

Regular Meeting
South Washington Watershed District
Tuesday, September 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.
City of Woodbury Public Works Building

1. Call to Order and Setting of Agenda

Manager Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to move Agenda items #12 CAC Application and #13 MNL Seed Orders to the Consent Agenda. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

- Brian Johnson, President
- Emily Stephens, 2nd Vice President
- Kevin ChapdeLaine, Treasurer

Staff:

- John Loomis, Administrator
- Melissa Imse, Operations Manager
- Tony Randazzo, BMP Watershed Restoration Specialist
- Abby Tekiela, Water Resources Program Coordinator

Others:

- Jack Clinton, SWWD Attorney

2. Public Open Forum None.

3. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda include: August 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes, August Claims Roster and Treasurer's Report: accounts payable \$579,199.26, accounts receivable \$267,121.88, 4M fund balance \$11,682,819.16, Morcon Pay Request #11, MNL Pay Request #8, Mike Madigan Per Diem, Calendar of Events, Development Reviews, Wetland Conservation Act, Cost Share, Miscellaneous Correspondence, Agenda item #12 CAC Application and #13 MNL Seed Orders. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve the Consent Agenda. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Manager's Report

Manager Johnson—Manager Johnson reported that he attended the Watershed Management Plan Resident Workshop, SWWD Budget meeting, and the Washington County Consortium meeting.

Manager Stephens—None.

Manager ChapdeLaine—None.

5. Administrator Report

SWWD Project Updates. Included in the board packet are project updates on: Trout Brook, Glacial Valley Park and Open space, Campus Greening, Wilmes Lake Alum Treatment Facility, Hasenbank Woods/Powers Lake BMP, St. Paul Park Public Works Underground BMP, Markgrafs Lake Retrofit Analysis, Colby Lake Retrofit Analysis, Northern Watershed/CDSF/East Ravine Review and Optimization, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, CR74-65th and Geneva, Watershed Plan Update, In-Lake AIS Management, Newport Open Space Planning, and Armstrong Lake Wetland Cattail Harvesting.

EMWREP Funding. The EMWREP workplan has grown substantially over the past several years with little change in member dues. The EMWREP funding subcommittee has reviewed the EMWREP workplan and recommends expanding EMWREP staffing from 1.5 to 2.0 FTEs. 2.0 FTEs should allow the program to meet its commitments. Additional services outside the scope of EMWREPs workplan can still be contracted for directly with WCD. Going to 2.0 FTE under the existing funding structure increases SWWD's dues from \$26,530.23 to \$31,836.28. Staff wants the Board to be aware of this pending change as the District's budget process continues. Additionally, WCD would like to be aware of any objections before preparing partner agreements for 2025.

Minnesota Stormwater Research Council 2025 Funding Request. Included in the packet is the 2024 Annual Report and Funding Request from the MN Stormwater Research Council (MSRC). The MSRC is a partnership that guides applied stormwater research in Minnesota and is primarily made up of local government staff along with civil engineering consultants and State Agency staff. The council's activities are administered by the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center. In addition to allocating funds donated by local partners, the MSRC also guides biennial allocations of \$2 million in State funding. An additional one-time contribution of \$1 million has been directed to MSRC by the Minnesota legislature for FY25. Current research projects are timely and relevant to stormwater management in SWWD including research on chloride trends and management, BMP performance and enhancement, stormwater pond operation and maintenance, contaminants of emerging concern, and harmful algal blooms, among others. SWWD has been actively involved in MSRC activities through staff participation on the MSRC Advisory Board and has consistently provided annual contributions. SWWD has increased its budget for research in 2025 from \$15,000 to \$25,000. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve funding the MSRC up to \$25,000. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sarah Lilja Attendance at the 2024 Water Resources Conference. SWWD staff and District Artist in Residence Sarah Lilja will co-present at the Water Resources Conference. Sarah will only be attending the conference for one day. Total cost is \$300. A motion was made by Manager Stephens to approve registration for Sarah Lilja for the Water Resources Conference. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agreements Authorized by Administrator. SWWD's accounting policies authorizes the Administrator to approve purchases up to \$5,000 on behalf of the District. Under that policy, the Administrator approved the following agreements in July:

- American Engineering Testing (AET) Proposal: \$2,893.00 for concrete testing for the art foundations at Hasenbank stormwater park.
- MNL Quote: \$1,200.00 for erosion repair along the NE parking lot at Trout Brook.
- Artist-in-Residence loaned objects at the exhibition at Carpenter Nature Center (\$0)

6. 2025 Budget: Preliminary Levy Certification and Stormwater Utility Fee Certification. The managers reviewed an overview of the 2025 budget and the tax impact summary of the proposed tax levy and stormwater utility fees. After discussion, a motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve the 2025 Preliminary Levy Certification of \$1,625,000 to Washington County. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-005, Stormwater Utility Fee Certification. After discussion, a motion was made by Manager Stephens to approve Resolution 2024-005, the 2025 Stormwater Utility Fee Certification for \$2,967,910. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. 65th & Geneva Phase 3 Task Order, Houston Engineering.** With Washington County ramping up project development for the reconstruction of CR74 (65th Street) west of Geneva Ave, SWWD staff has reengaged County project managers and Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) to coordinate our ravine stabilization project with the County road project. The County's road project will supersede HEI's prior Phase II work that developed 30% plans for a series of drop structures to control runoff entering the ravine from the roadway – all of these structures will be a required component of the County's effort. Thus, SWWD's primary role has shifted to addressing the mass wasting and erosion occurring within the main ravine channel itself.

Staff has worked with HEI to develop a Phase III task order (2024-001, attached) to functionally modify the scope of HEI's remaining work. This budget (\$132,135) is very close to the remaining unspent budget from HEI task order 2022-001 (\$131,027), which will be cancelled. HEI's plans and specifications would be rolled into the County's road project bid package and administered by the County with SWWD & HEI assistance. Construction of the ravine repairs and road project would be expected in 2026. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve Task Order 2024-001 with Houston Engineering for 65th & Geneva for up to \$132,135. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8. Steve Radke Ag BMP Cost Share Contract.** Staff has been working with Steve Radke who farms throughout SWWD to evaluate potential operational changes that could benefit water quality and increase resiliency of the Radke farm. Together, we've developed a cover crop proposal that includes planting of cover crop on fields following his bean rotation. Cover crops following beans gives us the greatest benefit in preventing soil loss and phosphorus export downstream. It is more cost effective than using cover crops following all rotations. On average, Radke puts ~500 acres of his operation into beans each year. Using NRCS and LSC Partnership funding rates, Radke's incentive payment calculates out to \$75,000 over 3 years. That matches the calculated cost share under SWWD's cost share formula for the given benefit (15 lbs TP/yr x \$5,000/lb). The grant covers expected costs of planting and terminating the cover crop, drag on yield for the first few years, and potential implications on crop insurance coverage for the next 10-20 years. It is the District's and Radke's intention that he will continue to use cover crops following the 3 year grant period. A motion was made by Manager Stephens to approve the Flat-Rate contract with Steve Radke for three years at a total cost of \$75,000. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9. Carpenter Nature Center Gully Repair Design Services Task Order WCD 2024-001 with the Washington Conservation District.** The SWWD, Carpenter Nature Center and the Washington Conservation District have identified an active gully that began to fail in midwinter, 2024. Continued expansion of the gully will drop excess sediment directly into the St. Croix River which is a waterbody of concern for the SWWD. The SWWD will provide financial assistance to the WCD to provide preliminary (30%) design, watershed assessments, calculations, and cost estimates to identify potential solutions. Following preliminary design provided by this Task, the WCD will pursue further funding to fully develop design solutions. A motion was made by Manager Stephens to approve the WCD Task Order 2024-001 for design services for the Carpenter Nature Center gully repair. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10. Cottage Grove Ravine Park Upper Basin Vegetation Management Contract, Land Stewards.** The upper 10-acre area of the Stormwater Easement within Ravine Park has been a difficult location for the establishment of native vegetation. Following a heavy infestation of Burdock over the past few years, the SWWD and County staff have been working to remove invasive species and set the stage for the restoration of native vegetation in the basin. This contract is for final site prep work to occur before and after broadcast seeding of native species by county staff. All tasks in the contract are scheduled for fall, 2024. A motion was made by Manager Stephens to approve the contract with The Land Stewards for

the Cottage Grove Ravine Park upper basin vegetation management. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Wilmes Lake AIS Management Contract with PLM Lake and Land Management. A 2021 initial vegetation survey on Wilmes Lake shows nuisance growth of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in the south basin. In 2023, EWM was hand-pulled from Wilmes south basin via snorkeling and SCUBA. In early summer 2024, a delineation of EWM in the south basin was completed and showed that hand-pulling did not reduce EWM in a meaningful way. SWWD engaged with MnDNR via Stantec staff for recommendation, MnDNR has recommend herbicide treatment. Stantec solicited quotes on behalf of SWWD for a fall 2024 herbicide treatment of EWM in Wilmes Lake south basin. One quote was received from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. PLM quoted SWWD for three herbicide treatment options, 2,4-D (\$2,187), Triclopyr (\$2,205), or ProcellaCOR (\$6,240). Stantec has recommended application of 2,4-D, a low cost treatment with known effectiveness for EWM. The managers discussed treatment options. A motion was made by Manager ChapdeLaine to approve the treatment option of ProcellaCOR for up to \$6,240 for Wilmes Lake. Manager Stephens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. CAC Application. This item was approved under the Consent Agenda.

13. MNL Seed Order. This item was approved under the Consent Agenda.

14. Future Business and Meetings.

- a) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 10, 2024 6pm
- b) SWWD CAC Meeting-September 24, 2024 5:30 pm
- c) SWWD TAC Meeting, Thursday, September 26, 2024 9-11am Ojibway Park-2695 Ojibway Drive, Woodbury
- d) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6pm
- e) MN Water Resources Conference, October 15-16, 2024
- f) Budget Workshop with the Washington County Commissioners, Tuesday, November 12
- g) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6pm
- h) SWWD CAC Meeting, Tuesday, December 3, 2024 TBD
- i) MN Watersheds Annual Conference, December 4-6, 2024, Grandview Lodge, Nisswa, MN
- j) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6pm

15. Adjourn

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager Stephens to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Manager ChapdeLaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Imse

Melissa Imse, Operations Manager

Approved By:

Michael G. Madigan

Mr. Mike Madigan, Secretary

10-8-2024

Date