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

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

Absent: Barbara Haake.

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting), Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian (portion of meeting), Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Communication & Outreach Coordinator Beth Carreño (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; and District Engineer Chris Otterness (portion of meeting)-Houston Engineering (HEI), Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting), Barbara Haake via telephone (listening only).

Manager Waller requested additional discussion under Legislative Update. He would like the District to send letters to all county boards in the District to request their support for current legislation related to clarifying Minnesota Department of Natural Resources jurisdiction and permitting authority over the repair of existing public drainage systems.

Administrator Belfiori requested the addition of a brief discussion on 3/14 board agenda item 1. Consider Addendum to the 2010 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for “other” waters per the Buffer Law.

President Preiner requested an additional item at the end of the meeting-Manager meetings with District partners.

**Update on Ramsey County Ditch 2, 3, and 5 Basic Water Management Project.**

Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell updated the Board on the process. It was initiated with a joint petition from the cities of New Brighton and St. Anthony following substantial flooding from a storm event in 2011. The petition was to conduct a comprehensive stormwater study to address the flooding through storage and conveyance of water. The City of Roseville later jointed the petition. The District held a public information meeting at the City of New Brighton in 2013 to discuss the correction of the drainage system record. The District received additional historical information regarding the drainage system and amended their historical review memo. Work was suspended in 2014 when the District received the BWSR CWF Targeted Watershed Demonstration Grant which included the Hansen Park and Mirror Pond projects. The District is ready to start up the petition process again and hold another information meeting to present the revised historical review memo to the public.

Water Resource Specialist
Axtell reviewed the additional phases of the process with the Board. They discussed the importance of having concurrence from each city council on the priorities, development, implementation and timeline of the proposed projects. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that at their 3/14 meeting there is a resolution for their consideration to set the public information meeting for the proposed date of 4/18/18 and authorize a public hearing to reestablish and correct the drainage system records.

**Update on Middle Rice Creek Restoration Project.**
Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian provided a photo time-lapse presentation to the Board that showed Phase 2 of the restoration of the meanders to the creek at two sites. Staff and Board discussed the contractor’s performance on the project and that the contractor missed the Phase 2 deadline of February 23, 2018 that was stated in the project specifications. Staff and Board discussed the Districts entitlement per the project specifications, to liquidated damages (which could be calculated at $500/day, roughly $3,000). Drainage Attorney Kolb suggested that the Board could delay their final decision on whether or not to charge liquidated damages until substantial project completion and the final contractor pay request. The Board agreed by consensus to Drainage Attorney Kolb suggestion.

Barbara Haake requested that the Board change the public information meeting for RCD 235 to any other time because she has a prior commitment and cannot attend the meeting. She would cover any room rental expense if applicable. The Board and staff discussed dates that would work. Board consensus was to direct staff to research room availability for April 23 or 26 and report back to the Board at their March 14th meeting.

**Other Project and Program Updates:**

**Update on Rice Lake Excavation and Spraying Memorandum of Agreement.**
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board of ongoing discussions with the DNR to extend the MOA for a couple more years due to difficult site conditions and therefore maintenance was not able to happen. There are 2 new technologies now available for potential use—the DNR has a helicopter for spraying and the District’s Mobitrac for some of the excavation.

**Update on BWSR Watershed Based Funding convening meetings.**
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that at the Anoka and Washington meetings they discussed moving towards a formula-based distribution of funds. Ramsey County will be meeting in the next week to discuss this topic.

**Update on Jeff Morrel Response.**
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that Mr. Morrel hired a consultant to review the District response to his petition. Mr. Morrel’s consultant has provided a response to the Districts findings. District Engineer Otterness informed the Board that they are reviewing this response at this time. Drainage Attorney Kolb provided future scenarios for Districts response to the petitioner.

**Legislative Update.**
Administrator Belfiori provided brief updates to the Board on the DNR, Open Meeting Law, Water Reuse, and Minnesota Commercial Railway proposed legislation. The Board directed
staff to provide thank-you letters to the legislators that attended the MAWD legislative 
reception/breakfast and to Representative Dettmer for being an author of the Open Meeting 
Law bill. Administrator Belfiori distributed a document titled “proposed District Administrator’s 
comment on Minnesota Commercial Railway Draft Bill DD241 (March 12, 2018) to the Board. 
He summarized the content with the Board. Manager Bradley suggested a change to the 
second bullet, second to the last sentence of the text. Replace “the District supports that” with  
“the District does not object.” The Board by consensus agreed to the change and the 
distribution of the statement. 
Upon further discussion, the Board by consensus directed staff to provide draft letters to be  
considered at the March 14 Board meeting for the legislature, county, and city partners  
regarding the importance of the DNR proposed legislation in the role of District drainage repair  
process and to ask for their support.  
Update Addendum to the 2010 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for “other” 
waters per the Buffer Law.  
Administrator Belfiori provided to the Board a draft resolution that will be considered at the  
Board’s March 14th meeting. BWSR had informed the District that a resolution was required to  
address the matter. The Board discussed that Anoka Conservation District was the only county  
that provided “additional waters”. They were concerned that there was not a “list” of  
additional waters provided only reference to a GIS layer and were concerned how they would  
address implementation. Administrator Belfiori replied that the implementation would be  
addressed as part of their watershed management plan update process.  
Administrator Belfiori and Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik provided an  
updated motion for action item #2 Cooperative Agreement with Dan Hair for 7th year of  
Management and Monitoring of the Brown’s Preserve Wetland Bank the March 14th meeting.  
It includes additional language “with non-substantial modification as reviewed by counsel”.  
Manager Meetings.  
The Board discussed how they initiate meetings with city/county partners and the importance  
of keeping the District Administrator informed of these meetings so he can be aware of these  
meetings and have the ability to provide an accurate response on behalf of the District to  
followup questions asked by city and county staff. The Board discussed the need to invite staff  
to these meetings in the future.  
The workshop was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.