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

**Attendance:** Board members Patricia Preiner, John Waller, and Steve Wagamon.

**Absent:** Board member Barbara Haake and Mike Bradley, with prior notice.

**Staff:** Administrator Phil Belfiori; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting; Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); District Technician Lauren Sampedro (portion of meeting); Communications Coordinator Beth Carreño (portion of meeting); Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting), Office Manager Theresa Stasica (portion of meeting).

**Consultants:** District Engineer Chris Otterness and Rachel Olm – Houston Engineering (HEI), Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan, and District Attorney Chuck Holtman- Smith Partners via telephone (portion of the meeting).

**Visitors:** Barbara Haake via telephone listening only, Mike Bradley via telephone listening only.

Administrator Belfiori requested addition 2 items under the 1:10 item; District Facility report review and Lino Lakes USWR application. The Board agreed by consensus to the additions.

**Discuss Annual Review of Treatment of Metro Shooting and Trost Settlements in District Financial Reports.**

Administrator Belfiori stated per the Boards 2015 direction this matter is reviewed annually in February. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik and District Engineer Chris Otterness have confirmed that there is no change in the facts or circumstances relevant to this issue. Attorney Holtman stated their opinion does not change from last years and he referred to the bold italic text statement on page 2 of the Smith Partners memo which was in the Board’s workshop packet. Attorney Holtman pointed out a typo on line 6 of the bold text where “consideration” should be “consolidation”.

Administrator Belfiori asked the Board for consensus to move on. The Board indicated a consensus of no change from the statement made for last year’s financial report and to bring the item to the February 13, 2019 Board meeting for action.


The WMP Team and Board reviewed the last six sections of draft Chapter 3 from the 2020 WMP. Formal comments submitted to the Board by the RCWD Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) from their January 9, 2019 meeting were considered and several were incorporated. Some additional revisions were suggested and discussed by Board members and will be incorporated into a future final draft version developed by the WMP Team in the coming months. Twenty-nine formal comments submitted by the RCWD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) from their January 8, 2019 meeting were considered and seventeen were incorporated. The WMP Team reminded Board members that once a full final draft of the 2020 WMP is compiled, there will be another round of review before the document is released for formal public comment.

Lino Lakes USWR Application.

Project Manager Kyle Axtell informed the Board that one Urban Stormwater Remediation Cost-Share Program application from the City of Lino Lakes was determined to be ineligible for consideration. The application for the City’s NE Drainage Improvement Project did not appear to propose any components that exceeded District regulatory requirements. Administrator Belfiori and Project Manager Axtell have discussed the situation with City Community Development Director Mike Grochala and he seemed to understand the situation. Staff explained that this does not mean the District will never cooperate financially on the project, as it is very complex and in the early stages of development. The Board should expect further discussion on the District’s participation in the coming months and years.

Review District Facility Report.

District Engineer Otterness presented a HEI memo on the District Facilities program. The memo described the Board approved process by which facilities on the existing list within the current WMP were evaluated for continued inclusion or removal. Once this determination was made, further evaluation regarding responsibility for inspection and maintenance, and defined (if any) access to these facilities were evaluated. Attorney Kolb reviewed the District’s obligations for its facilities under M.S. 103D.631.

Administrator Belfiori discussed the next steps which includes development of an inspection program and inclusion of District Facilities within the current Drainage DB database.

The Board stressed the importance of obtaining access rights if the District is to be responsible for maintenance and inspection.

The Board discussed with staff and consultants the process in which to remove facilities from the list. District Attorney Kolb stated the District could hold a public hearing for landowners to comment and establish an order at the end of the process. The Board liked this process.

The list of facilities will be continually evaluated to ensure that those structures that are truly meeting District goals and objectives are maintained and those that are not are removed.
Program Updates

Update on MAWD legislative activities.
Administrator Belfiori stated that he and Attorney Kolb had the MAWD/DNR meeting on 1/30/2019 to discuss the proposed MAWD priority legislative initiative regarding DNR’s authority over public drainage system repairs and maintenance. Following that meeting the District sent a letter to DNR Director of Ecological and Water Resources Steve Colvin on 2/4/19, which was reviewed and approved by President Preiner, requesting clarification from the DNR on Letter of Permission (LOP) comments that were made at the 1/30/19 meeting. The District requested a reply from DNR by 2/20/19. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that Mr. Colvin left a voicemail on 2/4/19 explaining they would not be able to meet that deadline and would be holding internal meetings to review and educate DNR staff on the 11 page DNR guidance document.

Update on local water planning.
District Technician Lauren Sampedro gave a presentation to the Board on the status of each city’s local water plan (LWP). To date, the District Board has approved 14 out of 28 LWP. Staff will continue to work with cities to achieve their deadline. Staff will update the Board in July if additional communications to cities are needed to meet that deadline.

Update/discussion on remote meeting participation
Technician Nester reported back to the Board on her findings regarding staff/District’s consultants and customers use of the technology on a day to day basis. Staff was split in the use of the technology but they could see some benefits to the use, whether that be a permit meeting, training, or a Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. Technician Nester explained that it would be a different use for staff/consultants/customers because they would not have to adhere to the Open Meeting Law as does the Board.

The Board by consensus and per their 1/28/19 motion, directed staff to put item “remote meeting participation item” on an April 2019 regular board meeting agenda for consideration.

Update on MAWD legislative activities.
Administrator Belfiori and Communications Coordinator Beth Carreño updated the Board on the information that was distributed to legislators within the district regarding the upcoming MAWD Legislative Reception and responses regarding attendance. Ms. Carreno passed out to the Board a one page information sheet on MAWD’s priority legislative initiative regarding DNR’s authority over public drainage system repairs and maintenance. She noted that she understands from MAWD staff that bill numbers were not included with this information because they were not available at that time.

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