

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

I. Call to Order of the Workshop

President Cutshall called the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The meeting was conducted by web-based video conference, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021, after the president determined that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not prudent for the board of managers to meet in person.

Managers Present: Grace Butler, Bob Cutshall, Erin Hunker, Peggy Kvam, and Larry Olson

Advisors Present: Janna Kieffer (Barr Engineering); Michael Welch (Smith Partners)

Staff Present: Randy Anhorn, Brett Eidem, Erica Sniegowski, and Gael Zembal

Others Present: Lisa Breu, Collin Smith (SRF Consulting); Douglas Mensing (RES); Jordan Wein (WSB & Associates); Ted Lockhart (Resident)

II. High-Quality Wetland Prioritization and Scoping Update Presentation

a. Draft Protection of High-Quality Wetlands and Scoping Prioritization/Feasibility Study

Administrator Anhorn introduced Lisa Breu of SRF Consulting and Douglas Mensing of RES to present an update and results of the feasibility analysis of the wetland enhancement and invasive vegetation control at Whited Marsh. Ms. Breu gave a recap of the wetland-protection scoping and prioritization study, including an overview of activities the study identified to enhance Whited Marsh and some of its surrounding buffer areas.

Mr. Mensing reviewed the vegetative restoration, grant and partnership opportunities, and permitting. Vegetative restoration will involve invasive-species control, coupled with either overseeding or live plantings, or both.

Mr. Mensing stated that because Whited Marsh is a public water, the project will necessarily involve both partnership with and permitting from the state Department of Natural Resources. He said education and outreach and volunteer opportunities, including engaging the local elementary school, will be critical.

Mr. Mensing stated that invasive-species control could be done using mechanical equipment at an estimated cost of \$75,000 to \$76,000, or hand wicking, at a cost of \$102,000 to \$103,000.

Manager Butler pointed out that some of the trees growing in the bog don't seem to be proper natives that may need to be removed. She said that if mechanical removal of vegetation takes place, impacts to the bog must be minimized. She noted a Hennepin County-owned parcel that may be best for access.

Staff noted that a critical first step for the project will be outreach to landowners to gauge interest in the work and dedication of property-use rights

Manager Olson and President Cutshall expressed support for moving forward with the project. In response to staff's request for direction on whether to move ahead with preparing a scope of work for project oversight or waiting until landowner interest can be determined, Manager Kvam said she would like the District to move forward, and she thinks this will be a great project. Manager Butler said she supports the project but wants to pause spending more money until the District has landowner buy-in.

III. Normandale Carp Management Report

Jordan Wein of WSB presented the 2021 results on the Common Carp Population Assessment, Movement Analysis, and Management Methods on Normandale Lake. He provided background on Normandale Lake and previous studies. Mr. Wein went into detail about carp population estimates, tracking carp movement with PIT tags/antenna, and results from carp management efforts. He said the 2021 results show that the carp population is above the threshold of 89 pounds/acre that indicates a need for management. .

President Cutshall said he thought the drawdown on Normandale Lake in the winter of 2018-19 would have killed most of the carp population. Mr. Wein said likely it did kill or force out most of the carp population, along with a lot of the native fish population. He explained carp and invasive species tend to rebound quicker than

native fish populations. He said a full-size female carp can have two to three million eggs a piece and can fill a void in the absence of reduction of native fish. There was discussion about the fish stocked in Normandale Lake after the draw down and stocking fish as an element of carp management.

a. WSB Scope of Work

Program and Project Manager Sniegowski and Mr. Wein went through the WSB proposed scope of work. Ms. Sniegowski explained the scope of work is similar to the 2021 scope of work with the addition of the native fish survey and integrative pest management plan. She said the cost for the work identified in the proposed scope of work is \$41,550. Staff explained that only the quote from WSB was solicited because WSB is uniquely positioned to do the work having completed prior assessments of carp in the lake, and staff was not confident that a viable quote good be obtained from any of the very few other providers in the field. Manager Hunker said this scope seems reasonable. Manager Olson agreed.

Manager Olson moved, seconded by Manager Hunker, to authorize the administrator to enter into a contract with WSB on advice of counsel for not-to-exceed \$41,550. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.

IV. Normandale Lake Herbicide Treatment Quotes

Ms. Sniegowski reported the District received two quotes for the Normandale Lake curly-leaf pondweed herbicide treatment. She reminded the board that managing for curly-leaf pondweed is part of the plan for Normandale Lake following the winter 2018-2019 draw down. Ms. Sniegowski said the scope of the curly-leaf pondweed treatment is contingent on results of the plant survey to be conducted. She displayed information comparing the quotes received from PLM and Lake Restoration. Ms. Sniegowski recommended PLM for a partial lake treatment and Lake Restoration for a whole-lake treatment.

Ms. Kieffer recommends that authorization of an expenditure 20 percent above the quoted amounts to allow for flexibility in case the plant survey reveals something unexpected, such as curly-leaf growth extent requiring an amount of herbicide that exceeds the quantity indicated in the quote specifications.

Manager Kvam moved, seconded by Manager Butler, to authorize the administrator with advice of counsel to enter into an agreement with PLM for a partial-lake treatment at not-to-exceed \$3,500 or to enter into an agreement with Lake Restoration Inc. at not-to-exceed \$57,600 for the whole lake treatment as directed by the results of the lake-vegetation survey. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.

Ms. Sniegowski noted that the City of Bloomington reimburses the District for 50 percent of the cost of the treatment.

V. **Blue Water Science Fisheries Quote**

Administrator Anhorn described reaching out to staff at Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed about capacity for taking on these fisheries studies. He said RPBCWD reported not having capacity this upcoming season and recommended Blue Water Science. Administrator Anhorn said he asked for a quote from Blue Water Science for fyke netting on four lakes, including Holiday, Wing, Rose, and Mirror. He noted getting access to Rose Lake may be difficult.

Manager Olson moved, seconded by Manager Butler, to authorize the administrator on consultation of counsel to enter into an agreement with Blue Water Science at not to exceed \$6,300. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.

VI. **Adjournment**

Manager Kvam moved, seconded by Manager Butler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace Butler, Secretary