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

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

Absent: Board member Barbara Haake absent with prior notice.

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica (portion of meeting); District Engineers Chris Otterness and Mark Deutschman (portion of meeting)-Houston Engineering (HEI); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting); Barbara Haake via telephone (listening only).

Administrator Belfiori requested an addition to the agenda item: DNR’s response to the District’s Anoka Conservation District 10-22-32 OHW.

Manager Preiner requested and addition to the agenda: Meeting with Representative Tom Emmer.

Initial Discussion on the Draft Ramsey County Ditch 2, 3 & 5 Historical Review Memorandum.

District Engineer Chris Otterness reviewed the draft memorandum with the Board. The historical ACSIC’s for these drainage systems were determined through a combination of research of the existing historic records and additional information provided by the City of New Brighton concerning repairs completed by Ramsey County in 1967. Staff will meet with the cities to review and discuss the revised historical review memorandum. When this has been completed, the next step would be to hold a public hearing, at which the Board will receive public comment and then officially adopt the profiles for each of the drainage systems.

Initial Discussion on Draft Board of Water and Soil Resources Policies on Buffer Law.

The Board discussed with staff and consultants the draft Buffer Law policies recently developed and published by BWSR. The Board also discussed several factors /consequences related to the District’s upcoming decision to elect /not elect enforcement jurisdiction of the law. Upon further discussion, the Board reach consensus that staff should place consideration of election of enforcement jurisdiction of the law on the January 25, 2017 Board meeting agenda. The Board also reached consensus that the materials for the January 25th meeting should include a
proposed Board motion to not elect enforce the buffer law at this time due to several factors including (but not limited to) the lack of funding from the State and the lack of the District’s ability to manage workload /programming and utilize discretion under the draft law.

**DNR’s response to the District’s Anoka Conservation District 10-22-32 Ordinary High Water (OHW).**

District Engineer Chris Otterness informed the Board of the DNR’s initial response to the District’s request for OHW determinations on public waters wetlands adjacent to ACD #10-22-32 in Columbus. The DNR provided three different OHW’s for the three hydraulically connected basins. The OHW’s are important to RCWD in that they determine the management elevations allowable on the public drainage system and also the extent too which future repairs could be contemplated. The Board by majority consensus directed staff to follow-up with the DNR on this information.

**Meeting with Representative Tom Emmer.**

Manager Preiner informed the Board that she will be meeting with Representative Emmer regarding her personnel interaction with the ACOE. She asked the Board if the District would like to be involved in presenting a past permitting process example that has recently occurred in the RCWD. The Board by consensus directed the administrator to work with the drainage attorney and HEI on developing materials and a presentation regarding a case study of the Brown’s Preserve /JD 4 ACOE permitting process and to utilize the case study to draft a RCWD legislative agenda related to this upcoming meeting. Administrator Belfiori then stated that based on this Board consensus that these draft materials will be discussed at the Feb. 2017 Board workshop and would then be brought forward (pending workshop discussion) for considered by the full Board at the Feb. 8 regular Board meeting.

**Update on 2017 /18 Salary Survey.**

District Administrator Belfiori introduced the agenda item and then, after receiving permission from the personnel subcommittee members, attempted to summarize the discussion from the January 6, 2017 subcommittee meeting. He stated that the two subcommittee members did not reach consensus on the proposed 2017/2018 RCWD Salary Structure. Both Personnel Subcommittee members then provided input on the topic to the full Board. Administrator Belfiori then passed out a draft memo from the Personnel Subcommittee to the Full Board and explained that the Board may wish to bring this draft letter (with any revisions per the workshop discussion) to the January 11, 2017 Board meeting for consideration. Upon further discussion, the Board reach majority consensus to revise the memo to incorporate language relate to authorizing the Administrator to use his discretion in the implementation of market based salary adjustments as necessary to maintain market competitiveness. The Board then reach majority consensus to place this item on the January 11 Board meeting agenda for consideration.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.