VALLEY BRANCH WATERSHED DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Meeting No. 944
Held in the City of Lake Elmo City Hall
Thursday, July 23, 2015
APPROVED MINUTES

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

MANAGER ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: John Hanson, Engineer, Barr Engineering; Susannah Torseth, Attorney, Lawson Marshall McDonald and Galowitz; and Ray Roemmich, Inspector

STAFF ABSENT: Melissa Imse, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Dean, 8028 Hill Trail North, Lake Elmo; Jim Golden, 1920 Quarry Avenue South, Lake St. Croix Beach; Barb Kopp, 16343 19th Street South, Lake St. Croix Beach; Ellen Johnson, 11050 14th Street North, Lake Elmo; Stephan Mastey, Landscape Architecture, Inc.; Shelli Wilk, 11253 14th Street North, Lake Elmo, Mark Have, Afton

CALL TO ORDER
President Bucheck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
After discussion, motion was made by Borash and seconded by Marchan to approve the July 9, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
Under Engineer’s Report, Item#10-St. Croix Trail Erosion

PUBLIC FORUM
Pat Dean spoke about needing additional stormwater management upstream of Lakes DeMontreville, Olson, and Jane, and Long Lake to prevent the lakes’ water levels from rising and inquired about the draft 2015-2025 VBWD Watershed Management Plan.
Jim Golden spoke about a letter the attorney for Citizens for Valley Creek, Inc. emailed the managers, Attorney Marshall, and Engineer Hanson earlier in the day. He feels the adjacent cities to the proposed Afton wastewater treatment system have been left out of the loop and wants a regional solution explored. He said Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel has offered to organize and mediate a meeting of the communities, but he is not aware if a date has been scheduled. Mr. Golden asked the managers to not send the 2015-2025 VBWD Watershed Management Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources until after the meeting. Mr. Golden also asked that everybody review their communications and submit anything to him that was missing to address his previous data request. An unidentified woman also spoke regarding the data request. Attorney Torseth suggested that to address the Citizens for Valley Creek’s continuing data request all information be sent to her and that it be available to Mr. Golden on a monthly basis. Mr. Golden agreed to that suggestion.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
None

SECRETARY’S REPORT
Engineer Hanson distributed the mail.
INSPECTOR’S REPORT  Inspector Roemmich reported on Oak-Land Jr. High Tennis Courts in Lake Elmo, the Lake Elmo Kwik Trip, Savona in Lake Elmo, Halcyon Cemetery in Lake Elmo, Easton Village in Lake Elmo, and Wildflower at Lake Elmo in Lake Elmo.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT  None

TREASURER’S REPORT  Treasurer Borash distributed copies of the Administrative and Program Budgets Fiscal Year 2015, dated June 2015, and the Treasurer’s Report dated July 23, 2015. After discussion, a motion was made by Borash and seconded by Fetcher to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT  None

ENGINEER’S REPORT
Permit Request: Oakdale SuperAmerica, Oakdale  After discussion, motion was made by Fetcher and seconded by Lucas to approve permit 2015-17, Oakdale SuperAmerica in Oakdale with the suggested site-specific conditions and applicable standard conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

Permit Request: Savona Third Addition, Lake Elmo  After discussion, motion was made by Borash and seconded by Marchan to approve permit 2015-07, Savona Third Addition in Lake Elmo with the same permit conditions as imposed in the previous VBWD permits for the Savona development. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Review: Nature Restoration at The Homestead, Lake Elmo  Stephen Mastey, Ellen Johnson, and Shelli Wilk reviewed the project with the managers. The managers agreed it is a good project, thanked them for their work, and suggested that they contact Tara Kline regarding a possible BMP cost-share grant. The managers determined a VBWD permit is not needed for the project.

2015-2025 Watershed Management Plan  After discussion, motion by Borash and seconded by Fetcher to authorize Barr to submit the draft Plan for 90-day review once revisions identified in the response-to-comments document have been completed. Motion carried unanimously.

Valley Creek Stabilization Projects  Engineer Hanson presented the construction bids, status of the required Conditional Use Permit from Afton, and introduced the status of the easement acquisition. Attorney Torseth presented a letter to Mr. Michael Billington regarding assurance that the ravine will not be expanded if the requested easement is granted. After the managers reviewed the letter, motion by Bucheck and seconded by Lucas to sign and send the letter. Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Torseth presented a document regarding the access easement between the VBWD and Mr. Nathan Landucci for the managers to review for consistency with the previously approved agreement. After review, motion by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan to approve the document and execute it with Mr. Landucci. Motion carried unanimously, Motion by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan to award the bid on the 2015 VBWD Clean Water Fund Valley Creek Ravine Stabilizations to Nadeau Companies, LLC in the amount of $207,339.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Rivas Property  Engineer Hanson reviewed a memorandum regarding the stream buffers and suggested repairs on the Rivas property. After discussion, motion by Borash and seconded by Marchan to direct Barr to find a contractor to get a quote for doing the repair work described in the July 17, 2015 memorandum. Motion carried unanimously. The managers also directed Engineer Hanson to present a list of trees for Mr. Rivas to consider planting to provide shade to the creek.

Lake Elmo Airport 2035 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan  The managers reviewed Engineer Hanson’s draft comment letter and directed him to finalize and send it.

Clean Water Fund Grants  After discussion, the managers directed Barr to prepare applications for 1) Silver Lake water quality restoration, 2) Eagle Point Lake water quality improvement, and 3) Sunfish Lake erosion inventory and ravine stabilization.

Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision: Wetland Delineation Approval for Lake Elmo Park Reserve Trail and Parking Lot Improvements  After discussion, motion by Fetcher and seconded by
Buchek to approve the wetland delineation and authorize President Buchek to sign the Notice of Decision. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix Trail Erosion Secretary Lucas asked Inspector Roemmich to visit the site.

MANAGERS’ REPORT

2015 Budget After discussion of revising line items within the overall budget, motion by Buchek and seconded by Lucas to approve the revised budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings – August 13 and August 27, 2015 Vice-President Fetcher will be absent from the August 13 meeting and Secretary Lucas might be absent from the August 27 meeting. All of the other managers plan to attend the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

FUTURE ITEMS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion was made by Borash and seconded by Marchan at 9:11 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jill Lucas

Jill Lucas, Secretary

Minutes approved by managers 8/13/2015