



***Tuesday, September 27, 2011***

***10:30 AM***

***EOR Office / St. Croix Watershed Research Station***

Board Members Present: Craig Gontarek, William Kallberg, William Schmokel & Bruce Thorsen

Board Members Absent: Greg Aamodt

Staff Present: Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
Nat Kale, District Technician

Others Present: Meghan Jacobson, EOR  
Jason Naber, EOR  
Andrea Plevan, EOR

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:35 AM by Board President Gontarek at the offices of EOR.

Role was passed, and introductions were made. President Gontarek indicated that the intent of the meeting was to gain greater knowledge regarding internal loading and the methods used to combat loading, specifically alum treatment.

Ms. Plevan distributed the most recent revision of her internal load memorandum. She discussed the various sources of internal loading, including carp, curlyleaf pondweed, shoreline erosion, and release of phosphorus from anoxic bottom sediments. There was some discussion of the relative contribution of carp, and specifically whether other fish (such as bullheads or suckers) perform the same function as carp in releasing nutrients.

The discussion then moved on to vegetation management. It was suggested that MAWD might be an appropriate place to talk about addressing removal of native aquatic vegetation.

Mgr. Thorsen stated his desire to see load reduction estimates in numbers, rather than rankings. Mr. Kale, Mr. Kinney, and Ms. Plevan discussed the difficulty of quantifying load reductions, including imperfect knowledge and misleading implicit precision in estimates.

Carp removal was discussed as a phosphorus load reduction practice. Mgr. Schmokel expressed his concern that the District should not be conducting primary research, but rather benefiting from the experience of others. Mr. Naber distributed his draft carp management strategy and budget. Several

carp removal options were discussed, including a volunteer carp spearing day, and the potential for having PLSLWD apply for the regional carp harvest permit from the DNR. Mgr. Thorsen indicated that he would speak to Darryl Ellison of DNR Fisheries regarding the carp harvest permit. Mr. Kinney suggested the creation of a carp workgroup, consisting of CAC members and other people with an interest in carp in Scott County, including the DNR and the U of MN. Mgr. Schmokel pointed out that carp barriers were installed by the Prior Lake Association and the DNR 20-30 years ago, and do not appear to have been effective (some were removed due to maintenance concerns).

Ms. Jacobson gave a presentation regarding alum treatments. She explained that several factors must be considered when judging how much aluminum sulfate to introduce to a lake, including pH, yearly release of phosphorus from bottom sediments, and total potential release of phosphorus. In addition, alum may bind to minerals other than phosphorus, making the alum: phosphorus ratio an important consideration. Hypolimnetic withdrawal (removing high-P water from the bottom of the lake) and aeration were both mentioned, and the benefits and drawbacks of each method briefly discussed. Mgr. Gontarek asked about littoral vs. profound release of phosphorus from sediments. Mgr. Thorsen stated his desire to weigh the costs: benefit ratio of alum vs. other P load reduction methods.

Manager Gontarek recessed the meeting at approximately 12:45 and stated that it would reconvene at the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Croix Watershed Research Station.

President Gontarek reconvened the meet at 1:30 at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station.

Dr. Shawn Schottler, senior staff scientist, provided a summary of the research conducted at the research station, its objective and how this is influencing decisions related to TMDLs and other water quality issues. He also discussed how the core sampling on Spring Lake can help correlate land use changes to phosphorus loading.

At 2:00, attendees viewed the documentary "Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story". The St. Croix Watershed Research Station was prominent in the film. The documentary concluded at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Administrator Kinney stated that the strategic planning item on the agenda was suggested by Mgr. Kallberg some time ago and was intended to discuss a framework for how to proceed. Several options and techniques were discussed. This led to a general discussion of the FeCl system and the need to arrive at a reasonable solution once the state agencies can clarify their role and position. Mgr. Schmokel asked the other board members how they felt about SCWEP. He stated his view that the District may wish to withdraw from the 2012 SCWEP agreement citing concerns about unknown tax implications of the state budget on property taxes in addition to his assessment that the District has not receive what it was promised. Mgr. Kallberg and Mgr. Gontarek agreed with respect to the effectiveness of the program and concerns over the benefit to cost for the District. The managers thus asked Administrator Kinney to prepare a memo and forward to the SWCD providing 90-day notice to the SWCD of the Watershed District's intent to withdraw to preserve its ability to do so in the event that the Board concludes that this is a sound course to take. The matter will again be taken up at the October regular meeting. Administrator Kinney reminded the board members present that this topic

was discussed the week before at a joint board meeting with the SWCD. He expressed concern that a suggestion to withdraw at this time with intent to discuss further at a future meeting could complicate planning for future work.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

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Bill Schmokel, Secretary