

Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District
October 14th, 2010

Present: Nancy Jacobson, St. Mary's Point; David Beaudet, Oak Park Heights; Janet Simonson, Lake St. Croix Beach; Torry Kraftson, Bayport; Daniel Kylo, West Lakeland Township; Mike Polehna, Stillwater; Brian Zeller, Lakeland; Amy Carolan, Administrator; Amanda Strommer, Washington County Public Health and Environment.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kraftson, seconded by Mr. Polehna, moved to approve the August minutes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kylo presented the treasurer's report, for October 14th, 2010. He reported that the remaining checking account balance at the end of September was \$127,506.06. Mr. Kylo reported that the ending balance in the RBC savings account was \$15,303.52. The ending 4M balance was \$31,972.57. Mr. Kylo reported that there were nine bills to be approved: Six for Washington Conservation District totaling \$24,928.50, James Maier in the amount of \$1,650.00; David Newman in the amount of \$500.00; and Linda Roehl in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Ms. Simonson, seconded by Ms. Jacobson, moved to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills presented. The motion was carried.

Administrator Carolan will work with Mr. Beaudet to transfer funds from checking to savings. A motion of approval for the transfer was made by Mr. Kraftson and seconded by Mr. Zeller. The motion was carried.

Public Comments

No members of the public were present.

Old Business

Lake St. Croix Beach Bluffland Restoration

The signed Agreement was included in the Board packet. Administrator Carolan reported that part of the site prep has been done, most of the invasive shrubs have been removed and herbicide has been applied. This is a two-year project. Payments will be made to Bonestroo monthly as the work is completed, and then we will be reimbursed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Lily and McKusick Lake Subwatershed Assessment Update

The Lily Lake Subwatershed Assessment is complete and was reviewed at the previous Board meeting. Yesterday, Washington Conservation District encumbered \$6,000 for MSCWMO to spend on projects identified in the assessment. Administrator Carolan is working with the City of Stillwater on the projects. The hope is to get something done yet this fall. Ms. Carolan has also applied for Clean Water funds to implement the recommendations. The McKusick Lake Subwatershed Assessment should be available to review at the next Board meeting.

City of Stillwater – Fee payment options

At the last Board meeting, it was requested that a list of options be prepared that would outline the different ways that fees could be collected from the City of Stillwater. Currently, Stillwater pays MSCWMO from their General Fund, so all residents are paying for MSCWMO, even if they reside in a different watershed. Administrator Carolan has been working with Ms. Strommer from the County on the different options. Two options were presented. The first would be for MSCWMO to set up their own Stormwater Utility Fee, which is what Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed Management Organization has done. A fee would be set up for each parcel in the City of Stillwater. The County would collect that fee as part of property taxes. The County would then send the funding to MSCWMO. The drawback to this approach is that we would have to seek special legislation to have the authority to set up the new fee. The second option would be to work with the City of Stillwater to set up their own special tax district. The state statute language regarding this topic was included in the packet. This would be accomplished through ordinance and then public hearing. The City would need to notify the County Auditor of the new taxing district by the first of July. The fees collected would go back to the city of Stillwater, and then paid to MSCWMO. The drawbacks would be the administrative and legal time involved. After presenting the options, Ms. Strommer answered the Board's questions.

2011 Budget – Review and approval

The draft 2011 budget was presented, set at \$102,500.00, no increase from 2010. The only difference between 2010 and 2011 is the BMP cost share program amount, which was split in half for Lily/McKusick projects, and the other half for other projects within MSCWMO. Mr. Kraftson questioned the \$10,000 line item for the Water Management Plan Update. Mr. Kraftson made a motion to postpone approval of the 2011 budget until next month so more data can be collected regarding the cost of the next Water Management Plan, and what other organizations are paying for updates to their plan. Mr. Zeller seconded that motion. Motion carried.

New Business

County Board Meeting – Watershed Budget Presentation

The budget presentation to the County is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2nd. Administrator Carolan has submitted the budget numbers based on the preliminary budget that was just reviewed. We were also asked to include any grant dollars that we will be receiving, which is \$80,000. MSCWMO will be compared to other watershed districts at that meeting. We do need to present one project picture and description that

we would like to highlight from this past year. Any Board members that are able to attend would be appreciated.

Resident Comments

Comments received from a meeting with Bruce Werre were included in the Board packet. Also in attendance of that meeting on August 19th were Karen Kill of the Brown's Creek Watershed District, and Jay Riggs of the Washington Conservation District.

Saint Croix River Association Agreement

A draft copy of the Agreement with St. Croix River Association was included for review. This Agreement is for the grant that was received for work in Stillwater and Bayport. Signing this Agreement allows us to encumber the funds and start work on the projects. Administrator Carolan recommends that the Agreement be signed. A motion to approve signing the Agreement was made by Mr. Polehna and seconded by Mr. Beaudet. Motion carried.

MSCWMO Website

Administrator Carolan has been doing research on website services. Our website is rather outdated and difficult to use. Presented was some information from GovOffice Web Solutions. The implementation cost proposed is \$2,475. The Board would like more research done on who is using what for their websites.

Joint meeting with Brown's Creek Watershed District

At the last joint Stillwater meeting, it was recommended that the MSCWMO Board meet with the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board. The BCWD Board recommended that Karen and Amy convey ideas back and forth, and that there really isn't a need for the two Boards to meet at this time. The MSCWMO Board would like Mr. Beaudet to attend the meetings if Board participation is required.

Best Management Practices Program:

Completed Projects: Ms. Carolan reported that David Newman has completed the BMP project that was approved earlier this year. At that time, it was agreed to reimburse him \$500 upon completion. Administrator Carolan recommends reimbursement at this time. Mr. Zeller made a motion to approve the reimbursement. Seconded by Mr. Kraftson. Motion carried.

Lake St. Croix TMDL Update and Discussion:

Administrator Carolan has talked with Denise Leiser, who is the head of the Lake St. Croix TMDL project. Ms. Leiser offered to present the information that is coming out of that study to our Board members, and perhaps City staff. It would be an opportunity to ask questions about how the study will impact your communities and what will be expected once the study is completed. The Board would like Administrator Carolan to go ahead and set up the presentation.

Plan Reviews/Submittals:Dairy Queen – Oak Park Heights

The review is complete. All of the comments have been addressed since the initial review. The plan meets all of our policy and performance standards. Administrator Carolan recommends approve the reports as presented. Mr. Kraftson, seconded by Mr. Polehna, moved to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

Ms. Carolan provided a written report.

Adjourn

Ms. Jacobson, seconded by Mr. Beaudet, moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The motion was carried.