



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104
T: 651-644-8888 • F: 651-644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

May 17, 2023, Board Meeting
APPROVED

Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

CRWD has returned to in-person Board of Managers meetings. The public is invited to attend in person as well. Currently, a virtual attendance option is not available.

Please visit www.capitolregionwd.org to get additional CRWD COVID-19 information.

MEETING MINUTES

I. A) Call to Order of Meeting (*President Joe Collins*)

Managers

Joe Collins
Hawona Sullivan Janzen, absent w/ notice
Shawn Mazanec
Rick Sanders
Mary Texer

Staff Present

Mark Doneux
Meilina Dalit
Bob Fossum
Elizabeth Hosch
Luke Martinkosky

Public Attendees

James Mogen, Ramsey County Attorney
Bob Simonet, CAC

B) Review, Amendments, and Approval of the Agenda.

Administrator Doneux requested to remove item VI. A. Como Lake Aquatic Plant Management. This update will be provided at the May 17th Board meeting.

Motion 23-063: *Approve the Agenda of May 3, 2023, as amended.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – No comments submitted.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 23-005, SPPS – Bruce Vento School (Martinkosky)

Luke Martinkosky reviewed permit #23-005, SPPS – Bruce Vento School. The project proposes to construct a new school building on the east side of the existing school building, followed by demolition of the existing school building. Site improvements will include a parking lot, access drives, sidewalks, and outdoor play areas. Permanent stormwater management consists of three underground infiltration systems.

Motion 23-064: *Approve permit #23-005, SPPS Bruce Vento School, with 6 conditions:*

1. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*

2. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*
3. *Revise plans to address the following:*
 - a. *Provide additional manholes or cleanouts to facilitate future maintenance of the StormTrap systems. CRWD recommends an access port at all inlets and outlets.*
 - b. *Show rock extents for the CMP System on Sheet C402 to verify storage in HydroCAD.*
 - c. *Add a note to Sheets C400, C402, and C803 to “Submit field measured infiltration rates within each BMP footprint prior to installation of infiltration system. After the subsoil is decompacted, infiltration rates shall be measured at the invert of the infiltration system. For design purposes, field measured rates shall be divided by 2 as a safety factor”. This note is required since the bottom of the StormTrap systems are placed in fill, which can have variable infiltration rates. There is also no boring provided within the footprint of the perforated pipe system and confirmation of the infiltration rates is required.*
 - d. *Add a note to the details for the StormTrap and Underground Infiltration on Sheet C803 to “Submit shop drawings to CRWD for review and approval.”*
4. *Provide written documentation from the MPCA verifying that infiltration is allowed.*
5. *Provide copies of the landscape detail sheets to confirm final stabilization.*
6. *Revise Proposed Drainage Areas figure (H-2) to label DA-4P on the east and northeast side of the site (currently unlabeled).*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) 23-006, 916 MRB Custom Home (Martinkosky)

Luke Martinkosky reviewed permit #23-006, 916 MRB Custom Home. The project proposes the new construction of a single-family home within Highland Bridge. The site is located on the block east of Mississippi River Boulevard between Village Way and Saunders Avenue. Stormwater treatment is provided off-site by previously constructed stormwater treatment systems built under permit #20-013 Ford Site Redevelopment Master Plan. There is no stormwater treatment onsite. CRWD does not typically permit single-family homes, but this construction is part of the larger plan of common development at Highland Bridge. A portion of an alley from permit #21-006 Western Highland Bridge Block 19 and 25 Alleys is located on this parcel.

Motion 23-065: *Approve permit #23-006, 916 MRB Custom Home, with 6 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of \$700 surety.*
2. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*
3. *Grading extends on to the north and south adjacent lots. Provide written permission from current landowners showing this grading is acceptable.*
4. *Revise grading plan (Sheet C400) to include:*
 - a. *Perimeter control on the east and west sides of the site.*
 - b. *Notes to install or maintain inlet protection for all stormwater inlets on Saunders and in alley.*
 - c. *Show or add note to feather in proposed grading to existing contours.*
 - d. *Provide note requiring energy dissipation at draitile outlet.*
 - e. *Adjust 810’ contour at the southwest corner of the property so it ties into existing grade and does not cross the drainage swale.*
5. *Provide calculations showing 6” solid PVC pipe beneath the sidewalk is adequately sized to pass the design storm.*
6. *Include a landscape plan that clearly delineates areas to be revegetated post project.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) 2023 Rule Revision Update (Hosch)

Elizabeth Hosch provided a 2023 Rules Revision Update. Following the last rule revision in 2019, staff have focused on providing more frequent rule updates for routine edits and to provide smaller, more manageable increases to the cost cap and Stormwater Impact Fund (SIF) amounts. The Joint Rules Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) received informal notice of watershed rule updates on February 8, 2023.

Staff provided comments and responses to the Board for review. One proposed rule change was to remove bridges from stormwater exemption and require projects to provide treatment for the bridge area. Staff received some comments and requests for bridges to continue to be exempt, so staff decided to keep the exemption in the rules. A virtual Q&A session is planned with the TAC on May 23rd. All comments will be incorporated into the final draft of the proposed revisions as outlined in anticipation of a request for the Board to authorize the formal 45-day review period at the June 7, 2023, Board meeting. Final adoption is targeted for August, and the cost cap and SIF increases are to go into effect on January 1, 2024.

Manager Texer said she was disappointed that there were no rules in place for parcels of land under an acre, as city officials of St. Paul have proposed changing the zoning code to allow construction of more multiple housing such as duplexes. These zoning code changes may have a strong impact if approved. Ms. Hosch responded that the Regulatory Division plans to consider addressing parcels under an acre in future rule revisions. There were previously some data collection points to analyze existing permit applications and potential impact of stormwater treatment and costs. That revision will be more of a lengthy process than the rule revision process.

IV. Special Report – None.

V. Action Items

- A) Approve Minutes of the April 19, 2023, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting (Dalit)

There were minor corrections to be made to the minutes.

Motion 23-066: *Approve the minutes as amended of the April 19, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

- A) Como Lake Aquatic Plant Management (Belden)

This update has been removed from the agenda and postponed to the May 17th Board meeting.

- B) Highland Bridge Grant Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum provided a review of the grant CRWD issued to the City of St. Paul for the water-related elements of the redevelopment at the Highland Bridge site. The total grant amount is \$1,721,063 and is expected to be paid in full in June's accounts payable.

\$200,000 of the grant was dedicated to Ford Parkway baseflow groundwater capture. It utilizes groundwater in the Highland area and brings it to the surface. This provides consistent, clean, and cool flow to the central water

feature to promote better water quality. It also provides dry weather, consistent flow to Hidden Falls Headwaters stream channel. \$595,000 of the grant was dedicated to Hidden Fall headwaters enhancements consisting of exposed bedrock stream channel (including recreated Hidden Falls channel), additional rate control storage to meet pre-settlement flow targets, pedestrian and public access elements, and maintenance access.

The remaining grant funds were used for the Mississippi River Boulevard crossing, which was a late opportunity that presented itself when a pipe replacement was required. It allows for an open stream channel to directly connect to existing Hidden Falls. It provides pedestrian access to the top of Hidden Falls and sets up for connection to Hidden Falls Regional Park and contiguous stream.

CRWD contributions were part of a larger system of project elements. The total construction cost was about \$13.5M. The stormwater benefits of CRWD's contributions include nearly 98% reduction of two-year flows to Hidden Falls, 75% of total phosphorus reduction, and 94% total suspended solids reduction.

Mr. Fossum shared the reimbursement schedule with the Board. To date, the City has not requested any reimbursement and no amount has yet been paid. The City is preparing reimbursement documentation, and staff expect to pay the full grant amount in June.

Manager Texer asked what is happening with Area C. Mr. Fossum responded that data and samples are being collected, prior to the start of a feasibility study, to understand how the area responds to flood events. Staff are awaiting results.

Manager Mazanec asked if it is reasonable to expect that the City of St. Paul would reciprocate CRWD's grant and contributions to Highland Bridge with a grant or service of some kind. Mr. Fossum and Mr. Doneux responded that rather than a cash contribution, the City may be able to help with greenlighting a project built on city property or help with zoning.

C) 2022 Audit and Annual Financial Report (Doneux)

Redpath and Company completed the 2022 audit of CRWD's financial statements and inquiry of accounting procedures in mid-April. The objectives of the audit were to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, issue an auditor's report that includes their opinion about whether our financial statement are fairly presented, and report on the fairness of supplementary financial information. Redpath issued an unmodified opinion of CRWD's 2022 financial statements.

In 2022, CRWD identified \$679,860 of expenditures for Seminary Pond, capitalized in 2021, of which ownership never transferred to CRWD. Previously, the cost of this asset was reported on the statement of net position as a capital asset, net of accumulated depreciation in the amount of \$22,662. The correction of infrastructure assets resulted in a restatement to CRWD's net position as of January 1, 2022, in the amount of \$657,198. Moving forward, staff have implemented procedures to ensure project costs eligible to be capitalized are appropriately identified.

The financial audit was submitted with CRWD's 2022 Annual Report to BWSR.

D) CAC Tour (Doneux)

The CAC summer tour will be held on June 14th. Administrator Doneux invited the Board to attend. The bus will leave at 5:30 PM. The sites selected were based on CAC input and include a permitting site (Cleveland Avenue), the west side of Como Park (BMPs at the golf course), Springboard for the Arts (a Partner Grant grantee), and Allianz Field. The Board as well as the Water Stewards are invited to attend.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Manager Collins noted there will be a closed-door session at the May 17th Board meeting to conduct Administrator Doneux's annual performance review.

Manager Texer noted that the MN Watersheds Summer Tour is coming up in June. Ms. Dalit will register Managers Texer and Collins for the tour.

B) Administrator's Update

CRWD has two job openings for an Administrative Assistant and a Watershed Data Specialist.

May 31st and June 7th were two dates being considered for a meeting with the City of St. Paul Department Directors (Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Department of Safety and Inspections, and Planning and Economic Development). This meeting seems less likely to happen as it is difficult to schedule with the four department directors at the same time.

The Board was provided with a packet of upcoming events that CRWD is participating in. If Board members are interested in attending or have any questions, they can contact Community Engagement Coordinator Maricella Xiong directly.

VIII. Next Meetings

A) Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:00 PM – CAC Meeting – In Person. Joe Collins will attend.

B) Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 6:00 PM – Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Motion 23-067: *Adjournment of May 3, 2023, Regular Board Meeting at 6:42 P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Meilina Dalit