lot item 2, staff handed out the existing RCWD Board-approved Aquatic Invasive Species Policy and flow chart. The Board reached consensus to maintain the current policy during development of the next WMP.

For parking lot Item 3, the Board decided to keep this item on the policy parking lot for now. Engineer Otterness presented results from a 2016 Metropolitan Council study indicating that there are very limited opportunities for deep groundwater recharge within the District. Facilitator Kolb suggested that the District focus on providing technical support to City, County, and/or State agencies as appropriate and within the confines of currently available datasets. There remained some disagreement among Managers regarding the relative priority of RCWD’s role in groundwater management and discussion on this item will likely continue into the future. Remaining parking lot policy items from the May strategic direction workshop will be revisited during future workshops as time allows. One additional item was added to the parking lot for future discussion: “Continued use of the five planning regions identified in the 2010 WMP”.

Next Steps

Administrator Belfiori discussed the overall proposed schedule including possible future workshop dates for the “Strategic Direction” process. Upon further discussion the Board reached consensus that the next strategic direction workshop will be on Tuesday, July 31 at 1:00pm at the RCWD Office.

The workshop was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.