

Capitol Region Watershed District



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Regular Meeting Minutes of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, August 5, 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 (Absent w/notice)
Seitu Jones
Mike Thienes
Marylyn Deneen

Others Present

Bob Fossum, CRWD
Dawn Nelson, CRWD
Forrest Kelley, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD

Jonna Bjelland,
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
Adam Robbins,
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
Pat Conrad, EOR, Inc.
Jerry Livesay, Resident

B) Review, Amendments and Approval of the Agenda

Manager Piram asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. Manager Jones requested adding Unfinished Business B) Public Art Update.

The Board adopted the Agenda as amended by consensus.

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

Jerry Livesay, Resident and District 5 Planning Council spoke about his concern on the new (Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) ordinance for the downtown St. Paul Airport and the potential draining of wetlands at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Mr. Livesay said he was hoping the Board would write a letter opposing the new ordinance and support of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary as it is. Manager Piram said the Board was not given an opportunity to comment. Mr. Fossum said staff were made aware of the draft ordinance last Wednesday and the comment deadline was on Thursday. Mr. Fossum said staff did not comment. Mr. Fossum said the draft ordinance can have some serious implications. Manager Thienes suggested writing a letter asking them to extend their comment period because CRWD was not given time to review the ordinance.

Motion 09-08-01: *Authorize a letter to MAC requesting an extension to their comment period for the draft ordinance for the downtown St. Paul Airport to provide the District time to comment.*

Deneen/Thienes

Unanimously Approved

III. Permit Applications

A) Permit # 09-023 Central Corridor LRT – 4th Street Utility Relocation (Kelley)

Forrest Kelley reviewed CRWD Permit # 09-023 Central Corridor LRT – 4th Street Utility Relocation. Mr. Kelley said the project is utility relocation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project on 4th Street from Minnesota Street to Broadway Street in Downtown St. Paul. Mr. Kelley said this project has 4.86 acres of disturbed area, 4.74 acres of proposed impervious surface and the proposed stormwater management is pervious pavers with trees and structural soils. Mr. Kelley said the staff recommendation is to table the permit with three conditions. Manager Jones noted that he is under contract with Met Council to provide

artwork for the CCLRT and will join in the discussion but abstain from voting.

Motion 09-08-02: *Table Permit # 09-023 Central Corridor LRT – 4th Street Utility Relocation with three conditions.*

1. *Receipt of maintenance agreement.*
2. *Submit a copy of the NPDES permit application.*
3. *Provide additional stormwater volume retention to satisfy the CRWD standards (volume retention and water quality). Consider additional stormwater volume management practices within the project area, or route additional runoff and expand the proposed tree planting trenches.*
 - a. *Soil borings 509SS, 537SS, and E52 indicate favorable soils for infiltration. Infiltration practices can be designed with an infiltration rate of 0.8 in/hr (according to the Minnesota Stormwater Manual) due to silty sand to a depth of 14 feet.*
 - b. *The “Downtown Table” at the CCLRT Stormwater Workshop identified the park at the southwest corner of Sibley and 4th Streets for possible reconstruction. This could allow for underground storage and infiltration of stormwater runoff to be incorporated in the park redesign. A diversion structure could be incorporated into manhole 9740 to direct runoff to the underground storage system.*
 - c. *Relocate and reroute stormsewer adjacent to the proposed tree planting trenches to direct additional runoff to the trenches. It appears that the surface grade of 4th Street could drain to the northwest curb line and structure 9762 could be relocated to the northwest side of 4th Street. Runoff could be collected in structure 9762 and directed to the trenches for small storm events with an overflow by-pass for large events (to structure 9752 or 9769). Several examples of this design were presented at the CCLRT Stormwater Workshop.*

Thienes/Deneen

Jones abstained

Unanimously Approved

B) Central Corridor LRT Workshop Summary Letter (Kelley)

Forrest Kelley said on June 25, 2009 a stormwater design workshop was held for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line. The workshop brought together planners, engineers, educators, landscape architects, regulators, and government officials from out-of-state, state and local government agencies and private institutions to develop conceptual plans of innovative stormwater practices that would achieve CRWD’s stormwater targets as well as the goals of creating a sustainable, green corridor. With over 50 people in attendance, the workshop was a huge success and serves as the launching pad for designing and constructing green infrastructure within and adjacent to CCLRT. Mr. Kelley explained that CRWD consultants are currently working to complete a workshop summary document to be finalized in August. However, the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and CRWD staff agreed that a preliminary summary letter should be drafted to allow time for CCLRT design staff to incorporate the stormwater practices discussed at the workshop. Mr. Kelley explained that the letter lists BMPs in order of the most recommended as identified by the workshop participants. It is anticipated the City and County will prepare similar letters of support for these BMPs. Manager Piram requested some changes to the letter. Discussion occurred.

Motion 09-08-03: *Approve CCLRT Stormwater Workshop Summary Letter with changes as discussed.*

Thienes/Deneen

Unanimously Approved

C) Permit Program/Rules Update (Kelley)

Mr. Kelley said two permits 09-012 School District Service Facility and 09-019 Johnson Senior High encountered problems with soil conditions upon excavation. Double ring infiltrometer tests were performed and resulted in no infiltration in the test holes. Mr. Kelley said staff and the engineers have been coordinating

to create a solution to convert the sub-grade infiltration trenches into filtration trenches. Staff request guidance from the Board to allow staff to work with the engineers to make modifications to the designs that comply with the Rule C standards to allow construction to continue. Mr. Kelley said formal permit amendments will be brought to the Board at the August 19 meeting for approval. Staff are moving forward with drafting a scope of work for the small sites assessment, and have drafted a resident questionnaire for the Cleveland-Randolph Groundwater Study.

IV. Special Reports – Jonna Bjelland, St. Paul Parks and Recreation

Jonna Bjelland, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Intern provided the Board with a presentation of her work during 2009. Ms. Bjelland noted that there was another Intern, Lauren Dennhardt who had to go back to school and couldn't be here tonight. Ms. Bjelland explained that this is her 3rd season with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. There were six crew leaders and thirty youth. Ms. Bjelland explained that there were 21 volunteered events, with 441 volunteers with a total of 1,176 hours that is equivalent to \$19,603. Ms. Bjelland said 50% of the total hours occurred within the watershed district. The remaining hours were split between Lilydale and Indian Mounds Regional Parks. Ms. Bjelland said volunteer events with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) and Target Volunteers included Invasive Species removal with the Youth Job Corp (YJC) and the BioBlitz event at Crosby Farm Regional Park. The projects at the Old Wagon Road at Meeker Dam include plantings with FMR with erosion blanket in order to maintain the hillside and plantings with YJC. Ms. Bjelland said there was extensive invasive species removal at Swede Hollow and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Maintenance of the Como Shoreline through control of invasive species and burdock removal with the YJC. Manager Piram said the Como Shoreline turned out really nice. Ms. Bjelland said there was maintenance, planting and weeding of the raingardens including the new Western District police station. Ms. Bjelland explained that Wood Duck houses were placed on site last year at Como Lake and was heavily used for the first time this year with at least 20 eggs per house. Ms. Bjelland said the Crosby Farm Wood Duck houses were placed on site this year and is hopeful for results similar to Como. Mr. Adam Robbins gave a budget update for the interns for the season. The Board thanked Ms. Bjelland and Mr. Robbins for their presentation and the wonderful job.

V. Action Items

Consent Agenda

Manager Piram asked for a motion to approve the August 5, 2009, Consent Agenda.

Motion 09-08-04:

- A) Approve Minutes of the July 15, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented.*
- B) Approve Dewee Stewardship Grant with reimbursement funding not to exceed \$165.00 subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. CRWD and Page DeWees must approve and enter into a Cooperative Agreement;*
 - 2. Any changes to project plans must be approved by the CRWD; and*
 - 3. All conditions must be met and the project completed within one year after project approval.**
- C) Approve Bozway Nelson Stewardship Grant with reimbursement funding not to exceed \$180.00 subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. CRWD and Roni Bozway Nelson must approve and enter into a Cooperative Agreement;*
 - 2. Any changes to project plans must be approved by the CRWD; and*
 - 3. All conditions must be met and the project completed within one year after project approval.**

Thienes/Jones

Unanimously approved

Discussion

D) Authorize Engineering Study and Plans for Gottfried's Pit Improvements (Fossum)

Bob Fossum reviewed the engineering proposal for the Gottfried's Pit Improvement with the Board. Mr. Fossum reported that CRWD awarded the sale of Watershed District Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$1,555,000 for the Arlington Pascal Stormwater Improvement Project in January of 2007. In 2008, the final payments were made on Phase II of the Project. Mr. Fossum explained that an evaluation shows that there is a surplus of funds from this project in the amount of \$294,071. The closing documents indicate that "Upon completion of the Project and the payment of the costs thereof, 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." At the April 15th and May 6th Board meetings, staff reviewed with the Board a list of potential projects that could be completed with the surplus funds from the 2007A Bond sale. At the May 6th meeting it was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the Gottfried's Pit upgrades as detailed in the District's 2003 Como 7 Subwatershed Analysis. Mr. Fossum continued to say on July 22nd, staff convened a meeting to discuss the project and use of the District's surplus funds with representatives of all the affected parties: Falcon Heights, Roseville, St. Paul, and Ramsey County. The consensus of the partners was to move forward with the modification project and the first step would be to engage an engineering firm to complete the design. The partners also discussed that costs in excess of the District's surplus funds would be paid for by the partners in the proportion listed in Table H-1 on page 27 of the Como 7 Report. Bonestroo was highly recommended for this type of work by the partners. District staff, Bonestroo staff and representatives of Falcon Heights, Roseville, and Ramsey County met on-site on July 27th to review the project in more detail. The site visit revealed some additional required work to upgrade the lift station to the 14 cubic foot per second capacity that was recommended in the Como 7 Analysis. Discussion occurred. Manager Thienes requested clarification on the billing rates provided in the proposal.

Motion 09-08-05: *Authorize Board President and Administrator to execute a contract with Bonestroo for the design of the Gottfrieds Pit Lift Station Modifications as detailed in Tasks 1—5 of the proposal dated July 29, 2009 for an amount not to exceed \$47,000 subject to the review and approval of the Ramsey County Attorney and subject to clarification of the billing rates.*

Thienes/Deneen

Unanimously approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Trout Brook Interceptor Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria distributed and reviewed a summary of the RFQ process for the Trout Brook Engineer. She also reviewed the firms who submitted an SOQ. The board will take action on this issue at the August 19, 2009 Board Meeting

B) Green Infrastructure Conference (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria said in spring 2009, CRWD and other watershed districts and entities were invited by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to plan and hold a fall workshop on green infrastructure that includes technical, policy and financing information. The target audience for this workshop is both municipal officials and staff. During the planning process, the planning team learned that the Minnesota Land Trust was working on a parallel track to hold land conservation workshop in the fall at the Landscape Arboretum as well. The two planning teams elected to combine their two workshops as one event called the Land Conservation and Clean Water Summit 2009. Ms. Eleria said the two-day Summit is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, September 24th and 25th, at the Landscape Arboretum. To kick off the Clean Water portion of the Summit and familiarize decision-makers on the benefits of green infrastructure, on Thursday evening, an invite-only reception will be held for elected local officials. The evening includes

two short talks: 1) incorporating green infrastructure in your community from a business perspective and 2) financing green infrastructure with Legacy Amendment funding. Ms. Eleria said the full-day green infrastructure workshop will be held on Friday with Don Shelby, WCCO-TV anchor, giving the opening remarks and Congressman Jim Oberstar, providing one of the three keynote presentations in the morning. The remainder of the workshop includes two afternoon breakout sessions; policy/planning and technical, a full group session on financing green infrastructure, and a poster session of research and case studies on green infrastructure.

C) McCarron's Lake Shoreline Restoration Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria said in partnership with Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) and MN Board of Soil and Water Resources, CRWD began a shoreline restoration program on Lake McCarrons in spring 2008. By late spring 2009, six landowners signed cost-share contracts to restore their shorelines and began restoration work. Ms. Eleria said to date, five out of the six projects have been completed and once the sixth project is completed in late August, the total amount of shoreline that will be restored on Lake McCarrons is nearly 1,000 feet. Ms. Eleria reviewed a table and map of the shoreline restoration projects including the budget and future anticipated activities with the Board.

D) Watershed Management Plan Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum noted that on May 21st, the Managers adopted the 2010 Watershed Management Plan workplan, budget, schedule and financing for a total project budget of \$413,811. The Managers also approved the scope, budget and schedule with EOR, Inc. for the 2010 Watershed Management Plan for an amount not to exceed \$350,911. The approved 2010 WMP schedule is enclosed. Work on the plan is quickly reaching the point of concluding the drafting of the plan and moving into the formal review process. Staff have revised the approved schedule and added more detail. Mr. Fossum explained that Staff are suggesting two special meetings in September to finalize the draft plan for the formal review process. Staff will review the revised schedule and discuss the major steps remaining in the process. Another required element of the District's WMP is a section on Impact on Local Governments and Local Water Management Plans. Mr. Fossum reviewed the draft section on Impact on Local Governments with the Board. Manager Piram said the Board would need additional time to review the sections. The Managers reviewed the July 31, 2009 comment letter from the City of St. Paul Water Resources Work Group. The Board directed staff to respond in writing to the group indicating the need to maintain the current schedule and request copies of the documents referenced in the comment letter.

E) District 6 Community Council Rain Garden Workshop (Beckman)

Ms. Elizabeth Beckman said CRWD staff, Ramsey Conservation District staff Shawn Tracy, and Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) have partnered in the past year to co-host a bus tour of St. Paul rain gardens (September 2008); rain garden design and installation workshops in St. Paul Planning Districts 8 and 15 (November 2008 and March 2009); and a spring walking tour of Como rain gardens (June 2009). Ms. Beckman said FMR contacted CRWD to seek suggestions for a watershed neighborhood in which to organize another rain garden workshop. CRWD staff had previously identified St. Paul Planning District 6 as an area from which to seek an increased number of stewardship grant applications. District 6 agreed to promote the grants program on their website and Stewardship Grant fact sheets were available at the June 28 District 6 Block Party. Ms. Beckman said the rain garden workshop will be held at the Rice Street Recreation Center, 1041 Marion Street, 6:30 – 8:30pm on Wednesday, August 26. Ms. Beckman noted that CRWD staff also plans to partner with Shiloh Baptist Church, located in District 6, in spring 2010 to co-host a fishing and water quality education event at Loeb Lake.

F) Watershed Survey Update (Beckman)

Ms. Beckman said in April 2009, CRWD contracted with Amherst H. Wilder Foundation's Wilder Research to conduct an evaluation of watershed residents that includes 400 completed telephone surveys and two focus groups. Ms. Beckman explained that as of as of July 30th, 230 surveys had been completed. Ms. Beckman highlighted some of the preliminary data: 90% of those surveyed are either "Concerned" or "Very Concerned" about water quality; 44% feel that water quality has gotten worse in the past five years; 38% feel it is the same; 18% feel it has improved. Ms. Beckman reported that Ela Rausch of Wilder Research said that percentages for income level, gender, and race in the survey thus far reflect the watershed population within the margin of error. Homeowners under the age of 40, however, are thus far underrepresented in the survey: 38% of homeowners in St. Paul are under the age of 44, and only 21% of our current samples are under the age of 44. Ms. Beckman said Ela Rausch says this is an area of concern and suspects the reason is because there are many more homeowners under 44 who are cell phone only households. Thus, homeowners under 40 with no land line would be one group from whom to seek further information through a focus group. Ms. Beckman asked the Board on guidance to staff regarding the Board's preferred groups to recruit for two focus groups. The Board agreed that this subgroup of the population would be a good audience from whom to seek additional information in a focus group. The Board also indicated they would like to hear from those who are "very concerned" about water quality and yet do not engage in water quality protection practices. The Board also suggested a mailing as a possible way to reach the cell phone-only population.

VII. General Information

A) Administrators Report

Mr. Fossum said neither of the District's 319 grant applications were selected, however staff have found numerous other grants that the District can apply for.

B) Saint Paul Public Art (Manager Jones)

Manager Jones said indicated the summary document for the Watershed Art Plan workshop will be available shortly. There has been some discussion of moving to a project to serve as a demonstration before putting together a formal plan.

VIII. Meeting Agenda Review

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda Review

IX. Adjournment – 8:18 p.m. adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson

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