

OFFICIAL MINUTES
Clearwater River Watershed District
Board of Managers Meeting
September 21, 2016 - 6:00PM
City Hall, Annandale, MN

Acting Chair DeGree called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Managers Paul DeGree, Kathy Jonsrud, and Robert Rocheleau, were present. Manager Chris Uecker entered the meeting at 6:50pm. Managers Robert Schiefelbein and Chris Uecker were excused absent. Also in attendance were: Jack Gleason Lake Augusta Association (left at 6:55pm), Chuck Carlson and John Dearing, Supervisors, Corinna Township (left at 6:55pm), Phil Haataja (entered at 6:25pm, left at 7:26pm), Engineer Rebecca Kluckhohn, Advisor Merle Anderson, Assistant Administrator Dennis Loewen and Administrator Cole Loewen. Gleason, Carlson and Dearing left the meeting at 6:55PM.

Motion #16-9-1: Jonsrud/Rocheleau moved to adopt the agenda. **All Managers voted aye.**

PRESENTATIONS

Jack Gleason, Lake Augusta Association- Request protocol for emergency floating bog removal

Jack Gleason, president of the Lake Augusta Association, provided an overview of the recent bog situation on Lake Augusta related to the bridge crossing over the channel between Lakes Augusta and Clearwater and asked the Board to provide additional direction on how to facilitate removal of bogs from this location on weekends/ holidays. Gleason also asked the Board for direction on how to facilitate acquiring the water level at the Grass Lake Dam so as to make decisions on when the counties' no-wake ordinance should be in effect.

Regarding acquiring the water level at the Grass Lake Dam, the Board suggested the association contact the local DNR hydrologist to have a staff gauge installed on Lake Augusta in such a manner that a set benchmark is established that correlates to the water levels at Grass Lake Dam. This will provide the lake residents an easy way to determine if water levels are at the point where the counties' no-wake ordinance should be in effect. Manager Jonsrud offered to share Cedar Lake Conservation Club's standard operating procedure regarding no-wake with the Lake Augusta Association so it can develop procedures with the counties on this matter.

Regarding the removal of floating bogs from the channel between Augusta and Clearwater, the Board noted the CRWD has a policy in place on how to address floating bogs in this area. However, it was noted that the policy could use additional guidance on how to handle situations were bogs become lodged during weekends or holidays. The Board instructed staff to develop additional guidance to be incorporated into the existing policy, including incorporating MN Dept. of Natural Resources' permitting requirements and developing a standing contract with contractors to facilitate floating bog removal per existing policy.

Motion #16-9-2: Jonsrud/Rocheleau, moved to amend the meeting agenda to move item 6.2 (Cedar Lake Watershed Protection & Improvement Project update) to agenda item 3.2 due to the presence of two Corinna Township supervisors who wished to discuss the spoils pile at the Old Highway 55 project site. **All Managers voted aye.**

Cedar Lake Watershed Protection & Improvement (CLWP&I) Project update

Administrator Loewen reviewed the history and current status regarding the spoils pile at the Old Highway 55 component of the CLWP&I project and Corinna Township's condition that the spoils pile be removed by a certain date in order for the re-platting of the Cedar Creek Plat to be approved by the town. Chuck Carlson and John Dearing, Supervisors for Corinna Township, were present to provide the Board with the following information:

- The township has extended the date of the condition for the spoils pile to be removed to October 15, 2016.
- The township has contractors who have expressed interest in removing the spoils from the site at no cost to the common interest holders, and the township is willing to facilitate this removal at no cost to the holders.
- The township intends to remove the spoils pile and charge a bill for the work if said holders do not agree to the above-mentioned bulleted items.

Phil Haataja entered at this point.

Motion #16-9-3: Jonsrud/Rocheleau, moved to partner with Corinna Township on their proposal to facilitate the removal of the spoils pile at Lot 1, Block 2 of the Cedar Creek Plat, and for the Administrator to send a letter to the six common interest holders via certified post detailing the following:

- A review of the history and current status of the spoils pile.
- The offer of the township to remove the spoils at no cost to the holders, with this being the last opportunity to have the spoils removed at no cost to the holders.
- The intention of the township, if the holders do not agree with the township removing the spoils, is to remove the spoils and to bill the holders for the work.
- The intention of the CRWD to cover the portion of the seeding of the disturbed area where the pile is currently located, if the holders agree to work with the township on said removal.
- The holders must contact the township ASAP to facilitate this removal.
- Once the spoils is removed, the township has indicated the re-plat will be approved, at which time the CRWD will finish all requirements to record the plat and will relinquish ownership of Lot 1, Block 2 of the Cedar Creek Plat.

All Managers voted aye.

In addition, the Board indicated the CRWD would be willing to cover the costs to do the finishing work to spread and seed the remains of the spoils pile on site. The township is to provide the CRWD with a cost for this finishing work, at which time the Board will either agree to cover said costs or will continue discussions with the township on the finishing work.

Manager Chris Uecker entered at this point.

Administrator Loewen also reviewed the excessive vegetation growth on the filter at Old Highway 55. The Board directed staff to move forward with having Prairie Restorations, Inc. treat the excessive vegetation on the filter, with hand-pulling to be conducted first, and if not able, to move to other treatment options. The Board also directed staff to work with the owner(s) of land drained by the field tile that discharges above the filter to see if there is interest in implementing methods to lower the amount of sediment discharged by said tile.

Gleason, Carlson and Dearing left at the end of this item. Uecker assumed the chair's responsibilities for the remainder of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Action items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

- Approved August 17, 2016 regular meeting minutes of the CRWD Board of Managers.
- Approved September 7, 2016 special meeting minutes of the CRWD Board of Managers.
- Appoint Phil Haataja, resident on Lake Marie, to serve on the CRWD's advisory committee.
- Not waive monetary limits on municipal tort liability as established by MN Statutes 466.04.

- Set delinquent utility account hearing for October 19, 2016, 7:00pm at City Hall in Annandale, MN and to both publish the hearing notice per statutory requirements and send hearing notice to delinquent sewer utility account holders.

Phil Haataja, potential appointment to CRWD Advisory Committee, introduced himself to the Board.

Motion #16-9-4: Jonsrud/DeGree, moved to adopt the consent agenda. **All Managers voted aye.**

September 21, 2016 Financial Report

Administrator Loewen reviewed the financial report.

Motion #16-9-5: Jonsrud/Uecker, moved to authorize payment of bills, subject to audit. **All Managers voted aye.**

OLD BUSINESS

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

Engineering Kluckhohn updated the Board on hydro-geotechnical investigations and reviewed next steps to complete investigations.

Targeted Fertilizer Project Update

Motion #16-9-6: Jonsrud/Rocheleau, moved to 1) Accept the Targeted Fertilizer Project's final report, 2) Submit final grant reimbursement to the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), 3) Transfer unused portion of local match proceeds from the Targeted Fertilizer Project's fund back to the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes' O&M Fund once the final grant reimbursement is received from the MPCA, 4) Authorize Administrator Loewen to execute and submit all necessary documentation to the granting authority in order to close out the project and 5) Recognize the Targeted Fertilizer Project as officially closed as of September 30, 2016. **All Managers voted aye.**

Clearwater River Restoration & Protection Project update

Administrator Loewen provided a brief update on this project's status.

School Section Lake Outlet project update

Administrator Loewen updated the Board on the maintenance of the clogged inlet pipe and the process to prepare for the ordered public hearing on October 19, 2016.

Electrical power to the City of Annandale went out during this item. Phil Haataja left during this item.

Watkins Area Stormwater Treatment Project

Administrator Loewen updated the Board on the status of creating bid specifications for the project, as well as the status of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment with USDA- Farm Service Agency (FSA). Staff was informed the CRWD is not eligible for CRP payment by local FSA staff.

The Board directed staff to check with local farmers to see if there is interest in farming the property for hay, if there is interest in farming only the ~10 acres to the north of the east-west channel through the property, and to check with Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy or other such parties to see if there is interest in assisting the CRWD with restoring the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Board Officers

Motion #16-9-7: Jonsrud/Degree, moved to elect Schiefelbein- Chair, Uecker- Vice-Chair, Jonsrud- Treasurer, DeGree- Secretary, Rocheleau- Public Relations & Information. **All Managers voted aye.**

Insurance Renewal

Motion #16-9-8: Rocheleau/Degree, moved to approve the annual renewal of CRWD insurance at the levels noted on the Administrator-prepared memorandum for this meeting. **All Managers voted aye.**

2016 MN Assoc. of Watershed District's (MAWD) call for resolutions

Administrator Loewen reviewed the MAWD's call for resolutions for the annual MAWD meeting. No action was taken.

Quote from commercial fisherman for open water seining in 2016

Administrator Loewen reviewed the quote received from commercial fisherman Ken Seemann for open water seining in fall 2016 from Lakes Louisa, Marie and Swartout, and the recent history behind seeking this quote. Quote was: \$5,000- Louisa, \$5,000- Marie, Swartout- \$4,000.

Motion #16-9-9: Jonsrud/Degree, moved to accept the quote to open water sein from Lakes Louisa, Marie and Swartout from Ken Seemann in its entirety. **All Managers voted aye.**

Administrator Loewen- Other Business

None

Advisor Anderson- Other Business

None

Advisory Committee assignments are:

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

Items noted for the October 19, 2016 regular meeting are:

- Public Hearing (6:00pm)- School Section Lake Outlet- proposed reapportionment of benefits and proposed replacement of ice barrier
- Public Hearing (7:00pm)- Certification of delinquent utility accounts to Stearns County Auditor for collection as part of 2017 property taxes
- Clearwater River R&P Phase II Project update
- Clearwater Harbor/ Hidden River NMAP implementation: hydro-geologic update
- Watkins Area Stormwater Treatment Project update
- CRWD Incentive Program

MANAGERS' REPORTS

None

Motion #16-9-10: Rocheleau/Uecker, moved to adjourn at 7:57pm. **All Managers voted aye.**

THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.crawd.org.

CRWD AUDIT REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ANNANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chair, Bob Schiefelbein

Secretary, Paul DeGree