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

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

Absent:

Others: Administrator Phil Belfiori; Public Ditch Inspector Tom Schmidt (portion of meeting); Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Nick Tomczik (portion of meeting); Water Resource Specialist Kyle Axtell (portion of meeting); Office Manager Theresa Stasia; District Engineers Mark Deutschman, Chris Otterness, and Bret Zimmerman (portion of meeting)-Houston Engineering (HEI), Susan Moore (portion of meeting); Ross Ohman (portion of meeting); Ryan Goodman-City of Forest Lake Engineer.

President Preiner asked the other Managers and staff if they had any additions or corrections to the workshop agenda. Administrator Belfiori requested additional workshop agenda items: Discussion on adding City of Forest Lake compost site permit application (16-046) to July 13 board meeting agenda and discussion on revising the proposed motion for the July 13 board meeting related to the consideration for setting a public hearing for the historical review of WJD 5, 6, 7.

Discussion with Susan Moore.

Ms. Moore gave the Board a brief history of her drainage problem. In 2006, the City constructed airport hangers which she found ruined the drainage on her property and caused a pond on her northwest corner to become larger in 2007. She contends the City admitted they broke the tile line. Recently the City televised the tile line and a month ago the city jetted out the blockage. She is still experiencing flooding due to private tile east of Highway 61 that may have been broken by the installation of cable by a cable company. She wants RCWD or the City to repair her private tile line connection to the Cities manhole on the west side of 61 and to maintain it in the future. This City owned pipe connects to AWJD #4, Branch #1, Lateral #1, which the RCWD Board by resolution transferred to the City of Forest Lake upon petition from the City.

Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt gave background on the situation, that included installation by RCWD of a connection from the Cities manhole to the head of the public tile line. Ms. Moore hired a wetland firm to do a wetland delineation. During review on-site of the delineation, the Technical Evaluation Panel advised that a drainage exemption may be applicable but the land would have to remain agricultural for 10 years.

Ms. Moore replied she just wanted the land to be the way it was and-not wait another 10 years.
Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Tomczik informed the Board that several years ago a WCA application from Ms. Moore was to fill the area and that was denied. Then a wetland delineation was done and during review there were questions regarding Wetland 5 regarding changing size. District staff met with Ms. Moore’s and/or their consultants on several occasions. The District contacted the State for clarification on the original 10-year agricultural guidance and the State as of this time have not given a definitive answer. The District also consulted with Drainage Attorney John Kolb. Mr. Kolb advised the District that the applicant could bring a WCA No Loss application to roughly the 924 elevation. Elevation 924 is prior to the construction of the airport hangar and could be documented as incidental; it is the sites historic drainage. It was recommended that any application be brought to the District Board for a decision to provide documentation of the project.

Manager Bradley questioned if the city could get the utility to fix the tile.

City of Forest Lake Engineer Ryan Goodman replied it was in the right of way which the city didn’t own and they have no documentation of the cable company installation. The right of way is MnDOTs and the cable company would have to permit through them. Prior to 4th of July, the City jetted out the tile and it is completely open. East of Highway 61 the tile is severed. The city has shown the landowner the Highway 61 documentation of the area and it now has drainage from the system. Also, the drain tile has been marked with a sign.

The Board discussed who would be responsible for re-hooking up the private drain tile to the public system and the potential next steps for Ms. Moore. Public Drainage Inspector Schmidt advised the Board that to hook the private system up to the public by Highway 61 would not be cost prohibitive but recommended that if the District were to help fund the project that they should require an agreement that the District was no longer responsible for the maintenance of the private tile. Upon further discussion the Board by consensus agreed to inform Mr. Goodman that if the city were to request partnering on this project they would consider it. The Board also agreed by consensus to inform Ms. Moore that she could pursue a WCA no loss application as discussed earlier in the workshop.

Administrator Belfiori recommended that given the timing of the first agenda item, the Board move the workshop budget item to end of meeting, around 3:15 p.m. The Board by consensus agreed.

**Permit 16-046 City of Forest Lake compost site**

Permit Coordinator Tomczik gave background to the Board on the permit. The City is bringing the site back into compliance due to a past vendor’s disposal of solid waste contents, unintended impervious areas, and some wetland fill. He informed the Board that the permit will be added to the regular meeting on 7/13/16 for Board consideration with the recommendation of CAPROC from staff. By consensus the Board agreed to add it to the 7/13 board meeting agenda.

**Discussion on RCWD Mitigation Opportunities memorandum.**

District Engineer Deutschman reviewed their draft memo with the Board. The managers asked for updates on Table 1 and 2 and language pertaining to the settlements. The HEI memo at this time shows that if projected credits from the RCWD Browns Preserve Wetland Bank are realized as it is anticipated,
the District will possess enough wetland credits for their proposed drainage repair projects for the next five years (if the Board maintains the same CIP long range projects planning list as it reached consensus on at a recent workshop meeting). District Engineer Deutschman discussed with the Board different options to obtain future additional wetland credits. The Board by consensus agreed to request that staff:
1) approach the City of Blaine to begin discussions a possible partnership for the wetland bank at 109th and Lexington, 2) complete a field review of Lamprey Pass (District owned portion) in Washington County as a potential wetland bank, and 3) develop draft language and format for a public notice of interest for partnership on wetland banks. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that he would bring back a HEI task order for Board review regarding their actions requested in the Board consensus.

Discussion on proposed rate control rule revision.
District Engineers Deutschman, Otterness, and Zimmerman gave a presentation on their analysis of the effect of a proposed revision to District Rule C.7. They used sample permits in the Hardwood Creek/JD2 subwatershed. Manager Waller felt the sampling area was not correct in that the Hardwood Creek/JD2 subwatershed was unique because it has large lots compared to other areas above Baldwin Lake. District Engineer Otterness believed they could draw a general conclusion that the closer to the site, the better the benefits; meaning that there is a more localized benefit vs. a larger area benefit. Board by consensus agreed to remove this item from the rule revision.

Update on approach for Anoka County Ditch 31/46 permit application.
District Engineer Otterness updated the Board on their communications with the ACOE. They have provided profile information and plans as a courtesy but are not obligated to apply for a ACOE permit because the planned projects are repairs to the original constructed grades and dimensions.

Update on Metropolitan Council stormwater grant.
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the City of Hugo was awarded a $200,000 Metropolitan Council stormwater grant for the Waters Edge Stormwater Reuse Project. This grant was submitted through the District a few months ago. He distributed a draft District letter to the City of Hugo. The letter informs the City that due to an USWR grant being cancelled, $30,000 still remains in the District 2016 budget. The letter encourages the city to submit an USWR application for the Waters Edge Stormwater Reuse Project for these remaining 2016 funds. Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that the content of this letter is consistent with the previous Board consensus to revise the Board’s current policy and to allow for funding of irrigation reuse projects for their groundwater use reduction benefits and which would provide District project cost sharing outside of the domain of the District Rules. The Board by consensus agreed to sending the letter to the City of Hugo.

Initial discussion on draft Buffer Law Program Policies papers.
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that staff/consultants will provide comments on the draft papers for the Board to consider at their July 27, 2016 meeting. Manager Bradley questioned if policy 7 is missing language with clarifies a watershed district will not loss funding due to the fact they are not implementing the Buffer Law. Administrator Belfiori agreed to provide that in their comments.
Discussion on draft 2017 budget.
Administrator Belfiori reviewed with the Board each item listed as highlights and summary of attached draft tables from his July 6 memo and informed the Board, this first draft recommended budget hasn’t taken into account the final future bid numbers for the Hansen Park, ACD 31/46 repair, and Mirror Pond projects. He stated that after the bid openings for these projects, he will be able to adjust numbers and intends to bring a revised recommended budget to the August workshop. Administrator Belfiori discussed the District fund balance table and the projected fund balance numbers thru the end of 2018. He identified that this draft budget has no tax levy increase. Administrator Belfiori then highlighted areas where funds were lowered due to the unknowns of the soon to be bided project costs and that some of these funds would be increased in the next revised draft budget recommendation if bids come in below budget. Administrator Belfiori also reviewed the specific content of the salary administration and staffing plan memo and explained the request for a Technical Assistant position. He also identified that this draft budget includes some funding for a 2017 salary survey and explained the “benchmarking” comparison as related to the proposed employee benefits part of the budget. Manager Waller reiterated his opinion that more cities should take over their permitting. The Board commented that the draft budget was very thorough and thought out and had no changes at this time. They also discussed the need for a vehicle replacement plan.

Update on Communication and Outreach Position.
Administrator Belfiori updated the Board on his intention to immediately begin the process of advertising for this currently vacant position.

Initial discussion on RCWD role in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
Moved to workshop following 7/13 regular meeting.

Update on Hansen Permitting.
Moved to workshop following 7/13 regular meeting.

Informational Item.
Administrator Belfiori informed the Board that he would like to change the 7/13 board agenda item number 1-Board Action, to setting the ACD 31/46 public hearing to mid - late September, not a specific date. The stated that they did not have a concern with that request.
The workshop was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.