

## Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Board of Managers, Regular Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2010

The regular meeting of the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District (CLWD) Board of Managers was held in the Cormorant Town Hall, Cormorant Room, 10929 County Highway #5, Cormorant, MN.

Those present were; managers Beaudine, Moritz and Peterson; inspector Struble; co-administrator Olson; attorney Terry Karkela; advisory members Joe Lightowler, Maggie Metcalf and Orvis Olson; guests Denny Tollefson representing PGOLID and Moriya Rufer regarding development of the 10-year Management Plan.

Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order and presented the agenda.

The Treasurer's account report filed is \$216,983.45 Minutes for the September meeting are available online and are on file.

Struble gave the inspection report, on file

**Bijou.** Houston Engineering provided a bid specification, dated 9/29/2010, for the northwest (Alpine Lane area) erosion control project. Karkela will contact affected property owners regarding an access easement for ongoing inspection and maintenance.

**Big Cormorant Outlet Flow Agreement.** The PGOLID group wants the terms governing flow rate to be for a combined Big Cormorant and Lake Ida flow into Spring Creek (the connector to Pelican Lake). The agreement will include provision for an "automatic", or immediate, shutoff due to unusual or emergency circumstances (e.g. a bog plugging the culvert under Otter Tail #9). It was suggested that the duration of the shutoff be until the emergency is passed, rather than a fixed period such as 72 hours, a week, etc. It is proposed that the agreement will run for 5 years, with automatic renewal unless one of the parties rejects the renewal. Communication to operate the new agreement will be primarily by email, with primary and alternate contacts to manage each lake outlet. Moritz will set up a **meeting** with the Watershed, DNR, PGOLID, and lakes Cormorant and Ida to work out terms of the revised agreement. Other items noted in the discussion included:

- The total Spring Creek flow to Pelican is only limitedly governed by the Big Cormorant and Lake Ida outlet flows, likely because of significant underground spring flow into the creek
- Lake Ida's outlet flows intermittently. Moriya Rufer will provide RMB's record of that flow
- The true outlet flow rates from either lake at any given point in time are only approximately known; as such day-to-day flow management will be based on best estimates
- The total contribution of the Spring Creek flow to Pelican Lake's water level is likely a fraction of an inch during peak flow. Houston Engineering has studies that can provide more specific information.
- The majority affect on the Pelican Lake level is from rainfall on the lake and local lake-shed, inflow from the Pelican River, and the rate of outflow.

**Big Cormorant Outlet Maintenance.** Engineering provided a bid specification, dated 9/29/2010, for work to control erosion of the Big Cormorant Lake outlet channel, which was installed in the 1995 timeframe. Potential bidders will be receiving copies of the specification shortly. A bidders meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Cormorant town hall, with the expectation that one bid will be selected then.

**Bid requirement.** Karkela will provide us with information regarding Minnesota law covering contracting requirements.

**10-year Management Plan Development.** Moriya Rufer from RMB labs provided an updated work plan and scheduled a Monday, November 15, meeting to be held with the Plan Advisory Group (the Watershed, Watershed Advisory committee, and representatives from BWSR, the DNR and

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Board of Managers, Regular Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2010

other). Topics at the meeting will include review of the mission statement. Moriya will send out an invitation letter. Ongoing plan development will continue as needed at the mid-month meetings this winter. It was noted that a proposal from the County for a half-time shoreline specialist could be part of the plan, such as to facilitate private property shore restorations

**MAWD Trade Meeting.** Olson will send in registrations for confirmed attendees and spouses.

**10/04/2010 Becker Planning and Zoning Hearing input.** Moritz entered a motion, seconded by Beaudine, that Olson send a communication to Becker Zoning “As we have gone on record in the past, the Watershed is opposed to construction in the shoreline impact zone. The Cormorant Lakes Watershed District recommends that the Planning and Zoning Department reject the variance applications for Bjorklund on Big Cormorant Lake (Tax ID number R 17.0735.000), and for Lanctot on Leaf Lake (Tax ID number R 17.1147.000)”. Motion carried unanimously.

**Septic System Inspections.** Joe Lightowler noted that a high priority recommendation from the Big Cormorant Lake Improvement project is that a mandatory septic tank inspection be established County-wide, when any property is sold. Clay County has this process in effect now. Grant and other funding to train and certify a full time County employee for this purpose could be made available. No specific actions were taken.

**Bills.** The following items were paid or deposited:

	<u>Check #</u>	<u>AMT.</u>
<u>Admin Acct</u>		
• FRS Industries (re-issue of #1267)	1272	\$ 25.52
• Houston Engineering – on account, multiple projects	1275	5,270.04
<u>Healthy Lakes Initiative Account</u>		
• Merle Zimmerman – expenses – (re-issue of #1269)	1273	312.95
• Paula Stromstad – expenses – (re-issue of #1259)	1274	108.80

The next (mid-month) meeting will be Monday, October 18 at 7:00 PM in Cormorant Center.

There being no further business, Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff Moritz, Secretary

Prepared by Sherwood Olson, Co-Administrator