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

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

Absent: None.

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori (portion of meeting); Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting); Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Technician Samantha Berger (portion of meeting); Communications and Outreach Coordinator Beth Carreño (portion of meeting), Office Manager Theresa Stasica; District Engineers Chris Otterness and Mark Deutschman -Houston Engineering (HEI); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan.

Administrator Belfiori requested on addition to the agenda: Bald Eagle Lake tour, Shade Tree Construction compliance hearing.

**Update on St. Anthony Village HSIP Project permit application 16-047.**

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik gave background information on this permit with the City of St. Anthony. The permit was originally for street improvement and a sidewalk. The modeling showed potential downstream flooding due to the additional impervious surface of the sidewalk. The City split the project and completed the street improvement. They are now working on the sidewalk portion, noting a potential flooding issue downstream that would involve the City of Columbia Heights, their neighboring municipality.

Staff and the District Engineer have been working with the City’s engineer to address the additional flooding. One of the City’s responses was to use a downstream parcel, that was recently demolished for stormwater credit, but the District has found this parcel is owned by a private landowner with a CAPROC’d RCWD permit. The District emailed the City Engineer and provided several options to move forward and discuss. This email was provided to the Board in their workshop packet. In the City engineer’s recent email to the District he responded he would like to meet with the Board to discuss this issue. Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik stated that is why this item is on the workshop agenda. The Board asked when was the original permit and was the flooding substantial. Staff & District Engineer Otterness
responded the permit application was received 4/15/2016 and the District is still awaiting 
modeling information to determine the correlation of volume and conditions downstream. 
Upon further discussion the Board by majority consensus agreed with approach by staff 
identified in the email and Staff will await city response.

Shade Tree Construction Inc. Permit 17-005 
Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik and Technician Berger informed the Board 
of this permit in the City of Mounds View for developing an 8-unit townhome. The applicant 
initially applied for a Rule D Erosion Control Permit, but after review of the plan, a Rule C 
Stormwater permit was also needed for the project due to the change in rules from the initial 
permit. The applicant was notified that additional information would be needed to make the 
application complete and the applicant seemed to understand what would be required. An 
incomplete Engineer’s report was provided to the applicant on 3-22-2017, outlining what would 
be required. To date, the applicant has not responded or provided the District with the 
information requested and is working without a permit. Staff’s fear is the project will be 
completed and it will be difficult to hold the applicant to compliance. Staff is requesting the 
Board to set a compliance hearing. The Board by consensus directed staff to add this item to 
the May 10, 2017 Board meeting to consider a compliance hearing for the May 24th meeting

Discussion proposed Mini Grants Program. 
Communications and Outreach Coordinator Beth Carreño presented a draft mini-grant 
information sheet/application for the Board’s review and comment. She informed the Board 
the funds are already in the budget so there would be no additional funds needed. She felt this 
program would help promote the District (branding) in engaging our citizens. Staff and Board 
discussed the importance of tracking funds and participation to help evaluate the progress of 
the program next year. She also informed/reviewed for consensus with the Board an upcoming 
CAC Bald Eagle Lake tour that they are planning and the logistics of a social gathering after the 
tour. The Board by consensus approved the Mini-grant program and requested staff go 
forward with the tour and keep the Board informed.

Discussion on Annual Prioritization of Long Range Capital Improvement Plan’s (CIP’s). 
Administrator Phil Belfiori reviewed a current and accelerated CIP tables for large projects for 
the next 5 years. This is the discussion the Board annually completes as part of developing next 
year’s budget. Administrator Belfiori noted that in the past the Board has chosen not to use 
bonding/borrowing funds. He pointed out the District will be finishing up the Targeted 
Watershed Fund grant projects in 2018. These include: Hansen Park, Mirror Pond, Middle Rice 
Creek Meander, and Carp Management. Administrator Belfiori provided rough estimates for 
future ditch projects. He pointed out the ACD 53/62 repair could cost up to $2.5 million 
depending on if a box culvert will be used. He also noted that for planning purposes only, the 
CIP tables noted JD 2 Br 1 and 2 for years 2019 and A/W JD 3 MT and Br 3 for 2020. Upon 
further discussion the Board reach consensus (for planning purposes only) on that order. 
District Engineer Chris Otterness explained the Board will be provided with multiple options for 
the upcoming ditch repair projects due to the challenging excavation and ditch locations.
Engineer Deutschman noted that the next several ditch repair projects noted on the 5 year table are generally both more expense than previous projects and are likely more complicated. Administrator Belfiori reminded the Board of their fund balance and their fund balance policy and noted that fund balance is very difficult to predict over extended years. He noted that given the estimated cost of some of the large scale regional “infrastructural” type projects listed on either table, that fund balance alone cannot fully fund them all over the next five years. The Board and staff also discussed long range future revenue generation options and also where the District could obtain grants and other funding partnerships. Administrator Belfiori also reviewed the proposed 2018 budget planning and development schedule.

Discussion on Watershed Based Funding Considerations and Policies.

Administrator Phil Belfiori distributed an email from Stephanie Souter, Washington County, dated May 3, 2017, regarding the follow-up request for more clarity on the Washington County Board’s request for a breakdown of expenditures by county at their October 4, 2016 County Board workshop. In her email Ms. Souter identified that there has been internal discussion at the County but there has yet to be a resolution in the matter regarding the information requested and how best to provide a breakdown of expenditures by County.

The Board reviewed and discussed the District’s current policies within the District Watershed Management Plan under Section 7.5 Funding Considerations and the Board’s factors from the Plan they may use to establish funding and project priorities. The Board also reviewed and discussed the Board’s approved RCWD Principles for repairing/restoring/rehabilitating its ditches/creeks and waterways. Several recent large scale regional project examples were discussed. With each of these regional projects, it was noted that funds were expended in Anoka County to work to address an issue partially originating in Washington County and/or where funds were expended in Washington County to address an issue also relevant in Anoka or Ramsey Counties. Administrator Belfiori reviewed the budgeting information the District presented each year to the Washington County Board. Manager Waller replied Washington County Board requests a summation of the budget, different than other county presentations. Staff also provided 3 possible options for the Board to respond to the request.

The Managers discussed that they were very willing to answer any questions that the Commissioners have and to respond to any information request. The Board also discussed what staff resources and time would be needed to fulfill this request. The majority of the Managers also generally discussed that the policy and practice contained in the Plan identifies that the District does not fund or make funding decisions based on political boundaries but rather makes these decisions on a watershed scale. The Board then reached majority consensus (four Managers) to request that staff bring forward for Board consideration at a future board meeting a letter to be sent to the Washington County Board in response to the County’s request for a summary of District expenditures by County.
Program /Project Updates:

Discussion on Office Tour for MAWD Staff. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that Mary Texter approached him at the 4/18/17 Metro MAWD meeting to request a visit/tour of the RCWD office as a potential temporary office space for MAWD staff. He was requesting Board consensus. The Board by consensus agreed to have Administrator Belfiori contact Ms. Texter to set a tour of the District office for potentially providing temporary office space to MAWD staff in the fall/later in 2017.

Update on Anoka County Ditch 53-62 Branch 2 Repair. Administrator Belfiori reminded the Board of the public information meeting at Blaine City Hall Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. He also informed them that a postcard was sent out CCWD residents that attended the City’s 3/29 meeting per previous Board direction. Engineer Otterness review an option of leaving alone the top portion of the ditch located by the CCWD residents which will not diminish the drainage efficiency of the system. He noted that the District may need to conduct future minor maintenance in this area if needed.

Update on June 28, 2017 City -County Partner Meeting. Administrator Belfiori reminded the Board of the next City-County meeting at the City of Shoreview and it is the same day as the Board meeting. Also, the District will provided examples of a good regional project as requested from prior meeting feedback.

MAWD Bylaws and Policy & Procedures and Budget Proposal. Administrator Belfiori reviewed the powerpoint presentation provided in the workshop packet. This presentation was prepared by Perry Forster, MAWD Director/Manager/Secretary for a presentation to Minnehaha Creek WD. Manager Haake provided background and highlights on the transition and budget. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the District is awaiting an informational packet from MAWD on Bylaws and Policy & Procedure, and proposed budget. The Board will be reviewing/considering these items at an upcoming Board meeting and selecting delegates for the MAWD 6/21/2017 special meeting.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.