

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers  
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: February 5, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.**

The Board of Managers of the Two River Watershed District held their regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at the District Office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

Managers present included President Roger Anderson, Vice President Jim Kukowski, Secretary Jon Vold, Treasurer Darrel Johnson, Paul Olsonawski, Allen Brazier, & Daryl Klegstad. None were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane, and Roseau County Commissioner Mark Foldesi. Engineer Blake Carlson participated by phone call in.

The meeting was called to order by President Anderson. Anderson called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda and also the meeting minutes from January 2, 2014 regular meeting, January 28, 2014 special meeting, and January 29, 2014 joint meeting with the Roseau River Watershed District. Today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the previously mentioned meetings were approved upon a **motion** by Kukowski, **second** by Brazier, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Money presented the treasurer's report including the 2014 tax levies, fund balances, accounts listing, and checks and deposit detail.

The treasurer's report was then approved upon a **motion** by Johnson, a **second** by Vold, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

**Administrator's Report:**

District Administrator Money gave a report on the following and distributed a handout:

Watershed Restoration & Protection Plans; Due to personnel changes at Houston Engineering, Mark Deutschman will be replacing Stephanie Johnson as the project manager for both of the WRPP's that are on going.

- **Lower Red River WRPP** - MPCA is working on 'stressor ID's' and tabulating all of the data that was collected over the past year. Additional monitoring will be done in 2014. Houston Engineering will need to revise the conditions report based on any of the new information. A company called RESPEC has been hired by MPCA to put together a computer model to analyze flows and how pollutants enter and move through the system.
- **Two Rivers WRPP** - Houston Engineering is working on the conditions report. Once that is completed a public kickoff meeting will be held. A large amount of monitoring was completed in 2013 and some monitoring will continue into 2014.

RRWMB: The annual RRWMB March Conference will be held in Detroit Lakes on March 25 – 26 and Managers are encouraged to attend. Meeting info will be sent out at a later date.

The RRWMB 'Governing Documents' has been updated and copies will be printed and sent out to each District. The document will also be available on the RRWMB website.

Funding for impoundments and other WD projects was discussed. The RRWMB will once again be putting together a list of projects to bring to the legislature for funding requests.

The RRWMB has asked each District to put together a 5 year plan for upcoming projects and with the plan provide a cost estimate of how much money would be needed per year. This will help with the legislative agenda. Money stated he will need more information from the project engineer in order to provide this information.

District Ditch Report: Technician M. Thompson presented several ditch surveys that have been done and discussed recommendations for each as listed below.

- JD 10 Branch B - Over the past several years the District has been working to remove accumulated sediment at the rate of 2 to 3 miles per year. There are 4 miles left to do located east of US Highway 75. The Managers discussed the current ditch fund, the need to finish the work, and the details of the survey. Thompson was directed to complete the 4 miles of cleanout during the 2014 construction season.
- SD 49 - The survey that was done shows portions of the ditch have a small amount of accumulated sediment. Thompson was directed to complete the necessary work in summer 2014.
- Kennedy 6 – the survey shows there is very little maintenance work that would be needed. No action was taken with regard to doing any maintenance at this time.

Springbrook PL 566 Project #10:

- Construction is complete, and a cost breakdown was discussed. Total project cost to date is \$2,077,984.16. Of this amount, \$195,964.03 will be billed against the project benefit area, and the remainder is paid for either by the NRCS, DNR, or BWSR.
- The benefit area will be certified and parcel information will given to Kittson County. The County will begin collecting taxes on the project in 2015.

Manager Vold left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Water Quality Monitoring: Money discussed water quality and stream flow monitoring activities of the District. Ongoing streamflow data is important for the District to obtain, as it aids in flood prediction, impoundment development, and water quality analysis, among other things. A request was made to authorize District staff to spend up to \$5,000 on equipment and data collection. Several 'Hobo' data loggers will be purchased, and any remaining funds will be used for water quality monitoring during the 2014 season. The request was **approved** upon a **motion** by Kukowski, **second** by Johnson, and a **5-1 vote** of the managers.

MN BWSR one watershed one plan: The 2013 legislature passed a law directing the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources to work toward combining Watershed District, County, SWCD, and other local plans into one plan and doing them by watershed boundaries instead of political boundaries. The BWSR developed a map and is holding a comment period until the end of February. Several issues were discussed and Money was directed to send in formal comments from the Two Rivers WD.

Office Rent – Kittson County: The current lease that the District has with Kittson County for office rental space has expired. The County is raising the rental rate from \$6.00 per square foot to \$15.60 per square foot. The old lease was for a 5 year term and was signed in 2008. The new lease will be for a 10 year term. It was noted that this is the same rate as the Kittson SWCD, NRCS, and FSA recently negotiated with the County. Also, the office will be painted, new ceiling tiles will be installed, and the office will be carpeted. The lease agreement was accepted upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by Johnson, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers.

Big Swamp: Manager Brazier stated that he has been inquiring with some local landowners regarding a possible impoundment within the area the Big Swamp Project Work Team had indicated would be a good place to store water along lateral 1 SD 95. Money and Brazier were

directed to further meet with the landowners to see about land sale details, prices, and a possible purchase of an option to buy.

Envirothon: The Envirothon, an outdoor, hands on, learning competition for high school students, will be held on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Both Money and Thompson have been asked to participate as judges. Also, a letter funding request has been received from the Kittson SWCD. The Board of Managers authorized District staff to participate and made a \$100 cash contribution toward the event.

**Attorney's Report:**

Attorney Jeff Hane of Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm, & Albright, P.A., gave an Attorney's report regarding the following items:

Springbrook PL 566 Project #10: A right of way issue has arisen, as one landowner has decided to not enter into the RIM program, nor sign a separate right of way easement with the District. The landowner has already signed a preliminary agreement with the District, and has cashed a check from the District, but now refuses to comply with the terms of the agreement. Upon a **motion** by Brazier, **second** by Johnson, and **unanimous vote**, Attorney Jeff Hane was directed to take the necessary action against the landowner who is in breach of their agreement with the District.

**Engineer's Report:**

Blake Carlson participated by phone and reported on the impoundment investigations the Board of Managers had previously directed him to prepare. He indicated that he would submit a preliminary letter report regarding Klondike 1 / South as well as information the Board has requested regarding Klondike 2 / North project on or before February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Mark Foldesi:** Roseau County Commissioner Mark Foldesi addressed the Board of Managers regarding the following items:

- Regarding the culvert located at the intersection of lateral 1 SD 95 and lateral 8 SD 72 that has been a source of contention, Foldesi reported that the Joint Ditch Authority has voted to drop the matter and not pursue any further action.
- Commented on activities that had been done several years ago to alter lateral 8 SD 72 and inquired about the status of various issues. Money will research the watershed district minutes and records to determine the exact rulings of the District on the matter.
- Novacek Dike – this was constructed by the District under the ring dike cost share program. One neighboring landowner and the County had brought various issues before the Board of Managers over 1 year ago, and the District had made a decision on the dike and the operation of the culverts through the dike. Foldesi once again brought up the same issues that had been dealt with in the past, and the Board of Managers informed him that as long as the owner operates the gates on the culverts in conformance with the operating plan, the District has no problem with the dike. No action was taken.
- Foldesi has been approached by landowner Arne Clark, who has a problem with river bank sloughing. The District has taken up this issue in the past, and Clark was directed to the State Cost Share Program, administered by the Roseau SWCD. The District would be willing to assist with some survey work if Clark wants to pursue a remedy.
- Foldesi offered comments regarding an impoundment in the upstream areas of the Big Swamp. He stated that if the impoundment would prevent water from overtopping County Road #7, there may be county funding available to help with the impoundment. General comments were given regarding the value of an impoundment in this area.

Manager Vold returned to the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

- Members of the Board questioned Foldesi regarding the overflow area between the Roseau River WD and the Two Rivers WD. The ditches in this area were discussed and whether plugs could be placed in these ditches at ground level on the boundary line between the two watershed districts. Foldesi stated that he would discuss the matter with the Joint Ditch Authority and report back to the District.

**Permits:**

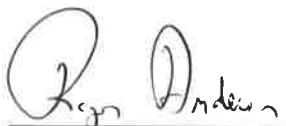
Upon a **motion** by Johnson, **second** by Brazier, and **unanimous vote**, the Board acted on the following permits. Conditions, if any, are listed on the permit sent to the individual.

<i>App. #</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Action</i>
2014-01	Demur Farms, Inc.	Davis 36	24" Culvert	Approve
2014-02	KCHD	CSAH 14 Norway Twp	road regrade & culverts	Approve
2014-03	MNDOT	Hwy 11 Robin to Karlstad	road regrade, ditching, culverts	Table

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

  
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Jon Vold, Secretary

  
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Roger Anderson, President