

OFFICIAL MINUTES
Clearwater River Watershed District
Board of Managers Meeting
November 16, 2016 - 6:00PM
City Hall, Annandale, MN

Vice-Chair Uecker called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Managers Chris Uecker, Kathy Jonsrud, Paul DeGree and Robert Rocheleau were present. Manager Robert Schiefelbein entered the meeting at 6:19pm. Also in attendance were: Joseph Ekert, Advisor Merle Anderson, Assistant Administrator Dennis Loewen and Administrator Cole Loewen. The following were in attendance for the School Section Lake Outlet Control Project Public Hearing: Ronald Dockendorf, Kyle Neu, Lois Rowbottom and Bruce Way (all left at 7:15pm).

Motion #16-11-1: Jonsrud/DeGree moved to adopt the agenda. **All Managers voted aye.**

PRESENTATIONS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Administrator Loewen pulled approving October 19, 2016 Board of Manager regular meeting minutes from the consent agenda due to comments received from the MNDNR. Manager Jonsrud encouraged all managers that could attend the December 1-3, 2016 MAWDs' Annual Meeting & Trade Show to do so.

Motion #16-11-2: Jonsrud/Rocheleau, moved to amend the October 19, 2016 Board of manager regular meeting minutes to insert the following parenthetical into the section on the School Section Lake Outlet Control Project's Public Hearing: "(MN DNR Area Hydrologist Nicola Blake-Bradely indicated by e-mail to the CRWD office on November 2, 2016 that the MN DNR would not have any issue with the CRWD doing a redetermination of benefits for the School Section Lake Outlet Control Project, and would not use said redetermination as an opportunity to amend the project's DNR permit in such a manner to decrease the opportunity for lake out-letting)." **All Managers voted aye.**

Other action items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

- Approved October 19, 2016 CRWD Board of Managers' regular meeting minutes as amended.
- Authorize Board and staff attendance at list of upcoming events

Motion #16-11-3: Jonsrud/DeGree, moved to adopt the consent agenda. **All Managers voted aye.**

NOVEMBER 16, 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

Administrator Loewen reviewed the financial report. The Board instructed staff to revisit with League of MN Cities Insurance Trust on the East Swartout sand-iron filter of the property schedule in order to amend the property insurance cost downward.

Motion #16-11-4: Jonsrud/Rocheleau, moved to authorize payment of bills, subject to audit. **All Managers voted aye.**

OLD BUSINESS

School Section Lake Outlet Control Project: proposed reapportionment of benefits and replacement of ice barrier

Administrator Loewen reviewed written comments received from property owners benefitted from the project asking the Board to undertake a redetermination of benefits for the project instead of a reapportionment, and reviewed the draft resolution for reapportionment and replacement of the ice

barrier. The Board sought and heard comments from the floor at this time in regards to the project. Comments centered on encouraging the Board to undertake a redetermination of benefits and general questions on the nature and history of the project. The Board made clear to those in attendance that undertaking a redetermination will result in additional costs to the benefitted property owners and that, while very likely, in no way guarantees an outcome that will be more “equitable” than the currently proposed reapportionment.

Manager Schiefelbein entered the meeting during this discussion and assumed the chair.

Motion #16-11-5: Jonsrud/DeGree, moved to levy \$5,000 for the 2017 School Section Lake Outlet Control O&M Special Assessment using the proposed reapportionment of benefits, for the purpose of providing funds to operate and maintain the project in 2017. **All Managers voted aye.**

The Board directed staff to have its attorney provide a framework for the undertaking of a redetermination of benefits for the project, as well as a listing of potential hurdles and pitfalls. The Board also directed staff to solicit two quotes from professional appraisal firms for conducting a redetermination of benefits. Finally, the Board indicated the replacement of the ice barrier would be held off until a redetermination of benefits was completed, and directed staff to inform the easement grantor on this change in plans.

Update on hydro-geotechnical investigations for Clearwater Harbor/ Hidden River Nitrogen Mitigation & Analysis Plan

Administrator Loewen provided a brief overview on the current status of the investigative work.

Cedar Lake Watershed Protection & Improvement Project

Administrator Loewen reviewed the remaining outstanding items to complete the project and updated the Board on the removal status of the spoils pile.

Watkins Area Stormwater Treatment Project

Administrator Loewen gave an update on project status, including final permit acquisitions, bidding process, and land use options. The Board instructed staff to work with the current renter to plant grass for haying next year for all portions not impacted by the project.

Proposed policy change: servicing of individual septic tanks at CWD-owned sewer systems

Administrator Loewen reviewed comments received from the Hidden River Association on this item, as well as input from the CRWD attorney. The Board did not take any action on this proposed policy change.

NEW BUSINESS

MN Assoc. of Watershed District’s Annual Meeting: set delegates, review proposed resolutions, general discussion

Motion #16-11-6: Jonsrud/Uecker, moved to appoint Managers Jonsrud and Uecker as delegates, and Manager DeGree as an alternate. **All Managers voted aye.**

Administrator Loewen reviewed the nine resolutions to be heard by the full MAWD membership at its annual meeting. The Board held discussion on which resolutions should be supported by the CRWD and instructed its delegates accordingly.

Event: AIS forum with area lake associations

Manager Jonsrud reviewed the draft charter for the proposed AIS forum. The purpose of the forum is to provide the opportunity for lake association leadership in the CRWD to share best practices and strategies for control of AIS. A rental fee for the meeting hall and cost of refreshments would be

provided by the CRWD. The Board indicated support for this forum and the use of general funds for rental and refreshment costs, and encouraged the event to move forward.

Personnel Subcommittee Report

Manager Jonsrud gave a brief presentation summarizing the activities and recommendations of the Board's personnel subcommittee. The Board directed Administrator Loewen to provide a cost estimate for providing additional, limited bookkeeping and office support staff. The Board also encouraged staff to continue looking into methods to improve productivity via technological investments, and indicated interest in evaluating internship opportunities for assistance with summer work.

Proposal: Radio tagging of rough fish in upper chain of lakes (Marie, Louisa, Scott and Betsy)

Administrator Loewen distributed a memo from Wenck Associates, Inc. summarizing alternatives to conduct fish surveying work in the CRWD. The memo was drafted as a broad document for most of the CRWD, not specifically focused on the upper chain. The Board directed staff to place this item on the December regular meeting agenda.

Administrator Loewen- Other Business

Approve contract with Affordable Pumping Services, Inc.

Motion #16-11-7: Jonsrud/UECKER, moved to approve the agreement between CRWD and Affordable Pumping Services, Inc. for servicing of septic tanks for CRWD sewer systems, dated 10/19/2016. **All Managers voted aye.**

Approve task order #16-0004 with Wenck Associates, Inc. for 2016 Water Quality Monitoring and Implementation Status Report

Motion #16-11-8: UECKER/Rocheleau, moved to approve task order #16-0004 between CRWD and Wenck Associates, Inc. with Administrator-noted edits. **All Managers voted aye.**

Local Government Roundtable's "2016 Funding Workgroup Policy Paper"

Administrator Loewen noted likely changes in how Clean Water Fund appropriations would work going forward, with a shift away from mostly competitive grants to a more "base grant" approach to each of the 81 major watersheds in the state.

Advisor Anderson- Other Business

None

Advisory Committee assignments are:

1. No-wake "flag" notices
2. Aquatic Invasive Species

Items noted for the December 21, 2016 regular meeting are:

- Project updates
- Report on MAWD Annual Meeting by delegates
- School Section Lake Outlet Control Project-proposed redetermination of benefits
- Cedar Lake Watershed Protection & Improvement Project closeout
- Rough fish management in CRWD
- Watkins Area Stormwater Treatment Project update
- Clearwater River R&P Phase II Project update
- Clearwater Harbor/ Hidden River NMAP implementation: hydro-geologic update
- Watkins Wetland Isolation Unit Repairs update

MANAGERS' REPORTS

None

Motion #16-11-9: DeGree/Rocheleau, moved to adjourn at 8:37pm. **All Managers voted aye.**

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Chair, Bob Schiefelbein

Secretary, Paul DeGree