Minutes of Regular Meeting # 762 Held in the Lake Elmo City Council Chambers
Thursday, November 9, 2006

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

MANAGERS ABSENT: None

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

STAFF ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Almendinger, St. Croix Watershed Research Station; Chuck Taylor, Citizens Advisory Committee; Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District; Angie Hong, Watershed District Educator

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS President Fetcher announced that Treasurer Borash has been reappointed as manager of VBWD, to a three-year term expiring in November 14, 2009.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES After discussion of the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting, motion was made by Scheel and seconded by Borash to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS Added to the agenda under Engineer: Whistling Valley 2nd Addition, Wetland Bank; Park Meadows Project; Applying for a Grant to Support Invasive Species in Silver Lake; and Habitat Monitoring; Under Managers: VBWD Administrator Discussion.

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

SECRETARY=S REPORT Secretary Scheel reported that the mail has been distributed.

INSPECTOR=S REPORT Inspector Roemmich reported on his activities since the last meeting. He asked the managers for direction in dealing with the Artisan project in West Lakeland Township. He said the work has been started without a cash surety having been provided. After discussion, the managers directed Engineer Hanson to send a Registered Letter to the permit holder regarding the cash surety.

ATTORNEY=S REPORT Attorney Marshall said he would discuss the Park Meadows project later in the meeting.

TREASURER=S REPORT The Treasurer=s report will be given at the next meeting.

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT Jay Riggs, District Manager of the Washington Conservation District, told the managers that a good demonstration of a parking lot rainwater gardens is at the Cottage Grove County Regional Park. He also said that a larger scale discussion of the BMP Cost Share Program can be held at the Washington County Water Consortium meeting in January 2007.
Water Resource Educator Angie Hong, Water Resource Educator, distributed copies of the ABlue Thumb Program - Planting for Clean Water: Partner Agreement®, and asked the managers to consider being a partner in the program. The Blue Thumb program was created by the Rice Creek Watershed District to encourage homeowners to use native plants in gardens, plant raingardens, and to stabilize shoreline property with plants to improve water quality.

She also said there will be a training session in February 2007 in Stillwater, which will give planners and engineers technical information needed to construct raingardens. Angie suggested that information also be made available in public libraries. After more discussion, motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Borash to sign the Blue Thumb Partnership Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie also reported that she has written two articles about buckthorn that were printed in Lillie Suburban Newspapers.

VALLEY CREEK DATA REPORT Dr. James Almendinger, with the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Science Museum of Minnesota, distributed reports to the managers on the data collected between July 2005 and June 2006. He explained the report, and told the managers that he would provide an invoice next week for the Valley Creek monitoring project. After discussion of the report, the managers thanked Dr. Almendinger for the report.

ENGINEER=’S REPORT VBWD Rules Engineer Hanson reported that he has sent the official set of proposed rules and regulations, as directed to do by the managers at the last meeting. The agencies and organizations receiving the rules are given 45 days to provide written comments.

Valley Creek Stabilization Projects Engineer Hanson reported that he has sent flyers to the property owners of sites on Valley Creek identified for repair. He said he will contact those homeowners soon to encourage them to allow Barr Engineering staff to look at their sites and discuss potential project features.

Project 1007 Maintenance Engineer Hanson reported that the project has been advertised, and bid opening is scheduled for November 27th.

Permit Website Engineer Hanson said the links on the permit tracking website have been corrected. More changes will be made, as suggested by President Fetcher at the last meeting.

Belwin Note of Congratulations As directed at the last meeting, Engineer Hanson drafted a letter regarding Belwin and the St. Paul School District. He had mailed that letter to the managers. The managers approved the letter and directed Engineer Hanson to mail it to Belwin.

Mahtomedi Park System Plan Engineer Hanson had mailed to the managers a draft comment letter on Mahtomedi=s Park System Plan. After discussion of the letter, the managers made no changes and directed Engineer Hanson to mail the letter.

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

2006 Washington County Groundwater Plan Accomplishments Engineer Hanson had mailed to the managers a request and draft response regarding Washington County=s Groundwater Plan. The managers approved the response and directed Engineer Hanson to forward the letter of response.

Karst Mapping LCCMR Grant Engineer Hanson had mailed to the managers a copy of an e-mail letter from Steve Kernik of Woodbury, and a draft letter of support of the Karst Mapping in the VBWD area in the City of
Woodbury. After discussion, the managers approved the letter of support and directed Engineer Hanson to mail the letter to Steve Kernik, Environmental Planner in the City of Woodbury.

**MEETING RECESSED** At 8:55 p.m. President Fetcher called a five-minute recess of the meeting.

**MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER** President Fetcher called the meeting back to order at 9:01 p.m.

**Whistling Valley 2nd Addition Wetland Bank** Engineer Hanson requested that the managers sign the certification for the wetland bank at Whistling Valley 2nd Addition. The Technical Evaluation Panel for the Wetland Conservation Act had approved the bank. **Motion** was made by Borash and seconded by Johnson to approve the notification of request to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to certify the wetland bank in the Whistling Valley 2nd Addition project. Motion carried unanimously.

**Park Meadows Project** Attorney Marshall reported that the plat in the Park Meadows project has been recorded, but that Engineer Hanson has not yet received the cash surety for the project. He said that Attorney Wolle has been in contact with the Lake Elmo City Attorney, who will support the VBWD project requirements. President Fetcher reported on the work that has been completed at the east pond. After discussion, the managers decided to direct Attorney Wolle to contact Joe Bush by letter, detailing unmet VBWD requirements, and to send it registered mail. After further discussion, the managers directed Engineer Hanson and Inspector Roemmich to provide the managers with a cost estimate for completing any additional work on the site, and communicate this to President Fetcher for a decision on further action.

**Applying for a Grant to Support Invasive Species in Silver Lake** President Fetcher had received information from Wendy Crowell of the DNR, on grant programs for pilot projects to control aquatic plants. After discussion, the managers decided VBWD would not be applying for the grant, but would provide data as needed for an applicant. President Fetcher said he will communicate this to the other stakeholders.

**Habitat Monitoring** The 2006 habitat monitoring was discussed at the October 26, 2006 meeting. At this meeting, President Fetcher stated he would like to implement the recommendations listed in the report in 2007.

**MANAGERS= REPORT Next Meeting - December 14, 2006** The managers expect to have a quorum present at the next meeting on December 14, 2006.

**Purchase of New Recording Device for Recording Secretary** Treasurer Borash suggested that the managers approve the purchase of a recording device capable of picking up all the voices at the managers= meetings. The managers agreed that if an appropriate recorder is located, it should be purchased, and tested at a meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS BMP Cost Share Program** Vice President Bucheck reported that he had been advised to discuss the BMP Cost Share program with Jay Riggs, District Manager, Washington Conservation District. Jay Riggs was present to discuss the issue with the managers. Jay told the managers that in order for the program to be successful, the residents need to be educated in the many best management practices and how to accomplish them. Therefore, it is likely that the administrative cost of the program will be greater than the project costs. He said the Washington Conservation District technicians would be available to help start the program. He also said that the Blue Thumb program can get the information out to the residents, and be a focal point for BMP Cost Share Program inquiries.

**FUTURE ITEMS Review of Consultant Services** The Recording Secretary had prepared letters for President Fetcher=s signature to be sent to the District=s consultants, requesting information concerning their abilities and rates for the next two years. President Fetcher signed the letters and directed the Recording Secretary to mail the letters.
ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Borash and seconded by Bucheck at 10:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Don Scheel, Secretary

Don Scheel, Secretary