



Capitol Region Watershed District

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November 15, 2023, Board Meeting

V. Action Item

A) Approve Minutes of
November 1, 2023, Meeting
(Armstead)

Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Managers

Mary Texer
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders
Shawn Mazanec
Hawona Sullivan Janzen

Staff Present

Mark Doneux
Anna Eleria
Belinda Armstead
Elizabeth Hosch
Nate Zwonitzer

Public Attendees

Attorney Jim Mogen
Michael McKinney,
Barr Engineering
Bob Simonet (CAC member)

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

Motion 23-162: Approve the Agenda of the November 1, 2023, Board Meeting.

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment

A) Public Comment For Items not on the Agenda (*Please observe a limit of three minutes per person.*)

None

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) Permit #21-034 HB Block 11-Approval Extension (Hosch)

Ms. Hosch presented Permit #21-034 Approval extension for a six-story, 180-unit mixed-use residential building. This permit application was initially approved with 3 conditions on November 2, 2021, and subsequently received approval extension with 3 conditions on November 2, 2022. Work continues to be delayed because of City of St. Paul ordinance coordination. Permit approvals are valid for one year during which time the applicant must complete the remaining conditions to get the permit fully issued and begin construction. The applicant has requested an extension of the 1-year approval to accommodate the completion of the remaining conditions, issuance of the permit, and work starting on site. No changes to the plan have been made, and minor updates to the permit requirements have been made in the attached permit report based on the current review of the project using Rules recently adopted in September 2023.

Manager Texer inquired about the picture of the lot, Manager Texer asked if it was a wetland. Ms. Hosch replied that the image is an older aerial photo, not a wetland, the lot is low and acting as a temporary sediment basin.

Motion 23-163: *Approve extension of permit application #21-034 for Highland Bridge Block 11 with 5 conditions (2 of the same conditions previously approved and 3 modified based on current review).*

Conditions:

- 1. Receipt of \$9,400 surety. (Increase from previous approval calculation \$6,700.)*
- 2. Label high water level (HWL) for the Falls Passage East 1 StormTrap (ST-04) and the Central Water Feature on project plans.*
- 3. Provide documentation to ensure that the excess impervious surface proposed in the Falls Passage East 1 StormTrap (ST-04) drainage area can be accounted for with a reduced impervious surface area (or equivalent) on future Weidner development parcels.*
- 4. Quantify lot size and new/reconstructed impervious area in square feet to confirm that areas are equal to or less than estimates. Areas included in Table 1 are based on a rounded lot size in acres and CRWD estimated impervious from the submitted civil plans.*
- 5. Provide written proposal and calculations for making up the impervious overage within the ST-04 watershed, currently calculated at 2,600 ft².*

Mazanec/Sanders

Unanimously Approved

IV. Special Report – Trout Brook Storm Sewer Interceptor Detailed Water Quantity and Water Quality Modeling

Mr. Zwonitzer and Mr. McKinney of Barr Engineering co-presented on the Trout Brook Storm Sewer Interceptor Detailed Water Quantity and Water Quality Modeling project. Mr. McKinney provided an Overview of Model Development for water quantity and water quality and described the differences between the Hydrology and Hydraulics models. Mr. McKinney provided an overview of Model Calibration for XPSWMM and P8. For XPSWMM, calibration for four rainfall events was used within the watershed for nine (9) locations. For the P8 model, it incorporated XPSWMM calibration plus Como Lake/Lake McCarrons models. In addition, Mr. McKinney presented a Flood Prioritization Analysis and explained the variables and scoring and social vulnerability scores. He described the priority areas along the Trout Brook Interceptor. The updated models provide significantly higher resolution of the entire TBI subwatershed including Como and Lake McCarrons subwatersheds. Models were successfully calibrated to CRWD monitoring data to improve the accuracy of results. The 500-year storm continues to be the best option to estimate the impacts of climate change by acting as a surrogate for the future 100-year event. The models have enough detail to be used for additional climate change evaluation and resiliency planning. Over the past 6 months, the model has already demonstrated tremendous value and has been used by partners on a variety of projects such as North End Community Center, regional trail design, and MnDOT transportation projects. The next steps include soliciting input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and finalizing the technical report by the end of the year. CRWD will work with partners to develop a long-term strategy for model distribution, maintenance, and updates. We will also continue the flood mitigation feasibility study for flood area #11. This was the highest priority flood area based on flood impacts, and the area had the second highest social vulnerability index. The study area was expanded north to include the North End Community Center, and the adjacent Ramsey County

Rice Street Revisioning project which may provide opportunities to install infrastructure to alleviate local flooding. The District will routinely evaluate identified flood areas and water quality opportunities for alignment with other planned construction activities.

President Collins asked for confirmation between hydraulic and hydrologic modeling. Manager Sanders asked if there was a certain flow rate where the calibrations come together. Mr. McKinney described the model as performing better in some events. Manager Sullivan Janzen inquired about how modeling accounts for past data and social vulnerability which means that the data might change depending on past residents. Mr. McKinney replied that the model is set up to model current conditions.

President Collins inquired about the community center on Rice Street and asked if they would update the model. Mr. McKinney replied that it was an important point and that data needs updating. Mr. Zwonitzer said that we can share this model with project partners in the short term, but in the long term we need a strategy, so people are using the best information.

President Collins asked if they could use the model to identify multiple areas versus focusing on street right of way. Mr. McKinney replied yes, that is part of the analysis to improve application for underdeveloped areas.

Manager Sullivan Janzen inquired about the best practices model and provided an example of populations and flooding. Mr. McKinney replied that flood mitigation studies allow us to take a higher level analysis and are a good way to gain a larger perspective. Mr. Zwonitzer mentioned that we can build on other projects and address gaps, that way we have these areas identified when projects come up in the future.

Manager Mazanec asked about ranking and the economic impact on how we prioritize projects, looking at businesses in the area, and whether economic impact plays a role. Mr. McKinney replied that they factor in property values, however, he mentioned other variables are harder to quantify. There was much discussion about other ways to recognize the economic impact and balance equity issues.

Mr. Zwonitzer provided key takeaways on what this means for CRWD and the next steps. Manager Texer asked if we would model the entire district. Mr. Zwonitzer stated the next work on model updates will start in the Phalen subwatershed.

The Board thanked Mr. McKinney and Mr. Zwonitzer for their presentation.

Motion 23-164: *Authorize Staff to distribute the draft Trout Brook Storm Sewer detailed Water quantity and Water Quality Modeling report to the project TAC.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

V. Action Items

- A) Approve Minutes of October 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting (Armstead)

Motion 23-165: *Approve the Minutes of October 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Approve Partial Accounts Payable/Receivable for October 2023 (Dalit)

Motion 23-166: *Approve Partial Accounts Payable/Receivable for October 2023.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Approve 2024 Employee Benefits Program (Eleria)

Deputy Administrator Eleria presented the Employee Benefits Program. She mentioned that CRWD offers a generous benefits package to its employees that includes medical, dental, and vision insurance, health savings and flexible savings accounts, life insurance, and long-term disability insurance. In addition, optional ancillary benefits can be purchased by employees including short-term disability insurance, accident insurance, and buy-up of life insurance. North Risk Partners has provided 2024 renewal rates for the current benefit plans and rates from alternative medical insurance providers. Insurance premiums in 2024 are estimated to increase by approximately 7% for medical insurance and 4% for dental insurance. The rates for vision insurance and the CRWD-provided and optional ancillary benefits will not change in 2024. The market analysis and proposed 2024 employee rates were reviewed and discussed with the Board Personnel Committee which concurs with the following recommendations for the 2024 employee benefits program:

- Remain with Health Partners for medical and dental insurance and offer the same plans from 2023.
- Remain with EyeMed for vision care insurance and offer the same plan from 2023.
- Offer the same ancillary benefits from Met Life and Colonial Life carriers.

Manager Mazanec asked how we compare to other districts. He mentioned benefits are one way to attract great employees. Administrator Doneux replied that we do not know their rates, but we do have comparable plans to other districts.

The Board thanked Deputy Administrator Eleria for her presentation.

Motion 23-167: *Approve 2024 Employee Benefits Program.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business
None

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates.

Manager Mazanec will be absent for the 11/15 Board meeting.

B) Administrator's Update

- The MN Watersheds Annual meeting November 28th-30th. Please contact Meilina mdalit@capitolregionwd.org if you have any questions about registration for the MN Watersheds Annual meeting.
- Projects in the works that will be coming to the Board shortly. These include:
 - i. Facility Management Workplan
 - ii. Updates for the 2024 Employee Handbook.
 - iii. Updates on the Financial Policies.
- Administrator Doneux will be giving a tour for 12 Green Corp members (trainees) tomorrow at the Highland Bridge site.
- Deputy Administrator Eleria and Administrator Doneux will be presenting the sustainability elements of our building on November 14th for the MN Chapter of the AIA.
- CRWD and Ramsey Washington Metro WD will be cohosting the 2024 MN Watersheds summer tour. The tour dates will be June 25th and 26th.

Manager Texer inquired about electing delegates.

VIII. Next Meetings

- A) Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7:00 PM – CAC Meeting President Collins will attend.
- B) Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:00 PM – Board Meeting
- C) Monday, November 20, 2023, 4:00-7:00 Joint Meeting of Board

IX. Adjournment

Motion 23-168: *Adjournment of November 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting at 7:28 P.M.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Belinda Armstead