VALLEY BRANCH WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Meeting No. 933
Held in the City of Lake Elmo City Hall
Thursday, February 12, 2015

MANAGERS PRESENT: David Bucheck, President; Lincoln Fetcher, Vice President; and Ed Marchan, Manager

MANAGER ABSENT: Jill Lucas, Secretary and Dale Borash, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT: John Hanson, Engineer, Barr Engineering; Ray Marshall, Attorney, Lawson Marshall McDonald and Galowitz; Ray Roemmich, Inspector; and Melissa Imse, Recording Secretary

STAFF ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Hankee, City of Afton Engineer; Rick Weyrauch, Baytown Township; Roger Johnson; Brian Buchmayer

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
After discussion, motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan to approve the January 22, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
Under Engineer’s Report: Item#6 No wake ordinance.

PUBLIC FORUM
Diane Hankee was present to provide an update on the City of Afton Village project.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
None

SECRETARY’S REPORT
Engineer Hanson distributed the mail.

INSPECTOR’S REPORT
Inspector Roemmich reported on the following projects: church project off of HWY 36, Jasmine Hills, Whistling Valley, Force main project, Savona, Kwik Trip, Hunters Crossing, and Koch pipeline project.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT
Attorney Marshall presented the easements for Sunfish Lake and the costs for purchasing the easements for a possible stormwater runoff diversion project. The total estimated value of the easements is $633,000.00, if the runoff from entire area west of Lake Elmo Avenue were diverted to the lake. The managers will discuss a policy on surface water diversion under the Manager’s report.
Attorney Marshall presented the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Stormwater Quality Treatment Facilities, previously approved by the VBWD, for President Bucheck’s signature.
Attorney Marshall presented the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP II) agreement, previously approved by the VBWD for President Bucheck’s signature.

TREASURER’S REPORT
No report.

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
None
ENGINEER’S REPORT

2015-2025 VBWD Watershed Management Plan  The managers requested not to see the remaining subwatershed management plan sections and have no comments on those draft sections already provided.

Watershed Management District (Utility Fee)  Barr Engineering provided background information on setting up and the cost of administering a watershed management district utility fee. The managers will consider setting up utilities in the future, but based on the current information, the cost to administer a utility fee is cost prohibitive.

Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision: Landucci Parcel, Lake Elmo  After discussion, motion was made by Bucheck and seconded by Fetcher to approve the Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision for the Landucci parcel in Lake Elmo. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix River Association Grant  Proposals for potential projects for the St. Croix River Association grants available are due by March 16, 2015. The managers discussed potential projects and authorized Barr to submit grant proposal for the Swede Hill creek subwatershed.

Wildflower Shores Wetland Bank  Barr provided an update of the projects and annual monitoring report for Wildflower Shores. The managers would like to discuss at the next meeting the possibility of selling some of the wetland bank credits.

No Wake Ordinance  The City of Lake Elmo Administrator contacted Barr about possibly revising the no wake ordinance on Lakes DeMontreville and Olson. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would need supporting documentation to allow the change the no wake water level. The City is requesting a cost estimate from Barr to provide the documentation needed. The managers see no conflict of interest and would pay Barr to help the City of Lake Elmo, if the City requests assistance.

MANAGERS’ REPORT

2015 Budget and Goals  President Bucheck has finalized the 2014 carry over, and the draft 2015 budget. The managers will review the 2015 budget with the full Board at the next meeting.

VBWD Maintenance Projects  No discussion until the managers review the 2015 budget.

DNR North & East Metro Area Groundwater Management Meetings  The Minnesota Department of Resources is hosting three local meetings in February to present the draft North & East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan. Vice President Fetcher plans to attend the February 18th meeting.

Citizens Advisory Committee  President Bucheck met with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Lake Associations with in VBWD. President Bucheck provided an update of the meeting. The lake association Citizens Advisory Committee will be holding future meetings to discuss common concerns and bringing those to the VBWD.

Buckthorn Removal Grant to Nathan Landucci for site in Afton and the Valley Branch Subwatershed  After discussion, the managers would like to have a meeting with Nathan Landucci to discuss the buckthorn removal project.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Day at the Capitol  The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Day at the Capitol is March 11th and 12th. None of the VBWD managers will be attending.

Next Meetings – February 26, 2015 and March 12, 2015  All managers plan to attend the meetings.

VBWD Policy on Surface Water Diversions to Sunfish Lake and Goetschel Pond  The managers discussed the impacts of stormwater runoff diversions from the Downs Lake watershed to the Sunfish Lake and Goetschel Pond watersheds. While, generally speaking, some diversion of runoff to Sunfish Lake might be acceptable, the cost estimates and complications of a diversion to Sunfish Lake led the managers to decide not allow a diversion. Because a diversion of runoff to Goetschel Pond is predicted to produce a 100-year flood level lower than the 100-year flood level the VBWD had previously established, a diversion is not predicted to affect any structures and a diversion would benefit Downs
Lake, the managers decided to allow the diversions to Goetschel Pond. The managers directed Barr to contact the City of Lake Elmo to have a workshop to discuss the manager's decision.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

FUTURE ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan at 9:16 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Ed Marchan

Ed Marchan, Acting-Secretary

Minutes approved by manager’s 2/26/2015