The Board convened workshop at 2:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Manager Mike Bradley (with prior notice).

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; Education, Outreach and Communication Coordinator Jessica Bromelkamp (portion of meeting); District Engineers Mark Deutschman, Chris Otterness and Larry Kramka (Kramka portion of meeting),– Houston Engineering (HEI); Drainage Attorney Kale Van Bruggen-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting); and City of St. Anthony: Mayor Jerome Faust, Engineer Todd Hubmer, Manager Mark Casey, Director of Public Works Jay Hartman (all City members portion of meeting).

Discussion on Mirror Pond project.

District Engineer Otterness gave a powerpoint presentation to the Board and representatives from the City of St. Anthony regarding the Mirror Pond Project conceptual design plan from its history through current day events surrounding the project. He reviewed the Board approved project goals and design criteria for the proposed project. He stated that the primary goals must be achieved for project success using grant and District funds, and the secondary goals are not required for project success and would be funded through other sources.

District Engineer Otterness reviewed the 5 alternatives evaluated. The Engineer’s recommended design is alternative #2. Alternative #2 provides a water quality and flood mitigation benefit. It includes a flood protection berm and an electronic gate dependent on the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast to draw down Mirror Pond water levels in advance of major storms and a berm on the south-west side of the pond to provide flood protection. The City of St. Anthony’s recommended design is alternative #5. Alternative #5 also provides water quality and flood control benefits. This project includes additional dredging of the ponds, a flood protection berm, and re-sloping with the addition of a safety bench around the pond. District Engineer Otterness reviewed the estimated concept level cost of each alternative by project feature. Alternative #2 total cost is $832,000 and Alternative 5 total cost is $1,813,000.

Mayor Faust thanked the Board for their long history of collaboration on projects including water reuse and carp removal. He informed the Board of the city’s regional water planning efforts to reduce the impacts downstream and their partnership with DNR and Hennepin County on building ponds. The city believed that alternative #5 would provide the best results for the city and their residents. He looked forward to working with the District on this project and believed in building the right project the first time.

The Board also recognized past partnerships with the city and collaboration on projects and was looking forward to working with the city.
City Engineer Todd Hubmer noted that their drainage area modeling of Mirror Lake shows that Ramsey County Ditch (RCD) 3 is under capacity. He thought that the project does have some regional benefit by letting water out slowly and thus taking some pressure off of the RCD 3 system. Whether through storage or a bigger outlet, it is the basis of the city’s original basic water management petition to the District.

District Engineer Otterness commented Alternative 2 gives Mirror Pond 10-100 year flood range benefit protection and provides the same storage and flood reduction as alternative 5.

Water Resource Specialist Axtell replied both alternatives provide necessary water quality benefits.

City Engineer Hubmer replied with Alternative 2, when the pond is lowered 2 feet the pond shore would become like mud flats with exposed soils and it would stir up the pond and destabilize the shoreline. Also, there is a risk with the predictions of the weather service. These pond drawdowns may affect the pond’s amphibian populations. He believed the Alternative 5 shoreline would be more stabilized.

Mayor Faust agreed with the NWS being inaccurate.

City Manager Casey also was concerned with the aesthetics and the potential smell if the pond were drawn down in August/September.

The District discussed the process if the City were to design and build the project. Because of the grant monies, the project would have to be completed by 2018 and there would need to be an agreement between the District and City to address the budget and funding and include milestone dates for the progression of the project.

The District and City discussed the next steps to be taken. President Preiner stated that if the City built the project she would like them to assume all financial risk.

**Update on Blue Thumb program process.**

Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator, Jessica Bromelkamp, updated the Board on the District’s negotiations with Metro Blooms to transfer the Blue Thumb (BT) program in preparation for the May 27 Board meeting. The District sent an update to partners about the process and requested additional concerns or comments not yet offered. The comments received reaffirmed concerns offered by partners throughout this process, and supported the board’s recommendation to address concerns through a detailed agreement and license period.

The District is requesting a two-year license period to determine if, under Metro Bloom’s leadership, Blue Thumb would remain strong and become sustainable. Ms. Bromelkamp informed the Board that Metro Blooms is concerned about the financial risk associated with a license period that does not guarantee transfer at the end of it. Administrator Belfiori expressed skepticism that quantifiable benchmarks, which would be required in an auto-transfer scenario, could be drafted without the need for any interpretation at the end of the license period.

The Board by consensus agreed to present Metro Blooms with an offer that includes board discretion and eliminates liability for the District. If Metro Blooms does not agree, the District will return to the BT partners to discuss the program’s future.

**Strategic planning discussion on long range workplan for large capital improvement projects (CIP).**

District Administrator Belfiori reviewed the "no levy increase" long range workplan CIP spreadsheet with the Board. The Board had several questions to clarify the information provided in the spreadsheet but did not identify any specific changes to the no levy increase table. Administrator Belfiori stated that the table would be
utilized to generally inform the development of the rough draft 2016 budget tables which will be presented and discussed at the June 8 board workshop.

**Discussion on possible cost estimate and timeline for the chain of lakes future conditions modeling.**

District Administrator Belfiori and District Engineer Deutschman reviewed the task order with the Board for modeling of future land use conditions for the area upstream of the Chain of Lakes. This model will assist the Board in future decision making impacts/risks upstream of Peltier Lake for no adverse impacts on the Chain of Lakes storage. Administrator Belfiori asked the Board if they would like this work completed as soon as possible and use the District fund balance or budget the work for 2016. The Board by consensus agreed that this was important work that needed to be done as soon as possible and to use the fund balance. Administrator Belfiori would bring the task order to the Wednesday Board meeting for Board approval.

**Discussion and update on proposed maintenance work on Washington Judicial Ditch 2 upstream of Rice Lake weir.**

Manager Waller left the meeting at this time due to the subject matter.

District Engineer Larry Kramka updated the Board on the permitting process with the DNR and the DNR joint powers agreement (JPA) to cost share on the channel herbicide treatment. The Board members in attendance identified that they would be comfortable with staff continuing to pursue the JPA based on the key terms of the agreement as they have been summarized. Mr. Kramka stated that he will be setting up a meeting with the DNR soon to review the permit application and to answer any questions that may arise.

**Discussion on scheduling a Hansen Park Project tour for Board.**

Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the tour will following the Board’s regular meeting on June 10th. Staff will do the appropriate noticing of the tour.

**Request of letter of support from the Cities of Hugo and Lino Lakes on LCCMR stormwater reuse grant application.**

Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that WSB had requested a letter of support for the City of Hugo and Lino Lakes LCCMR grant application. The application is for the development of an integrated water management plan that will study/quantify surface water quality benefits, groundwater recharge, and system performance for existing water reuse projects. They are not asking for any financial support. President Preiner asked that this statement also be included in the District support letter. The Board by consensus agreed to have the administrator send a letter of support to WSB.

The workshop was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.