

Capitol Region Watershed District



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Regular Meeting Minutes of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m.** at the office of the CRWD, 1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4, St. Paul, MN 55108.

I. Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. (President, Robert Piram)

A) Attendance

Robert Piram
Joe Collins
Seitu Jones
Mike Thienes
Marylyn Deneen

Others Present

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Forrest Kelley, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD

Ela Rausch, Wilder Research
Jerry Wagner, CAC
Mollie Thompson, Citizen

B) Review, Amendments and Approval of the Agenda

Manager Piram asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

The Board adopted the Agenda as amended by consensus.

II. Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

III. Permit Applications

A) Permit #09-028 Gillette Ambulatory Care Center (Kelley)

Forrest Kelley reviewed CRWD Permit #09-028 Gillette ACC. Mr. Kelley said the applicant is Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare. Mr. Kelley said the project is construction of a new office and specialty care building on the northeast corner of Jackson Street and University Avenue. Mr. Kelley said this project has 1.1 acres of disturbed area, 0.68 acres of proposed impervious surface and the proposed stormwater management is underground stormwater infiltration systems. Mr. Kelley said this is phase one of their total development plan. In the future they plan to install a new parking ramp. Mr. Kelley said the staff recommendation is to approve the permit with four conditions.

Motion 09-11-01: *Approve Permit #09-028 Gillette ACC with four conditions.*

1. *Specify that the storage rock is a washed, angular, non-limestone aggregate.*
2. *Clarify location of geotextile fabric. Fabric should not be installed at the bottom of rock aggregate storage area unless specifically used for the pretreatment “isolator row”.*
3. *Indicate specific locations for inlet protection on the SWPPP. Include existing catchbasins at University Ave. and Jackson St. since construction access may occur from Jackson St.*
4. *Upon project completion, contact CRWD staff to verify disconnection of STMH 3 and STMH 2 (Design Special 3). Sheet C4-1 notes the two structures shall be connected until the Stormtech system is operational.*

Thienes/Deneen
Unanimously approved

B) Permit #09-029 HealthEast Ambulance Facility (Kelley)

Forrest Kelley reviewed CRWD Permit #09-029 HealthEast Ambulance Facility. Mr. Kelley said the project is construction of a new ambulance facility on the northwest corner of Reaney and Arcade in St. Paul. Mr. Kelley said this project has 4 acres of disturbed area, 2.34 acres of proposed impervious surface and the proposed stormwater management is an above ground infiltration basin and underground perforated pipes. Mr. Kelley said the staff recommendation is to table the permit with three conditions.

Motion 09-11-02: *Table Permit #09-029 HealthEast Ambulance Facility with three conditions.*

1. *Receipt of \$11,700 surety and maintenance agreement.*
2. *Revise HydroCAD storage parameters for the 48" perforated pipe:*
 - a. *Include the perforated pipe in the storage calculation. Include a 0.1% slope on the pipe as specified on the plans.*
 - b. *Submit documentation to substantiate a void ratio of 76.7% for the aggregate backfill, or reduce the void ratio to 40%.*
 - c. *Reduce the height of the aggregate backfill from 6 to 5.5 feet according to detail 20 on Sheet C5.*
 - d. *Ensure that the storage volume below the outlet elevation (156.92) is at least 4,061 cubic feet.*
3. *Revise the 48" perforated pipe and existing storage tank design so that the existing storage tank is not flooded for the 100-year event. The HydroCAD model indicates the tank's storage is exceeded and that flow out of the tank is greater than flow into the tank.*

Collins/Jones

Unanimously Approved

C) Permit Program/Rules Update (Kelley)

Mr. Kelley said the HealthEast permit would be coming back at the next meeting and that staff are working on some technical issues related to the upcoming Central Corridor permit. This will be discussed later on in the agenda.

IV. Special Reports

Education and Outreach – Watershed Survey Results (Beckman)

Elizabeth Beckman provided an update on the watershed survey. Ms. Beckman said as recommended in the CRWD Education and Outreach Plan, in April 2009 CRWD contracted with Amherst H. Wilder Foundation's Wilder Research to conduct an evaluation of watershed residents. Ms. Beckman introduced Ela Rausch of Wilder Research to give the presentation on the Watershed Survey results.

Ms Rausch said the evaluation was to include 400 completed telephone surveys and two focus groups. The Board approved the survey questions in June 2009, and the survey went into the field July 1, 2009. The survey was later modified to include respondents to a mailing sent to 1000 randomly selected homeowners under the age of 35 without a land telephone line. In September, a focus group session was held that consisted of eleven participants recruited from the phone survey who reported high concern for water quality but a small number of water quality protection behaviors. Program considerations based on survey and focus group findings are included in the October 2009 final report. The demographic characteristics of survey participants closely matched those of the population of homeowners in the Capitol Region Watershed District; however, lower-income residents were slightly underrepresented. Half of survey respondents (49%) said they had previously heard of the Capitol Region Watershed District. This was true for respondents across all sections of the District, suggesting that residents are familiar with the organization and/or the Watershed District in which they live. Ms Rausch stated that the survey data indicated that many District residents are aware that stormwater does not get treated before it enters local lakes and streams. The majority of survey respondents (83%) correctly answered that rainwater that runs into storm drains does not go to a water treatment facility. Survey respondents were asked to give their opinion on whether or not the quality

of lakes and streams in the Saint Paul area has improved over the last five years. Data suggest that District residents are split on this issue. Forty-two percent of respondents think that water quality in the District has declined over the past five years, whereas 41 percent think that things have stayed the same. Less than one in five respondents (17%) thinks that the quality has improved over the last five years. According to survey results, the pollution of local lakes and streams is a major concern among District residents. Nearly half of respondents (48%) said they are very concerned about the issue and an additional 43 percent said they are somewhat concerned. Nine percent said they are not at all concerned. In addition, 92 percent of respondents either agree or strongly agree that preserving the quality of local lakes and streams is one of the most important issues our region faces.

Ms Rausch said in addition to questions about awareness and concern, survey respondents were asked whether or not they would be willing to pay a property tax increase of \$3.00 next year to improve local lakes and the Mississippi River. Currently, each taxpayer household pays \$15.00 annually for water maintenance and improvement. Nearly all respondents (95%) indicated that someone in their household was responsible for paying property taxes. Of those living in taxpayer households, more than three-quarters (78%) said that they would be willing to pay the \$3.00 increase.

Survey respondents were also asked to indicate whether or not they participate in the following “green” landscape care practices: mulching, composting, use of a rain barrel, rain garden installation, and use of native plants. Seventy percent of survey respondents said they mulch, 66 percent said they have native plants or shrubs installed in their yard, 47 percent said they compost, 11 percent said they use a rain barrel, and 9 percent said they had installed a rain garden.

Programs suggested for meeting objectives in the CRWD Education and Outreach plan included a media campaign, a communications program, classroom & field education, a speaker bureau, homeowner education workshops, a community leaf removal program, a community downspout redirection program, a watershed action recognition program, municipal education, and contractor education. According to the Programming Considerations based on survey and focus group results, board and staff may consider the following when creating more detailed Education and Outreach program plans:

- There is a high level of interest in water quality protection in CRWD;
- Most residents believe their actions can make a difference in water quality;
- Differences in attitudes and behaviors based on household income were most prevalent;
- Lack of knowledge, inconvenience, and cost are the three main barriers residents face when taking water quality protection actions;
- Preferred water quality protection behaviors are not practiced by a majority of CRWD residents; and
- Partnerships play an important role in water quality protection.

Ela Rausch discussed the individual items in the Findings section of the report, to provide details on attitude and behavior differences by demographic group, and to answered questions about the report from Board Managers. The Board thanked Ms. Rausch for the excellent work on the survey and presentation.

Motion 09-11-03:

Accept *A study of resident attitudes and behaviors related to water quality* prepared by Wilder Research and direct staff to develop detailed work plans to implement programs in the CRWD Education and Outreach Plan.

Thienes/Collins

Unanimously approved

V. Action Items

Consent Agenda

Manager Piram asked for a motion to approve the November 4, 2009, Consent Agenda.

Motion 09-11-04:

A) Approve Minutes of the October 21, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented.

Thienes/Deneen

Unanimously approved

Discussion

B) Authorize Cooperative Construction and Geotechnical Investigation Agreements for Gottfried Pit Improvements (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum said during the past several months District staff and consultants have been working on the Gottfried's Pit Improvement plans. The project includes replacement of pumps at the Pit and installation of 630 feet of new forcemain under Larpenteur Ave and south of the cul-de-sac on Huron St. in St. Paul. Mr. Fossum said District staff and the attorney have submitted draft cooperative construction agreements for the Cities and Ramsey County. Staff is requesting authorization to enter into cooperative construction agreements with the project partners. Mr. Fossum said prior to bidding the District will need to complete soil borings on the north and south side of Larpenteur Ave. along the new forcemain pipe alignment. The geotechnical information is needed for the directional drilling of the forcemain under Larpenteur Ave. Mr. Fossum noted that this will be part of the project cost.

Motion 09-11-05: *Authorize Board President and Administrator to execute cooperative construction agreements for the Gottfried's Pit Stormwater Improvement Project with Falcon Heights, Roseville, St. Paul and Ramsey County subject to the review and approval of the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Thienes/Deneen

Unanimously approved

Motion 09-11-06: *Authorize geotechnical investigation for Gottfried's Pit Stormwater Improvement Project as detailed in AET's October 21, 2009 letter proposal for an amount not to exceed \$2,800 and authorize Board President and Administrator to execute the professional services agreement subject to review and approval of the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Thienes/Deneen

Unanimously approved

Administrator Doneux viewed the funding approach for this project. After construction of the Arlington Pascal Stormwater Project, there remains approximately \$294,000 in the construction fund. In reading the closing documents it indicates that upon completion of the Project and the payment of the costs, any surplus may be transferred by the Board of Managers to any other public use authorized by law in the manner provided by Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.65, or otherwise shall be transferred to the 2007 Bonds Debt Service Account. The Board of Managers will need to pass a resolution specifically directing the expenditure. The Watershed Management Plan references this project in two areas: both are under the Utilizing Urban BMPs and Retrofitting. The two capital projects are listed as "Flooding and water quality BMPs and retrofitting solutions - \$200,000" and "Gottfried's Pit - \$120,000".

Administrator Doneux said he has had numerous discussions with the arbitrage specialists at our financial advisors at Ehlers Associates and our accounting firm, HLB Tautges Redpath with regard to the arbitrage question. Based on the arbitrage yield rate there would be no expected arbitrage penalty.

Administrator Doneux said Staff recommends utilizing surplus funds from the 2007A Bond issue for the Gottfried's Pit project. A resolution authorizing this use will be presented at the time the contract is awarded.

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Update

Administrator Doneux said there are no main issues that the District is dealing with for the Central Corridor project. The first issue is the request by the City of Saint Paul for consideration of additional credit from City constructed BMPs along the Corridor. Staff met with City officials last week and is reviewing the request. Staff will bring back a recommendation to the Board prior to responding to the City. The second issue is the identification of additional BMPs within the construction limits of the Light Rail project. Staff met with the CCLRT Streetscape committee last week and is meeting with City staff on Thursday, November 5th to continue to refine the list of possible additional BMPs. Staff noted the tight time frame and the need to submit plans to Met Council before the next meeting. After some discussion the Board directed staff to submit plans for all feasible BMPs and review the list with the Board at the next meeting.

VII. General Information

A) Administrators Report

Administrator Doneux noted he had received and accepted the resignation of Katie Huser. Katie's last day will be November 25th. Katie started with the District in April of 2007 as the Water Resource Technician for Monitoring. The BMP Performance Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis were presented at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference on Monday, October 26th. Melissa Baker gave the presentation in the Stormwater BMP Performance session to a full house and was well received. The report is currently out for a 30 day peer review. Administrator Doneux reminded the Board that the MAWD Annual Conference will be December 3-5 and to make room reservations as soon as possible. Administrator Doneux also noted some up coming office closings and meeting changes. CRWD Office will be closed Wednesday, November 11th for Veteran's Day. The CAC meeting has been moved to Thursday, November 12th due to the Veteran's Day Holiday. The CRWD Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Mr. Doneux briefly reviewed the University of Minnesota Stormwater Assessment and Maintenance Project has published another update for November 2009

VIII. Meeting Agenda Review

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda Review

IX. Adjournment – 8:00 p.m. adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Doneux

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