Minutes of Regular Meeting # 664 Held in the Lake Elmo City Council Chambers
Thursday, May 9, 2002.

MANAGERS PRESENT: Dale Borash, President; Dave Bucheck, Vice President; Don Scheel, Secretary; Lincoln Fetcher, Treasurer; and Duane Johnson, Manager

STAFF PRESENT: John Hanson, Barr Engineering; and Barb Wolle, Attorney; Ray Roemmich, Inspector; and Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Berg, Washington SWCD

CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order by President Borash at 7:06 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES After discussion of the minutes of the April 25, 2002 meeting, motion was made by Scheel, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.


PUBLIC FORUM No one was present for the Public Forum segment of the meeting.

SECRETARY’S REPORT Secretary Scheel said the mail had been distributed.

INSPECTOR’S REPORT Inspector Roemmich said he is continuing his inspection of every permit site in the District, and has inspected more than 50 permit sites in the last two weeks. He is trying to eliminate as many of the permitted projects from his records as possible. He also said that he and Engineer Hanson will visit sites next week to determine whether all conditions of the permits have been met.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT Attorney Wolle said she had nothing new to report at this time.

ENGINEER’S REPORT Permit Request - Country Air Golf Course - Lake Elmo Engineer Hanson described a project located in the NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 36, T29N, R21W, about a quarter mile north of I-94, west of Lake Elmo Avenue, Lake Elmo. The purpose of the project is to construct an 18-hole pitch and putt golf course. As part of the course, the applicant wishes to pump water into a proposed creek, allow the creek to drain into a wetland, and irrigate the golf course from the water in the wetland. The applicant proposes to deepen and expand the wetland.

After discussion, the managers felt there has not been enough information submitted as to exactly what the applicant is proposing. Motion was made by Scheel, seconded by Bucheck to table Permit # 2002-09 until more information is received. Motion carried unanimously.
Washington County Fair Engineer Hanson said he has an application to rent a booth at the Washington County Fair. The application calls for proof of a million dollars of liability insurance. Treasurer Fetcher will check to see how much liability insurance the managers carry. Motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Scheel that the application should be completed for rental of a booth at the Washington County Fair, and that additional insurance should be purchased if the managers participate in the 2002 Washington County Fair. Motion carried unanimously.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Water Fest The annual Water Fest sponsored by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District will be held this year at Lake Phalen on Saturday, May 18, 2002. Engineer Hanson provided Water Fest brochures for the managers.

Afton Public Meeting Engineer Hanson and Secretary Scheel attended the Afton Citizens’ Meeting on May 7th at the Lakeland Methodist Church. The meeting was held to discuss the City of Woodbury’s future growth. Secretary Scheel said discussions at the meeting went well. The agreement among the City of Woodbury, the City of Afton, and the Valley Branch Watershed District for the Fahlstrom Pond Study is not yet final. Attorney Wolle will send a revised draft of the agreement to the three parties.

Downs Lake Engineer Hanson presented the question to the Board of whether or not more easement property should be purchased for the Downs Lake project because current easements do not encompass the entire 100-year flood plain. Attorney Wolle suggested that 1) there are already easements in place for most areas of the project, and 2) it is the Board’s decision whether they want additional easements dependent upon the level of risk they are willing to take.

After discussion and consideration of the need for additional easements for the Downs Lake Project, the consensus was that the purpose of the project is to significantly reduce the amount of time it takes floodwater to leave the Downs Lake and adjacent low areas. If high water problems persist because of the project at the wetland area north of 20th Street, the managers could hire a contractor to pump water. The Board determined existing easements are adequate for the project construction and maintenance. Motion made by Fetcher and seconded by Scheel that the VBWD will proceed with the construction of the Downs Lake Outlet Project, as originally planned, but with the ditch between Downs Lake and the wetland just north of 20th Street cut approximately two feet deeper. No additional easement will be purchased including those previously authorized. Motion carried unanimously.

Sunnybrook Lake Update Treasurer Fetcher said he attended the Grant City Council meeting on May 7th, and he reported that after discussion of the Indian Hills Golf Course Project, the Council voted against the Golf Course project. The managers discussed accomplishing the project even though the City of Grant voted against it.

Collapsed Culvert in City of Grant Engineer Hanson said there is a culvert on private property in the City of Grant that has collapsed. Trees have been damaged because of backed up water. The collapsed culvert has not been a problem for the landowner, but neighbors have had problems because of the collapsed culvert. After discussion, the managers agreed to hire a contractor to install a new culvert. Motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Scheel that the managers agree to work with the landowner and to request access from the landowner. Motion carried unanimously.

Draft Comment Letter to MnDNR regarding Indian Hills Golf Course Engineer Hanson distributed to the managers copies of a draft letter commenting on MnDNR groundwater permits for the Indian Hills Golf Course project. The MnDNR had requested the District’s review and comments for the permits. After reviewing the letter, the managers approved the letter and directed Engineer Hanson to send the letter to the MnDNR.

MAWD Summer Tour Engineer Hanson said that he has been contacted by the Administrator of the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD), suggesting that the Valley Branch Watershed District participate in the MAWD Summer Tour in June, and to assist in the planning of a bus tour of the area to include projects in the Valley Branch Watershed District.
Eagle Crest Development in Woodbury Engineer Hanson reported to the managers that much of the development in Woodbury has been on the boundary between the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) and the Valley Branch Watershed District. He explained that the SWWD does not have a permitting program. He suggested that the VBWD not require a permit for the Eagle Crest Development project, since it is almost entirely within the SWWD, but require a permit for the Dancing Waters project, since about half the site and wetlands are within the VBWD. Applications have not been made for the permits. Engineer Hanson said he wanted the managers to be aware of the issue.

MANAGERS= REPORT Next Meeting - May 23, 2002 The managers said they do expect to have a quorum at the next meeting.

St. Mary=s Cemetery - North St. Paul Treasurer Fetcher said he has not been able to contact the North St. Paul City Engineer about the issue of St. Mary=s Cemetery in North St. Paul. He said he will try to get to a North St. Paul Council meeting to discuss the project.

DeMontreville Public Access At the last meeting, Jeff Berg, Washington SWCD, asked the managers to consider their participation in the lakeshore restoration project at the DeMontreville Public Access. He said the MnDNR does not plan to begin their work on the project until June. He said the project may be a good site to add to the list of places to see on the MAWD Summer Tour in June.

ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Fetcher and seconded by Scheel at 9:17 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Scheel, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Managers 06/13/02