

OFFICIAL MINUTES
CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING JULY 20, 2022 – 6:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** A regular meeting of the Clearwater River Watershed District was called to order at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, July 20, 2022 by Bob Schiefelbein via zoom due to COVID 19.

Attendees:

Board Members- Bob Schiefelbein, Chris Uecker, Dale Homuth, Paul DeGree, Dawn Cole,

Staff- Rebecca Carlson & Olive Weston (Resilience Resources),

Residents- Liz Leitch-Sell (Clearwater Lake), Roger Rauschendorfer (Lake Augusta), Paul Schneider (Maple Hill Resort), Brian Tommerdahl (CLPO), Bill Donovan (Grass Lake), Tom Lenz, Jeff Westrum (Grass Lake, CWH Property Owners), Jim Kutzner (Clearwater Lake, CLPO),

LGU Partners- Leigh Lenzmeier (Stearns County Commissioner), Cole Loewen (Stearns County Planner),

- 2. ADOPT AGENDA** Motion by DeGree, second by Homuth to adopt the agenda as amended. ***Motion 22-7-1:** carried unanimously by roll call.*

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. Bog Discussion + Presentation

- i. Existing policy
- ii. Current Levy
- iii. Account balances
- iv. Alternatives

Staff provided an update on bog work. Mares is quoted \$7,500 to remove remainder, DLS Landscaping. Liz Leicht-Sell spoke on changing the Clearwater Lake bog policy to model Lake Augusta's 1985 bog policy. She also advocated to increase the levy, as she believes the increase from \$9,000 in 1985 to \$24,000 in 2022 may be enough to combat this issue. Jim Kutzner agreed on bog fund and policy constraints, saying it is not definitive enough on what comes from whose fund. Bill Donovan from Grass Lake asked if this \$9,000 value has been assessed every year. Board Members & staff explained the bog fund numbers are evaluated and decided every year by September 15th when the budget is set

for the following year. In the past 3 years \$1,200-\$2,500 was added to the fund per year, \$7,000 was added prior to that. There is a limit on the fund balances. Jeff Westrum expressed concerns about what residents were doing with the bogs, with many people moving the bogs away from them and causing worse problems before CRWD could take action. He thinks there needs to be an accessible DNR Liason for immediate actions when these issues arise. He has a list of contractors he has spoken to and property owners on the lake that would like to take personal action on removing and disposing bogs, but there is concern for damage to boats and peoples safety. Grass Lake homeowners are expecting payment for their bog removal and disposal via Jeff Westrum.

b. Update TH15

- i. Progress
- ii. Alternative
- iii. Maintenance agreement w/ MNDOT & Kimball

The general plan is to direct low (~2 year flows) to the District infrastructure while relying on MNDOT infrastructure to take higher flows.

Motion by Uecker second by Cole to approve Rebecca Carlson to work with Bob Schiefelbein to draft and enter into an agreement with MNDTO and City of Kimball to protect CRWD water and natural resource benefits of infrastructure installed. **Motion 22-7-2: carried unanimously by roll call.**

c. Financial Report, Annual Report

Jeff Burkhardt presented the Financial Report and staff presented the Annual Report. The key things he advised are an increase in the CWH, HR, and Rest a While budgets.

Motion by Homuth second by Uecker to accept the audit report. **Motion 22-7-3: carried unanimously by roll call.**

Motion by Homuth second by Uecker to accept the annual report and forward to BWSR. **Motion 22-7-4: carried unanimously by roll call.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. June 2022 Regular meeting minutes

b. Correspondence & Staff Notes

- i. Annual Report
- ii. June 18 shoreline restoration workshop/ Roger Rauschendorfer project
- iii. 2022 Monitoring
- iv. Hydrology Update
- v. 1W1P / WRAPS Update
- vi. Cormorant Letters
- vii. Clearwater Harbor Update

- viii. Bog Update
- ix. Tax Abatement Resolution

Motion by Homuth second by Cole to approve the Consent Agenda as is. **Motion 22-7-5: carried unanimously by roll call.**

5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Monthly Report- June 2022

Motion by Homuth second by Uecker to approve payment of checks, and accept monthly financial report subject to audit. **Motion 22-7-6: carried unanimously by roll call.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. CWH/HR Update

- i. Carlson provided an update on an odor complaint near lift station 19. Septic Check replaced cartridge early, and will install a rubber gasket and rubber mat.
- ii. Carlson gave update on Capacitors

b. Turtle Bay

Staff provided update on data collection. The owner of the culvert is responsible for cleaning out the sediment and no further action will be taken. No motion was needed.

c. Wright County Ag Land Concerns

Staff provided an overview of concerns presented by residents and information collected on the farm soil, topography, and nearby wells. This property is farmed for potatoes every 3 years and has had appropriation permits for potato farming since 1992. If this is an issue, it is the responsibility of Clearwater township and the county. The Department of Health may be collecting well data on the issue. No further action will be taken. No motion was needed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Preliminary Budget Presentation

Staff will send the presentation to the board.

b. CAC Update- Appointment of Greg Bartley

Motion by Homuth second by DeGree to approve CAC appointment. **Motion 22-7-6: carried unanimously by roll call.**

c. Legacy Grant Alternatives

Motion by Homuth second by Cole to approve submittal of a grant application for the municipal Resilience Studies around water, natural resources and civil infrastructure for Kimball, Watkins, Clearwater and Annandale. **Motion 22-7-7: carried unanimously by roll call.**

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff informed the board of an 8% increase in lab rates for water quality testing, a need for another shoreline restoration, and that a development review will be done in the future for housing construction in Annandale.

9. MANAGERS REPORTS


Degree informed the board that his term will be ending in August and that he cannot run for the position again due to term limits. He will stay on the board until a replacement is elected.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Schiefelbein second by Cole to adjourn at 9:02pm. **Chair Schiefelbein adjourned the meeting at 9:02pm.** The next CRWD board meeting will be held August 17 at 6:00pm.



Robert Schiefelbein, CRWD Chair


for Dawn Cole

Dawn Cole, CRWD Secretary