RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP
Monday, November 7, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Rice Creek Watershed District conference room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota

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

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

Absent:

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting); Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian (portion of meeting); Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; District Engineer Chris Otterness (portion of meeting)-Houston Engineering (HEI); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting), Jim Hafner-City of Blaine (portion of meeting).

Administrator Belfiori requested an addition to the agenda after the 3 p.m. item: Discussion on City of Columbus cost allocation for ACD 31/46 repair project; Mr. Jeff Morell ACD 10-22-32 Branch 1 potential obstruction; and Update on HEI’s White Bear Lake Outlet Elevation Memo.

Administrator Belfiori also mentioned that before the workshop today, staff handed out to the Board an updated Watershed Management Plan section which was updated per Manager Bradley’s comments.

Discussion on Anoka County Ditch 53-62 Branch 1 Lateral 1 Repair.

District Engineer Chris Otterness reviewed with the Board the steps taken to investigate this drainage complaint by the City of Blaine per the Board’s approved Public Drainage System Maintenance/Repair flow chart process. Houston Engineering conducted a field investigation and found that water elevations were high due to a water control structure in the ditch. This water control structure is in a Stormwater pond behind Home Depot on 109th that is contiguous with the ditch and it is prone to blockage due to its current design. District Engineer Otterness reviewed options for repair and their recommendation. Their recommendation was option 3; replacing the structure with a “Concrete Whistle”, which has a submerged inlet which should lead to decreased maintenance. The District could save money with installation of the structure if they coordinate it with the future ACD 53-62 Branch 2 construction project. Board, staff, and Jim Hafner from the City of Blaine discussed the options and their concerns. District Engineer and staff informed Mr. Hafner the outlet bottom would be flat not a “v” notch as it is...
now. Mr. Hafner was satisfied with the District repair option but needed to bring it back to the
City Council, Mayor and Administrator for review. He replied the City could help with
maintenance since they had the right equipment and would continue to routinely check the
current structure. The Board by consensus approved option 3 for the repair and agreed with
coordinating the repair with the ACD 53-62 Branch 2 construction project.

Discussion on Review of Drainage Complaint in City of Columbus.
District Engineer Otterness informed the Board per their approved Public Drainage System
Maintenance/Repair flow chart process, that the District performed an office review and found
that the District does not have jurisdiction over the problematic drainage system. District
Engineer Otterness also reviewed his analysis of the data & modeling for the area with the
Board. Manager Waller questioned what properties were within the drainage area. The Board
felt the City of Columbus should be informed of the drainage problems that are occurring in the
area for the city’s future planning. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that they would
review these findings with the city when they meet to discuss their local water planning.

Discussion on Estimate of Buffer Law Scope within the RCWD.
District Engineer Otterness review their initial findings of potential properties/landowners that
would be effected by the new Buffer Law. Board, staff and consultants discussed contacting
these landowners and offering District cost-share funding to establish the buffer. This would
provide a water quality benefit to the District and reduce future maintenance efforts on the
public drainage system. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that he would consult with
District Technician Berger to include this cost sharing options as part of her cost-share
presentation to the Board in December or January.

Discussion on cost allocation for Anoka County Ditch 53-62, Branch 2 Water Management
District (WMD).
District Engineer Otterness reviewed the Board’s recommended repair option, their preliminary
construction cost, past project WMD allocations, and cost allocation options. The Board by
majority consensus agreed that HEI should draft the upcoming cost allocation memo using
option 5, the Maximum WMD allocation per the Watershed Management Plan, (60% WMD).
Manager Haake reiterated that she does not agree with using ad valorem funds for storm water
conveyance systems when other cities had to build and fund their own.

Mr. Morell Anoka County Ditch 53-62 Branch 1 potential obstruction.
Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik introduced Jeff Morell and gave
background on the situation. Public Drainage inspector Tom Schmidt reviewed the historical
repair and finding of a high point in the ditch alignment over a petroleum pipeline with the
Board. District Engineer Otterness concurred and gave further information. Mr. Morell review
the history of his property and the increase flooding that is occurring on his land. He then
presented the Board with a petition for repair.
Update on Susan Moore Proposed Agreement.
Administrator Belfiori review the draft agreement with the Board. Manager Bradley requested that item #7 be removed. Counsel and the Board agreed. By Board consensus the agreement and resolution will be brought to the 11/9 Board meeting for consideration.

Recess for 5-10 min.

Manager Haake requested an additional item on the workshop agenda to discuss moving the Board’s December 12th workshop to December 5th. The Board agreed.

Administrator Belfiori, due to time constraints, requested moving the 3:10 item Follow-up Discussion on Proposed Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Policy to a future meeting and the 3:30 item Discussion on MAWD Board of Directors Succession Plan to Wednesday’s Board meeting. The Board agreed.

Discussion on City of Columbus cost allocation for ACD 31/46 repair project.
District Engineer Otterness reviewed the proposed cost and the actual cost for culvert replacements with the Board and how these new numbers were perceived. The Board agreed by consensus to invoice the city for the proposed cost.

Update on HEI’s White Bear Lake outlet elevation memo.
Administrator Belfiori along with Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian and District Engineer Otterness reviewed the outlet memo with the Board. Staff noted that the purpose of the memo was in regards to the outlet elevation related to Ramsey County Ditch 11 and also noted that Lake outlet directly adjacent to the Lake is not part of the public drainage system. Manager Waller questioned the reports picture of the outlet structure and requested they verify the location. Staff informed the Board that the MN DNR has requested a copy of the memo.

Discussion on Manager Haake’s request to move the December 12th workshop to December 5th.
Manager Haake would like to propose moving the workshop to December 5th so she can attend and participate. Past legal advice advised the Board that a manager’s participation via a telephone would be against the Open Meeting Law. Manager Bradley didn’t feel a manager’s participation via telephone was wrong due to the fact workshops were just informational and no board action was taken. The Board decided by consensus to bring this item to the Board meeting on Wednesday to ask for an opinion from their attorney.

Discussion on Legal Services Proposals.
Administrator Belfiori presented a figure with the current delegation of duties and a minor tweak for special projects. President Preiner informed the Board that Smith Partners had requested to present additional information regarding their proposal, similar to the information the Board requested from Rinke Noonan at their 10/26/2016 meeting. President Preiner had forwarded this information onto the Board for their review. The Board discussed the administrator’s handout. This item will be considered at the Wednesday 11/9 Board meeting.

The workshop was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.