VALLEY BRANCH WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Meeting No. 936
Held in the City of Lake Elmo City Hall
Thursday, March 26, 2015

MANAGERS PRESENT: Lincoln Fetcher, Vice President; Jill Lucas, Secretary; Dale Borash, Treasurer; and Ed Marchan, Manager

MANAGER ABSENT: Dave Bucheck, President

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: Kevin Wall, David Eastwood, and Jim Golden, Afton Sewer Treatment System; Phil Eason, Lake Elmo

CALL TO ORDER
Vice President Fetcher 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 March 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC FORUM
None

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
None

SECRETARY’S REPORT
Engineer Hanson distributed the mail.

INSPECTOR’S REPORT
Inspector Roemmich reported on the following projects: Cimarron Community Center, Whistling Valley, Hunters Crossing, and Savona. Secretary Lucas discussed an erosion control issue along at a hillside stabilization project on St. Croix Trail S in Afton. Inspector Roemmich will inspect the project and contact Washington County to request that grit traps be replaced and erosion control blanket in a swale be anchored.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT
Sections of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Watershed Handbook had been sent to the managers. The managers would like to discuss the item with Attorney Marshall when a full Board is present at a future meeting. Attorney Marshall received a work order today between the Minnesota Conservation Corps, VBWD, and the City of Lake Elmo. Attorney Marshall will forward the work order for the managers to review and consider approval at the next VBWD meeting.
TREASURER’S REPORT  Treasurer Borash received notice from Lake Elmo bank stating that one of the VBWD Bonds is maturing on 4-1-2015. Lake Elmo Bank is requesting VBWD authorization to pledge release of the bond to reinvest. After discussion, motion was made by Borash and seconded by Marchan to authorize the VBWD Treasurer to sign the pledge release of the bond to Lake Elmo Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT  None

ENGINEER’S REPORT  

City of Afton Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Environmental Assessment Worksheet  At March 12, 2015 VBWD meeting, the managers directed Barr Engineering to review the EAW and draft a comment letter for the managers to review. The managers reviewed the draft comment letter. David Eastwood and Kevin Wall were present to express concerns regarding the proposed EAW for the sewer treatment system. The concerns include infiltration rates and impacts, the absence of geology studies of the soils, and nitrate testing. Jim Golden was present on behalf of Citizens For Valley Creek, Inc. (CFVC), a Minnesota non-profit corporation. CFVC respectfully requested that comments on the EAW be carefully considered by the VBWD district engineer and, where appropriate, be incorporated into the VBWD’s comments to the EAW. After discussion, a motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan to authorize Engineer Hanson to edit the EAW comment letter to incorporate the comments from the managers, to review and determine if the comments from the CFVC are pertinent to the VBWD’s role, and if so include them in the comment letter, and to send the letter, which will be signed by him. Motion carried unanimously. The comment letter must be submitted to the MPCA by the 4:30pm April 1, 2015.

Permit Request: Halcyon Cemetery, Lake Elmo  After discussion, a motion was made by Borash and seconded by Lucas to table permit 2015-04. Motion carried unanimously.

13925 44th Street South, Afton  A resident of 13925 44th Street South in Afton has contacted VBWD to discuss water ponding on his property due to, in his opinion, an inadequately sized culvert owned by the City of Afton. Secretary Lucas will contact the Afton City Administrator to discuss.

East Metro Water Resources Education Program  Engineer Hanson attended the March 18th EMWREP meeting and provided a summary of the meeting. Angie Hong, with the East Metro Water Resources Education Program, is planning an event at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve on June 6th, and wanted to know if VBWD would like to incorporate a groundwater presentation at the event. After discussion, the managers decided not to participate in the June 6th event. VBWD may have a separate groundwater presentation in the future.

Inspections  Secretary Lucas suggested the managers and staff conduct field inspections of projects before buckthorn and bugs come up. Barr Engineering will check to see if any inspections need to be done. Vice President Fetcher asked Engineer Hanson for an update on the Silver Lake bioretention basin. Engineer Hanson has been working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the VBWD and the City of North St. Paul that will be reviewed by the VBWD managers at the next meeting.

MANAGERS’ REPORT  

2015 Goals  The managers reviewed and provided comments on the draft 2015 goals. Engineer Hanson will make the changes and bring back for approval at the next VBWD meeting.

Next Meetings – April 9, 2015 and April 23, 2015  President Bucheck will be absent at both meetings. All other managers plan to attend.

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board  The VBWD received a letter from the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board asking to review the list of the VBWD managers and term dates. Recording Secretary Imse will update the information for board signature at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS  

None.
NEW BUSINESS
None.

FUTURE ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Borash and seconded by Lucas at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jill Lucas

Jill Lucas, Secretary

Minutes approved by managers 4/9/2015