Ash Creek Water Control District

Board of Directors

REGULAR MEETING

**Thursday, February 3, 2022**

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order via videoconferencing at 7:03 am by Chair Dan Farnworth.

2. Roll Call. Board present: Dan Farnworth, Tom Wilson, Andrea Melendy, Donna Schuyler, Madeline Hall, Mancil Russell and Ed Matteo (arr 7:04)

Others Present: Todd Whitaker, Karin Johnson, Kristen Larson (LWC), Anne Scheck (Trammart News)

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes: January 6, 2022. Madeline noted incorrect spelling of Riddell Road. Madeline moved to approve with spelling change; Ed seconded. 7-0-0

4. Audience Comments

 a. Regarding grant applications, Kristen thanked for the responses from individuals. She will find out June and August if successful.

 b. Kristen said LWC would be glad to visit about collaboration, coordination of bird walk.

 c. Kristen reported that Shawn Irvine of the city reached out to her about the eroding bank.

5. Director Comments

 a. Madeline: Precipitation: 4.73” (9.42” last year). Retaining pond; mallards showing up. Great blue herons arriving. She shared an I-O article that Anne wrote. She received notice from Monmouth planning dept. for installation of a park in the flood plain. Officials told her it won’t be paved, there will be no parking spaces, no bathrooms; there is a place reserved for a play structure; was told there will be no discharge to the creek. Access will be from Riddell Road.

 b. Dan: last month, the LWC asked for letter of support for grant applications; we couldn’t respond, but board members individually provided support.

 c. Dan: north of Riverview Park the bank has caved away, taken out a couple of trees. It appears to be encroaching to the pathway; the city may want some assistance. Asked if Todd could visit with public works in Independence.

6. Reports

    A. Finance

1. Monthly Report (Attachment #1). LGIP: $377,367.46; PTB: $7,525.29

Checks: #2215, Ascension, $240.00 (6 month QuickBooks); #2216, Streamline, $50.00; #2217, WHA Ins, $1840.00 (gen liability insurance).

Dan thanked Andrea for the amount of work she has done. Dan noted that 1099’s are out and W-9s required.

 B. Phone. Mancil reported no phone calls received.

    C. Nutria. Ed summarized report (Attachment #2) - three caught, 46 traps out; 1 in old town, 2 south of Independence.

    D. Engineer's Report.

1. Last month, there was an inquiry about a stream gauge on Ash Creek. It would cost $25,000 for installation, $16,000 yearly.
2. Will talk w/Gerald Fisher of IPW re: bank scouring.
3. Riddell Road; there are 2 phases to the project. 1st – southern portion; 2nd – future to north. Access to phase 3 would require stream crossing. He provided a summary description of the project. Discussion of flooding at site and possible county project upstream for future.

 E. Subcommittee Report: Outreach. (Subcommittee minutes sent to board – Attachment #3) Donna reported: it was a good meeting; generated ideas, ways to reach people. Suggestions included sending out postcards. Tom suggested using content from the tri-fold brochure, go out to list of tax lot owners, have tables at various Polk Co. events. Get list from county when ready to send. Tom went to county GIS map; our district map is not included and asked if it could be added. Todd reported it is there, but not on the public view. He will talk to GIS about making it accessible. Todd will send a copy of the 10-year plan to Tom. Donna – they are considering smaller events (not 4th of July, Polk County Fair). Will see about a table at the Farmers market. Kristen shared requirements. Tom – for name recognition, Donna brought up an idea of a bird walk. Tom – suggestion to canvas realtors see if they would hand out our card/flyer. Kristen shared experience working with a realtor.

Discussion of next steps.

1. Initial mailing. Tom volunteered to put together postcard, get it printed and mailed. Tom can get information together for next meeting. Todd can look into getting a list to Tom; probably about 400 addresses. Discussion of process for postcards; discussion of swag to offer at events.
2. Authorization for purchase of swag for tables at events.
3. Activity, such as birdwalk.

Consensus to follow up with mailing. Tom to get costs, bring to next meeting.

Outreach committee to get list of potential events, schedule, swag items/cost. Committee will meet again, report at next board meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

 A. Website update. Tom looking for suggestions; asked all to go to the new site, look at it and bring back comments. (ashcreekwcd.com.)

 B. Policy Manual Update. Tom – we now have an editable version; it was emailed to board. It is 15 years outdated. Good governance, should be updated. This will be a long process; SDAO has a template, which he recommends we follow. Donna suggested taking a chunk at a time. Tom agreed, also suggested subcommittee. Discussion. Tom volunteered to be on the subcommittee, talk about it after the SDAO conference. Consensus.

8. New Business

 A. Budget Officer / Budget Calendar. Ed moved, Mancil seconded to appoint Karin as budget officer; motion passed by all board present. Tom moved, Mancil seconded to approve the 2022-24 calendar; motion passed by all board present.

 B. Other.

 Madeline reported on her conservation easement by North Coast conservancy. Amity Vineyard is looking for ivy pull.

9. Miscellaneous Business/Information Items

    A. Correspondence

1. Monmouth Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report
2. Independence Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report

    B. Task Log

10. Adjourn. Mancil moved to adjourn; Ed seconded. Motion passed by all board present.

Meeting adjourned 8:28 am

Next subcommittee meeting: 2/17 at 11:15 am.

Karin Johnson, Clerk

Minutes Approved: 03/03/2022