

**VALLEY BRANCH WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting No. 918**  
**Held in the City of Lake Elmo City Hall**  
**Thursday, May 29, 2014**

**APPROVED**  
**MINUTES**

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

**MANAGER ABSENT:** None

**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:** Todd Hubner, WSB & Associates; Diane Hankee, WSB & Associates, City of Afton Engineer; Peter Schwartz, Sunnybrook Lake Area Resident; John Lawton, Mr. Schwartz's Attorney; Maria Schuh, 8400 DeMontreville Trail Resident, Gustavo Piva (Ms. Schuh's nephew), and John Lawless; Brandon and Erica Oman, and Tom Leiskau of Viebrock Construction, Inc.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** After discussion of the May 8, 2014 meeting minutes, **motion** was made by Lucas and seconded by Marchan to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS** None

**PUBLIC FORUM** Todd Hubner with WSB & Associates was present to discuss the Afton downtown village improvements, and to request VBWD support for the project. The City of Afton is requesting a funding commitment by VBWD by July 2014.

Mr. Peter Schwartz and his attorney Mr. Lawton were present to discuss flooding to his property. Mr. Schwartz claimed that a plugged culvert at a neighboring property is restricting flow out of the Sunnybrook Lake, which is causing the water level at Sunnybrook to rise and flood his property. Mr. Schwartz said he tried to work with the City of Grant to resolve the issue, but the City referred him to VBWD to help with a resolution. The VBWD managers directed Attorney Marshall to attend a City of Grant meeting to discuss the high water issues and roles and responsibilities. Attorney Marshall will coordinate with Mr. Schwartz' attorney.

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** None

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** Engineer Hanson distributed the mail.

**INSPECTOR'S REPORT** Inspector Roemmich reported on the Brockman Trucking project, force main project in Mahtomedi, and the I694 slope failure.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT** Attorney Marshall presented the stormwater quality maintenance agreement previously approved by the VBWD managers for signature.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Treasurer Borash distributed copies of the Administrative and Program Budgets Fiscal Year 2014, dated April 2014, and the Treasurer's Report dated May 29, 2014. After discussion, **motion** was made by Borash and seconded by Fetcher to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously. Treasurer Borash distributed final copies of the VBWD 2013 Financial Audit.

Currently VBWD Fund 30 and Fund 40 are combined in the financial audit. Fund 40 has a negative balance, and Fund 30 has a positive balance. The combined fund balance is positive. After discussion, the managers determined to not transfer funds from Fund 30 to Fund 40 since the financial statement combines both funds.

## **WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT None**

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**8400 DeMontreville Trail, Lake Elmo** John Lawless was present with Maria Schuh to discuss concerns about flooding issues on the Schuh property. Culverts on the neighboring property of the Schuh residence are restricting flow, frequently plugging with debris, and causing water to back up the channel. Engineer Hanson visited the property and tried to contact the neighbor's with culverts, but they were not home. After discussion, the managers suggested that Ms. Schuh contact the neighbors directly about the flooding issues due to the plugged culverts. Ms. Schuh agreed to do so, and will follow up with the VBWD.

**Oman Property, Lake Elmo** Mr. and Mrs. Oman have purchased a lot in Lake Elmo, and contacted VBWD with the proposed site plan for the lot. The lot contains a wetland with a very high overflow. Barr Engineering used the VBWD simple method to calculate the wetland's 100-year flood level and determined that water would bounce up over 12 feet. The VBWD rules require minimum floor elevations to be at least 2 feet above the adjacent water body's 100-year flood level. To allow a home to have a low floor elevation lower than that that determined using the VBWD simple method, a more detailed analysis of the wetland and flood elevations could be done for an estimated cost of \$5,000.00. Otherwise, the homeowner would need to relocate the proposed home or bring in fill to increase the minimum elevations of the home to 966.5 to meet the VBWD permit requirement. After discussion, the managers offered to help fund the detailed analysis if the homeowner would contribute 20 percent of the costs. The homeowners discussed the proposed options, and decided to have fill brought in to meet the VBWD flood elevation requirement for the permit.

**Watershed Flood Level Study** At the April 10, 2014 meeting, the managers direct Barr Engineering to prepare a cost estimate for modeling work for the watersheds within VBWD. The current hydrologic and hydraulic models of the VBWD were constructed in the early 1980s and are outdated. In the Goetschel Lake and Downs Pond drainage basins, the need for a detailed model is urgent. The managers reviewed a cost estimated for Barr to update the models. After discussion, the managers concluded they should try to partner with the cities and developers within VBWD to help fund the modeling updates. President Bucheck will contact the Lake Elmo City Administrator to discuss. Engineer Hanson will discuss modeling the Downs Lake and Goetschel Pond watersheds with developers.

**VBWD Land Parcels along Raleigh Creek** Engineer Hanson met with the Washington County Parks Director, Mr. Elholm, to discuss giving Washington County the VBWD's parcels along Raleigh Creek. Mr. Elholm stated that acquiring the parcels are not a high priority for the County, but that the County will possibly look at the parcels more thoroughly this fall.

**Silver Lake Bioretention Basin** Barr Engineering met with staff from the City of North St. Paul to discuss the construction of the bioretention basin improvements. Vice President Fetcher will be meeting with the City of North St. Paul to discuss construction and funding for the basin improvements.

**DeMontreville Ravine Stabilization Project** The managers reviewed payment application number 3 for the DeMontreville Ravine Stabilization project. After discussion, a **motion** was made by Fetcher and seconded by Marchan to approve payment of \$500.00 to Urban Companies for the DeMontreville Ravine Stabilization project. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MANAGERS' REPORT**

**Afton Village Funding** The managers discussed the Afton Village funding. The City of Afton is requesting a funding commitment by VBWD by July 2014. The managers will continue to discuss the VBWD funding.

**2015-2025 VBWD Watershed Management Plan** No discussion was held. The managers will continue to review the 2015-2025 VBWD Watershed Management Plan in future Board workshops.

**Consent Calendar** After discussion, a **motion** was made by Fetcher and seconded by Borash to approve the consent calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

**Volunteer Recognition Event** The managers approved the draft invitation letter Engineer Hanson had prepared for the VBWD volunteers to attend the Workshop-on-the-water. .

**2014 VBWD Tour** The VBWD Tour will be on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. President Bucheck and Engineer Hanson will develop a tour itinerary.

**Next Meetings – June 12 and July 10, 2014** Vice President Fetcher will be absent at the June 12 meeting. All 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 Fetcher at 10:05 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Jill Lucas*

Jill Lucas, Secretary

#### **Minutes approved by managers 6/12/2014**

#### **Consent Calendar**

Consent calendar items are generally defined as items of routine business, not requiring discussion, and approved in one vote. The Managers may elect to pull a consent calendar item(s) for discussion and/or separate action.

The following items are presented for Board approval/adoption:

##### 1. Best Management Practices Cost-Share Projects

- A. A \$500 Buckthorn Grant for Rob Jones at 7805 DeMontreville Trail in Lake Elmo in the Lake Olson subwatershed
- B. A \$1,050 Individual Grant for Jean Melin at 5295 Neal Avenue North in Baytown Township in the McDonald Lake subwatershed
- C. A completion time extension to Kate Thomas at 13736 Valley Creek Trail in Afton
- D. A completion time extension to Nancy Schauer at 11110 11th Avenue North in Lake Elmo