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; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting), Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Technician Samantha Berger (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasica; District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering (HEI) (portion of meeting); Drainage Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (portion of meeting).

Discussion on Draft Anoka County Ditch 10-22-32 Branch 1 Memo.

District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering informed the Board this investigation was proceeded by a petition from Mr. Morrell. He also provided the history of Century Farms permitting and the past maintenance performed by the District on this portion of the ditch system. District Engineer Otterness stated in the development of the profile for this system in 2011, the District was unaware of the “tee-pee” manhole because it was 2 feet under the earth/soil. The District became aware if this “tee-pee” at a later time when the District was investigating a high-water complaint from the Lino Air Park. At that time, the City of Lino Lakes informed the District this manhole was 2 feet under the earth. Drainage Attorney Kolb explained the high-water complaint by the Lino Air Park was due to aviation safety. Prior to the development of Century Farms, ACD 10-22-32 was all open ditch. There likely was a hump in the ditch caused by a pipeline well before the Century Farm development. Staff and consultants discussed alternative options for repair and the Engineer’s recommendation was to pay for loss of damage to the one landowner. The Board discussed the Engineer’s recommendation. Manager Waller recommended staff and consultants investigate what type of wetland is on Mr. Morrell’s property. Depending on the type of wetland, Mr. Morrell would have options available to him. The Board by consensus directed staff to set up a meeting with the landowner and discuss the engineer’s recommendation alternative 1.
Discussion on Options for Floating Excavator.
Administrator Belfiori stated this item is on the agenda by request of the Board. In the past, we have discussed renting or purchasing an excavator for maintenance to assist in the maintenance of Browns Preserve outlet and inlet channel to maintain hydraulic efficiency and water levels, upstream of the weir on WJD2/Rice Lake, WJD2 Branch 1 & 2, and possibly other District Facilities. He also informed the Board that funds have been set aside in the preliminary 2018 budget as requested by the Board. Public Drainage Inspector Schmidt reviewed with the Board small, medium, and large floating excavator options, activities the equipment can perform, and cost options whether purchase or rental. Manager Haake had concerns regarding insurance on the equipment, training, storage, maintenance costs. Staff stated that they will again request and attempt to schedule a field review of the small equipment option. Staff will also investigate further and bring total costs / life cycle costs of ownership to the Board at a future workshop.

Discussion on Possible Buffer Law Cost Share Letter.
Administrator Phil Belfiori stated that this agenda item was to begin initial discussions on a potential letter that could be sent to landowners affected by the Buffer Law informing them of the opportunity to voluntarily apply for District cost share funding through existing RCWD programs. Based on Board discussion today, staff would draft changes to the RCWD cost-share grant program guidelines. Administrator Belfiori also informed the Board that just last week the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced cost-share funds available to landowners through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). This BWSR program included Cost-share contract is for 10 years, $300/acre maximum flat rate payment, 75% maximum percentage-based rate of installing the practice, and requires installation of native plants if possible.

Staff reviewed possible cost share funding level options with the Board. Water Resource Specialist Axtell explained to the Board that these options would not change District Policy but some options would require a modification to the cost-share guidelines. Upon further discussion, the Board reached consensus that staff should continue to explore the potential of revising the cost-share program guidelines to incorporate cost sharing up to 75% reimbursement of project costs plus 75% of the Reinvest in Minnesota (BWSR RIM program) non-crop rate for that county for a one time flat rate payment, not to exceed $7,500. This RIM rate is different for Anoka and Washington County. By following the District’s cost-share guidelines, each landowner would sign an Operations and Maintenance agreement for 5 years with the District. Staff identified that it would bring this item back to a future Board workshop /Board meeting for additional discussion.

Discussion on Banked Volume Control Credits and Debits.
Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik informed the Board the District’s old rules provided a volume control banking system for road authorities to use for public linear projects to meet the District’s rule requirements. The Districts revised rule no longer uses the banking system so the District is in a transitional phase. The cities are working on their Local Water
Plans and the District is requesting that cities address the volume control bank obligation if it exists. Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik reviewed the City of Roseville’s request to use their volume credits on a non-public linear project. Within the letter the City makes a statement regarding District Attorney Chuck Holtman’s explanation of the rule. Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik stated this statement is incorrect and staff would like to clarify the record by reading an email from District Attorney Holtman explaining the rule interpretation. Staff discussed with the Board the projects with potential use of credits or addressing debits. Staff believed this is not an unreasonable request from road authorities for there was room for interpretation. The Board by consensus agreed with staff’s position for the use of credits or addressing debits under non-public linear projects and to bring the matter forward for action at their Wednesday regular meeting.

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik stated the next item for discussion is the potential for road authorities to address volume bank debits with non-volume control projects. Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik and District Engineer Otterness discussed with the Board pros and cons of road authorities addressing their volume control debit through the non-volume control BMPs such as iron enhance sand filter projects, NURP, biofiltration and other water quality methods. These would be clearly stated in the engineer’s report. The Board by consensus agreed for staff to move forward with the proposal.

**Discussion on Permit Delegation to Administrator.**

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik reviewed the draft resolution that was in the Board’s workshop packet. This delegation is to address culvert replacement in emergency situations. The Board by consensus supported the resolution and would take Board action at their Wednesday regular meeting. Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik also informed the Board to in the future staff would like to bring before the Board a change to Board delegation resolution 2009-09 to address the changes under District Rule C.

**Discussion on Draft RCWD Bylaws.**

Manager Bradley reviewed the updates he made based on the Boards discussion at the last Board workshop. He informed the Board to address Manager Waller’s comments to Article II, Section 1. General Purpose. Manager Bradley took language from the District’s 10-year plan. Manager Waller replied it was an improvement.

Article V, Section 1. Election of Officers. Manager Waller would like to include officer rotation, which he brings forward to every Election of Officer board meeting. The general consensus of the Board was to leave the language.

Manager Bradley continued with his revisions.

The Board by consensus agreed with the revisions made and to bring the updated document to the August 7 workshop. The Board will discuss the draft Bylaws, and then it is anticipated (pending discussion) that the Bylaws will be brought to the August 9 regular meeting to consider initiating the 30-day review period notice.
Discussion on Draft Preliminary 2018 Budget.
The Board directed Administrator Belfiori to outline only the changes that were made to the draft budget from their June workshop meeting. Administrator Belfiori explained there were only 4 changes on funds located on lines 8, 10, 36 and 37 (on page 71 of the workshop packet). He reiterated the need for the Board to be mindful of the current and predicted fund balance as presented on page 74 of the workshop packet. Manager Haake restated her concern with the District purchasing a floating excavator based on operation/maintenance, insurance, storage and other factors. Administrator Belfiori reviewed with the Board the budget schedule, permit budget summary and proposed 2018 staff performance based salary adjustments. The Board requested permit numbers from cities/government entities since the District does not receive a permit application fee from them. Administrator Belfiori asked if the Board had any additional comments on or changes to the draft preliminary 2018 budget materials as presented and as provided in the workshop packet. No additional response was provided.
The Board discussed additional revenue sources.
Administrator Belfiori distributed a table from Water Resource Specialist Axtell breaking down budget/actual expenditures for the BWSR Targeted Water Demonstration grant as requested by Manager Haake.
The workshop was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.