

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS' MEETING

The Board of Managers of the Coon Creek Watershed District held their regular meeting on, Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Coon Creek Watershed District Office.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.

Board Members Present: Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker

Staff Present: Jenny Gooden, Tim Kelly, and Michelle Ulrich

Staff Present via Zoom: Dawn Doering, Erin Edison, Jon Janke, Abbey Lee, and Abby Shea

Visitors Present: Denise and Troy Wolens, Ham Lake, MN

2. Approval of the Agenda

Board Member Campbell made a motion to move Items 8 and 9 to the Consent Agenda with Item 9 to be discussed during the Informational Items. Seconded by Board Member Parker. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

Board Member Herbst made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Board Member McCullough. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

3. Announcements – None.

4. Discussion from the Floor

Troy Wolens, Ham Lake resident, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the fees that Coon Creek Watershed District charges the residents and a letter he received from the District in 2016 and 2022.

Mr. Wolen expressed his concern with the large fees that he was going to be charged and violation letters he has received for a project on his property to gain access onto Coon Lake. He stated that he had met with District staff in the past and was aware of the permitting fees and the process. Mr. Wolen completed his project in 2021 and is now experiencing feedback from the District of doing the work without a permit and possibly filling in a wetland area.

Mr. Wolen stated that he worked with the DNR for the required permits to remove the ice ridge so that he could have access to the lake. He reviewed the letter that he received from Coon Creek Watershed District staff stating that they would be on his property on a specific date and time. He stated that he was not comfortable with District staff entering his property and requests that staff do not come onto his property.

Mr. Wolen expressed his concern with his property boundary within the Coon Creek Watershed District versus surrounding properties which belong to the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization. He stated that he has made requests with the City of Ham Lake for a change as well.

Administrator Kelly explained the boundaries of the District and Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization and the duties and delegation that each holds. He acknowledged the letters that have been sent from the District and inquired to Mr. Wolen if he would like them explained. Mr. Wolen stated that he did not.

Board Member Hafner reminded Mr. Wolen that the letter he received was not a threatening letter and Mr. Wolen should have contacted the District to reschedule the inspection or inquire as to why a visit to the property was necessary.

President Herbst asked Mr. Wolen what the District can do to help Mr. Wolen with his concerns and issues.

Mr. Wolen stated that he does not want to see or hear of any retaliation from District staff and asked that staff does not enter his property. He stated that the project is complete and there is no reason for entry onto his property.

President Herbst asked that if Mr. Wolen should receive any letters or have future concerns to contact him directly and provided Mr. Wolen with his personal cell phone number.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2023

6. Approve Bills to be Paid: Claims totaling \$142,118.47 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval:

March 27, 2023	
To	Amount
Anoka County	124,775.30
Centerpoint Energy	440.67
Board of Water & Soil Resources	565.00
YTS Companies	19,337.50
	145,118.47

The following Permit Items were moved to the Consent Agenda by motion:

8. 2023 NW Area Street Reconstruction: The project purpose is reconstruction of existing roadways, storm sewer, curb and gutter along various streets within the City of Blaine. The location includes the streets of 127th Avenue, 127th Lane, 129th Avenue, Polk Street, Taylor Street and 131st Avenue.

Staff recommendation was to Approve with 4 Conditions and 0 Stipulations as follows:

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Procedural Requirements (rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of \$4,520.00.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

2. Provide a note on the erosion and sediment control plan that disturbed soils and stockpiles will be temporarily or permanently stabilized within 24 hours after construction activity in that area has temporarily or permanently ceased.
3. Provide proof of NPDES permit application.

Floodplain (Rule 6)

4. Provide a floodplain figure that illustrates the extent of floodplain impact and cross sections to verify the floodplain fill quantity.

Stipulations: None

9. Aquatore Park Bandshell Permit Review: The purpose of the project is the construction of a new band shell at Aquatore Park with associated stormwater treatment center. The location is Aquatore Park-9191 Lincoln Street NE, Blaine, MN.

Staff Recommendation was to Approve with 6 Conditions and 2 Stipulations

Procedural Requirements (Rule 2.7)

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount \$2,745.00.

Stormwater Management (Rule 3)

2. Update existing drainage map to show correct label for subcatchment 2.
3. Update HWL of the filtration basin on the grading plan to be consistent with HydroCAD results.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4)

4. A double row of perimeter control is required around work within 50 feet of a wetland.
5. Provide a note on the erosion and sediment control plan that soil stockpiles will be temporarily or permanently stabilized within 7 days of inactivity.
6. Provide proof of NPDES permit application.

Stipulations:

The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Tables 2 and 3, including volume, critical elevations, and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.
2. Completion of a post construction infiltration test on the Filtration Basin by filling the basin to a minimum depth of 6 inches with water and monitoring the time necessary to drain, or multiple double ring infiltration tests to ASTM standards. The Coon Creek Watershed District shall be notified prior to the test to witness the results.

Motion made by Board Member Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Board Member Herbst. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

POLICY ITEM

9. Water Education Grant 23-02 Translating Groundwater Contamination Video

Dawn Doering, Public and Governmental Affairs Coordinator, reported that in September 2023, the Board budgeted \$3,700.00 for water education grants. The Board originally approved the Activity Description for Water Education grants in December 2007.

Ms. Doering reported that on March 21, 2023, Ethan Cypull, GreenCorps member at Anoka Conversation District, applied for a \$850.00 Water Education grant to cover the cost of translating a video in the "Our Connection" series of informational videos produced originally by the Anoka County Water Resources Outreach Collaborative to explain complex subjects and what can be done. The Coon Creek Watershed District has supported the production of these videos.

Ms. Doering explained that Spanish, Hmong, Somali languages were chosen due to data from the 2020 US Census. She requested that the grant application be awarded in the amount of \$850.00 for professional translation of the video with subtitle options.

Board Member Hafner inquired how widely the videos are used and if they are easily accessible.

Ms. Doering reported that the video has been available on YouTube for three years and has had 36,000 views to date.

Motion made by Board Member Hafner to award Ethan Cypull \$850.00 from the Water Education Grant for the translation of the "Out Groundwater Connection: Contamination" video into three languages. Seconded by Board Member McCullough. Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

PERMIT ITEMS -These items were moved to the Consent Agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. 2023-2034 Assessment

Administrator Kelly provided the Board Members with the Annual Assessment that monuments the current condition and trend of management efforts made the previous year and initiates the annual planning, programming, budgeting, and execution cycle. He stated that it is designed to provide insight and guidance on enduring and emerging planning and operation issues to inform of program and budget development.

Mr. Kelly reviewed the purpose of the assessment and identified existing and emerging critical problems, issues, and concerns for the 2024 Budget. These issues present a risk to the public health and safety of the District or the District's ability to address those priorities efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Kelly provided an update on the separation from Anoka County. He stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) have been sent and depending on the what the cost estimates are based on the proposals, there will not be funding available for these services or be able to bring those services on board until January 2024. He stated that the Board has the authority to allocate funds from projects to have the transition happen at an earlier date. He stated that he has been in contact with Anoka County regarding the health care benefits for District employees and it appears that Anoka County will allow the District to remain on health benefits for one more year.

Mr. Kelly also reported that Water Quality is a major concern for the District. He reported that the District contains 11 streams that do not meet State or Federal water quality standards for select beneficial uses of water and are therefore classified as impaired. He stated that these impairments are to be addressed by limiting stressors to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) by 2045. He stated that the current pace of investment (\$1-2 Million per year) is not sufficient to achieve meeting State and Federal standards by 2045. He reported that in addition, economic and investment best practices indicate that to be successful in a dynamic and fluid situation, the District should have 80% of infrastructure in place in the first 20% of time. This means 80% of the total cost (estimated at \$1 Million) should be made in the first 20% of time between now and 2045. He reported that this compares to an additional investment of \$20 million a year for the next four to five years. He reported that the District's share is estimated at \$6 million per year for the next four years and \$1.5 million per year for the following 16 years. These figures are in 2023 dollars and assume no significant increases in fuel, labor, or material costs.

Mr. Kelly stated that this issue will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee in the next few weeks. He stated that a discussion will take place on the possible solutions and how cities will adjust their budgets and what is contributed towards the District. He reminded the Board Members that the Clean Water Fund will expire 2033 as well and there could be a loss in funds from that expiring.

Mr. Kelly asked the Board Members for their input and suggestions on the best approach on these concerns.

President Herbst requested that Mr. Kelly provide some basic figures and scenarios of the cost to the residents based off the numbers that are available at this time. He stated that a lot of information was presented, and it would be best for the Board Members to review and provide feedback at the next Board meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Aquatore Park Bandshell Permit Review

Board Member Hafner inquired as to how biofiltration will be implemented at the Aquatore Park site.

Erin Edison, Watershed Development Coordinator reported that a biofiltration basin that is clay lined with surrounding vegetation will be used at the site.

11. County Transition

Administrator Kelly provided an update on the transition in his presentation with Item 10.

ADJOURN

Board Member Hafner made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Campbell.

Motion carried with five yeas (Board Members Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Matthew Herbst, Dwight McCullough, and Patrick Parker) and no nays.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.



President, Matthew Herbst