Minutes of Regular Meeting # 717 Held in the Lake Elmo City Council Chambers
Thursday, October 28, 2004

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

MANAGER ABSENT: None

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

STAFF ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Candice Kraemer, CAC; Sharon Schwarze, Mike Kraemer, Timothy D. Gangnon, Phyllis Klindt, Vic Klindt, Joyce Kisch, John Sandahl, Lenida Sandahl, Rich Vanzwol, and others (Sunnybrook Lake); and Paul Danielson, Lakewood Evangelical Free Church and Deer Glen Permit Request

CALL TO ORDER President Bucheck called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS President Bucheck announced that Manager Duane Johnson has been appointed to another three-year term expiring November 14, 2007.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES After discussion of the minutes of the October 14, 2004 meeting, motion was made by Scheel and seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS There were no additional agenda items.

PUBLIC FORUM There was no discussion in the Public Forum segment of the meeting.

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

INSPECTOR=’S REPORT Inspector Roemmich reported that no new projects have been started.

ATTORNEY=’S REPORT Attorney Wolle had nothing new to report.

TREASURER=’S REPORT Treasurer Borash distributed copies of the Administrative and Program Budgets for Fiscal Year 2004 dated 10/31/04, and the Treasurer=’s Report dated October 28, 2004. After discussion, motion was made by Borash and seconded by Scheel to approve the Treasurer=’s Report. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER=’S REPORT Permit Request: Madline Farm Estates, Grant Engineer Hanson presented information on a project located south of 68th Street and northwest of Jamaica Avenue in the City of Grant, in the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 33, Township 30 North, Range 21 West. The purpose of the project is to subdivide about 33 acres into three lots (two new and one existing) and construct a cul-de-sac extension.

The site is located at the upstream end of the Lake DeMontreville watershed. Several wetlands surround the site. The proposed project will not change the overall drainage patterns.
After discussion of the wetland management concerns, the water management concerns, and the erosion control concerns, motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Borash to approve Permit # 2004-29 with the engineer=s suggested site-specific conditions and suggested standard conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit Request: Lakewood Evangelical Free Church/Deer Glen Engineer Hanson described a project located southeast of Keats Avenue and Highway 36, Lake Elmo, in the northwest quarter Section 2, Township 29 North, Range 21 West. The purpose of the project is to construct a church and associated parking lot and access, 18 single-family residential homes, about one mile of roadway, about 3/4 mile of paved trail, about 2300 feet of storm sewer, an infiltration basin, and three stormwater ponds.

After much discussion of the wetlands, flood levels, and minimum floor elevations, motion was made by Bucheck and seconded by Johnson to table the permit request for Permit # 2004-27, in order that the developer can work with Engineer Hanson to revise the plans to conform to the VBWD=s minimum floor elevation rule. Motion carried unanimously.

Report: Fahlstrom Ponds Flood Level Analysis Engineer Hanson had mailed to the managers a report on the Fahlstrom Ponds Flood Level Analysis. President Bucheck said he had reviewed the report, and directed Engineer Hanson to draft a letter to the City of Afton, asking the City to notify the VBWD at the time the City enacts an Overlay District. Motion by Bucheck and seconded by Scheel to accept the Fahlstrom Pond Flood Level Analysis. Motion carried unanimously.

Draft Report: Valley Creek Erosion Inventory Engineer Hanson said the draft report for the Valley Creek Erosion Inventory is not yet available, but that it will be ready for the next meeting.

Washington County Groundwater Study At the last meeting, the managers suggested that President Bucheck represent the VBWD during the Southern Washington County Groundwater-Surface Water Study consultant selection. At this meeting President Bucheck said he agrees to represent VBWD during the consultant selection on November 18th.

MANAGERS= REPORT Next Meeting - November 11, 2004 The managers expect a quorum to be present on November 11th.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS At this time President Bucheck authorized a change in the order of agenda items.

Sunnybrook Lake Many residents living near Sunnybrook Lake, and also four Grant City Council members, were present to ask the managers about the delay of the Sunnybrook Lake project. President Bucheck provided the audience members an opportunity to speak, and several people spoke. Grant City Council member Sharon Schwarze said that the City of Grant has approved the expenditure of funds in 2005 for the raising of the roads, but the Council would like assurance that Phase I of the project will be started soon.

President Bucheck explained that the managers have spent a great deal of time and effort over the years to get the Sunnybrook Lake project in place, and also described the many obstacles that have been in the way. He then said that he felt that Vice President Fetcher=s presence was essential, and that he expected him to arrive shortly. President Bucheck called for a recess of the meeting.

Motion was made by Scheel and seconded by Borash to recess the meeting until Vice President Fetcher could be present. Motion carried unanimously.

President Bucheck called the meeting back in session at 8:26 p.m.
In discussion, President Bucheck said he would like the managers to reevaluate Phase I of the project. After more discussion, motion was made by Bucheck and seconded by Fetcher to reopen the plan of action and look at moving forward with Phase I. Phase I had been described earlier as a project that would move water faster from Sunnybrook Lake to Keats Pond. The project would optimize the existing flood storage in the lowlands between the lake and the pond. Alone, the project would not solve the flooding problems in the neighborhood, but it would provide limited relief in less extreme wet conditions.

President Bucheck said the project would need to be ordered after bids are received, and the easements would need to be approved.

When questioned about the starting time of the project, President Bucheck said it could be possible that the project could be started in the next construction season because the studies have already been done. He said it would depend on how quickly the easements could be obtained.

Vice President Fetcher said he appreciated the response of the Grant City Council. He then said that it is important that landowners understand that easements are not the taking of property, but that they are simply guaranteed access for drainage.

Grant City Councilperson Vanzwol asked if the VBWD has any funds available to help with the road project.

Vice President Fetcher answered that the watershed district funds are primarily for water flowage, and that the assistance that the watershed district would provide, would be the engineering information that the City of Grant needs when raising the roads.

President Bucheck called for the vote on the motion to reopen the action and move forward with Phase I of the Sunnybrook Lake project. Motion carried, with the following vote: Johnson, Yes; Fetcher, Yes; Bucheck, Yes, Scheel, Yes; Borash, No. The group thanked the managers, and left the meeting.

Silver Lake Bioretention Site Engineer Hanson reported that the contractor has not started the work at Silver Lake, but hopes to begin on November 1st. He added, that with the recent wet weather, the contractor may not be on schedule.

ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Fetcher at 8:53 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Scheel, Secretary