Minutes of Regular Meeting # 696 Held in the Lake Elmo City Council Chambers
Thursday, October 9, 2003

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

MANAGERS ABSENT: None

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

STAFF ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Taylor, CAC; Barb Walsh, Tri-Lakes Resolution; Ann Pung-Terwedo, FEMA Floodplain Study; Jeff Berg, Washington /Conservation District; Paul Kraehnert, Prairie Ridge Office Park; Tom Prew, Lake Elmo Engineer

CALL TO ORDER President Bucheck called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES After discussion of the minutes of the September 25, 2003 meeting, motion was made by Scheel, seconded by Borash, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS Under Engineer: 50th Street and Hill Trail; Under Managers: Joy Park; Budget Request; Watershed Management Plan.

PUBLIC FORUM Barbara Walsh, member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and District resident on Olson Lake, asked the managers to hear a resolution by the Tri-Lakes Association concerning the stormwater project around Olson Lake, and to consider the resolution when completing the Watershed Management Plan. Ms. Walsh read the resolution to the managers. A copy is attached to these minutes.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE Chuck Taylor had mailed the lake levels report to the managers, and discussed it with the managers.

SECRETARY=S REPORT Secretary Scheel reported that he had distributed the mail.

INSPECTOR=S REPORT Inspector Roemmich described to the managers his system of tracking the permits issued by the District.

ATTORNEY=S REPORT Attorney Marshall said he had nothing new to report.

TREASURER=S REPORT Treasurer Borash distributed copies of the current status of the VBWD finances, as requested by the managers at the last meeting. The managers discussed investment strategies. President Bucheck said the managers will plan to meet in a few weeks to work on the budget for next year and cut it down to reflect the managers’ goals for 2004. At that time the managers will also devise a schedule to invest the District funds.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS At this time President Bucheck authorized a change in the order of agenda items.
ENGINEER-S REPORT 50th Street and Hill Trail Inspector Roemmich reported to the managers that he had been contacted by Barbara Walsh concerning erosion materials entering Olson Lake as a result of a project to reconstruct 50th Street and Hill Trail. The City of Lake Elmo had been issued a permit in August 2003 to reconstruct 50th Street and Hill Trail. Inspector Roemmich said that the City had not followed the conditions of the permit and that some of the work appears to be different than shown on the approved plans. Engineer Hanson concurred that the City is now proposing some different features than what had been approved by the managers.

Barbara Walsh, a resident of the area and member of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, spoke about specific concerns she has with the project. Her concerns included the lack of water quality treatment and the impact the project might have on flooding issues at the landlocked wetland north of 50th Street. Ms. Walsh was very concerned about the water quality entering Lake Olson from DeMontreville Trail and south of 50th Street.

Tom Prew, City of Lake Elmo Engineer, discussed with the managers the City’s reasons for the current design. The City had originally wanted to route runoff from the DeMontreville Trail-50th Street Intersection to the north, along the west side of DeMontreville trail to a culvert under the road, which would take runoff to the east and into Lake DeMontreville. Mr. Prew said that Washington County would not allow that diversion because the current culverts are not large enough to handle the additional flow. Now the City would like to pick up the runoff with storm sewer pipe and route it along the south side of 50th Street. He said that the pipe was designed because a property owner had complained to the City over the last few years about runoff onto his property on Olson Lake, because a ditch along 50th Street would overflow.

The managers discussed the situation at length with Ms. Walsh and Mr. Prew. Mr. Prew said that the City is open to revisions to the current plans to protect the water quality of the adjacent lakes. He said that the City does not want to rush any design changes, and therefore, the City will make the necessary changes next spring. The managers asked Mr. Prew to meet with Engineer Hanson to determine if a skimming device can be added within the storm system and if it would be possible to limit the curve along 50th Street to allow sheet flow off the road.

FEMA Floodplain Stream Study Ann Pung-Terwedo, Washington County, was present to explain to the managers the outline of the mapping project for the FEMA floodplain stream study in Washington County. She said the County had received a $100,000 grant for additional FEMA mapping and that the County would again like to contract with VBWD to map Valley Creek and Eagle Point (Raleigh) Creek. Of the $100,000, the County could provide the VBWD with $60,000. The estimated cost to do the study is $38,215 for Valley Creek and $39,515 for Eagle Point Creek. It would also cost $14,000 for the VBWD to purchase topography mapping from the County. The total study cost is estimated at $91,730, or $31,730 more than the County has available. President Bucheck asked Ms. Pung-Terwedo to request that the Washington County Board donate the topographic maps to VBWD. After discussion, motion was made by Scheel and seconded by Borash that the managers pay $31,700 for the FEMA floodplain study. In discussion, motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Bucheck to table the motion. Motion carried, with a vote of four to one: Fetcher, Yes, Bucheck, Yes, Scheel, Yes, Borash, Yes, and Johnson, No.

Permit Request: Prairie Ridge Office Park, Lake Elmo Engineer Hanson described a project located west of the Stillwater Boulevard (CR 6), south of Highway 5, and north of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, Lake Elmo, in the Southeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 29 North, Range 21 West. The purpose of the project is to construct seven 5,000 square foot office buildings, associated parking lots, and septic systems, a road that will connect Highway 5 and Stillwater Boulevard, a stormwater pond, and at least two rainwater gardens.

In discussion of the project and the impact on wetlands in the area, the managers asked the applicant to make certain changes to the project, and return to the next managers’ meeting. The applicant agreed to this.

BWSR Challenge Grant: Southern Washington County Groundwater Study Engineer Hanson had mailed to the managers a preliminary work plan for the southern Washington County groundwater-surface water study. He said that Washington County is asking for $25,000 from each of the Valley Branch and South Washington
Watershed Districts, and $10,000 from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District for the study. Engineer Hanson said the county would like a letter or a resolution from the District, supporting the study. After discussion, motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Borash to approve the expenditure of $25,000 in support of the Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Management Study in Southern Washington County, and to provide a letter to Washington County stating the support. Motion carried unanimously.

Update: Watershed District Educator Engineer Hanson told the managers that the Rice Creek Watershed District will be hiring its own educator, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District already has an education program, and the South Washington Watershed District is interested in sharing an educator staff person. At a meeting with these watershed district administrators, Engineer Hanson learned of the several tasks for a watershed district educator. Matt Moore, the administrator for South Washington Watershed District, is preparing a memorandum on the issue for the managers.

MANAGERS= REPORT Next Meeting - October 23, 2003 The managers expect to have a quorum at the next meeting.

Joy Park Vice President Fetcher said that the City of Maplewood has begun to develop a plan for Joy Park, which is near Silver Lake in North St. Paul. He asked Engineer Hanson to review the plan for the managers. A public hearing will be held on Monday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center.

Budget Request Engineer Hanson said he received a letter from Jane Harper, Washington County, asking for information on the 2004 budget. She needs it by October 23rd. President Bucheck, Treasurer Borash and Engineer Hanson will meet on October 20th at President Bucheck=s house to discuss the budget for 2004.

Watershed Management Plan Engineer Hanson asked the managers to review the information that they had received electronically from Karen Chandler. The managers discussed the information, and agreed to send their comments electronically to Karen Chandler or to John Hanson.

Sunnybrook Lake At the last meeting, President Bucheck distributed copies of a Sunnybrook Lake Plan Framework, Draft 1, for the managers to review. The managers had a lengthy discussion of the issues surrounding the Sunnybrook Lake project. They asked Treasurer Borash to prepare a framework on floodproofing for them to review.

MAWD Annual Meeting December 4 - 6, 2003 Motion was made by Borash and seconded by Fetcher to reimburse any manager attending the MAWD annual meeting in December for expenses and registration. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Borash and seconded by Scheel at 10:32 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Scheel, Secretary

Minutes Approved by Managers 10/23/03