

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: April 28, 2016 @ 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 Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the District Office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

Managers present included President Darrel Johnson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Paul Olsonawski, Allen Brazier, & Gary Johnson. Vice President Jim Kukowski and Roger Anderson were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane, Engineer Blake Carlson, FSA Director Kelly Turgeon, and landowner Rick Solberg.

The meeting was called to order by President D. Johnson. Johnson called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda and also the meeting minutes from April 6, 2016. Today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the April 6, 2016 regular meeting were approved upon a **motion** by Brazier, **second** by G. Johnson, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers.

Treasurer's Report:

Money presented the treasurer's report including the fund balances, accounts listing, and deposit detail. It was noted that checks written for the month include check numbers 7866 through 7887 and electronic funds transfers to PERA, MN Dept. of Revenue, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, as reported and contained within the report.

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

Land Management: Kittson Farm Service Agency Director Kelly Turgeon was in attendance to discuss lands owned by the TRWD located in Klondike Township, Kittson County. Several parcels that were in the CRP program expired from the program in 2015. These parcels had crop base acres, however if they do not continue to be farmed, the bases will be removed and the land status will convert to noncropland. If it continues as cropland, it will need to have an active farming status, either crops or hay / pasture. Also areas that have grown up to brush will have to be maintained. There is approximately a 1 year window / grace period to keep the base acre ag-land status.

The Board discussed several parcels and how to proceed. An offer has been received for rental of 320 acres for hunting. If the offer is accepted, the cropland status would be removed. The offer for hunting land was tabled, and Attorney Hane was directed to write a draft hunting lease agreement. All interested parties will be notified that the matter is tabled and will be brought up again for consideration at the June 1 TRWD Board meeting.

Another offer has been received for rental of all of the lands expiring from CRP for agriculture. The Board considered options and discussed the matter. The opinion of the Board is that for ag-lands, the rental / income should at a minimum be equal to the tax cost plus 10%. Money was directed to contact the bidder and counter offer all ag-lands at this rate.

Administrator's Report:

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

Legal Ditch Report: RCD #4, KCD #10, and Soler #4 will be surveyed this coming summer to determine whether any maintenance is needed to remove accumulated sediment. In addition, brush spraying

should be done on JD 10, SD #49, the Middle Branch Prj., and the North Branch Prj. All other ditches and projects will be inspected for blockages, erosion, and vegetation management.

Program Report:

Watershed Restoration & Protection Plans;

- **Lower Red River WRAPS** - Houston Engineering is working on a wind erosion model, the TMDL report, and the WRAPS report. Once these are done, a JPB meeting and a TAC meeting will be held to review and comment. A public hearing is required as well, and then it will all be submitted to the MPCA for final approval. The process is to be completed by the end of June, 2016.
- **Two Rivers WRAPS** – A Stressor ID report has been drafted by the MPCA, and this is currently under review. Once it is approved, Houston Engineering will be following up with the TMDL and WRAPS reports. The process is to be completed by July 2017.

Project Report:

Ross #7: One renter has decided not to renew his contract. Another operator has agreed to take on a portion of the rental acres, and Money is looking for someone to rent the remaining vacant acres.

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- NRCS / PL566 – work has started on the Plan and Environmental Assessment that is required through the NRCS PL566 process. There are 6 steps to be completed, and 2 of the 5 items in step 1 are complete. It is expected that the process will take 1 to 2 years.
- Land Management – a request was received from a renter for a lower rental rate for 2016 because of reduced income on the parcel. Upon discussion, the Board decided not to accept the request.
- A Big Swamp Project Work Team meeting needs to be scheduled in order to provide updates to the planning process and to satisfy the NRCS checklist items under the PL 566 process. It was decided to hold the meeting toward the middle of June, 2016.

Polonia Clean Water Retention Prj. #12: NRCS has proposed a “75%” completed plan, and they are requesting input from the TRWD. B. Carlson will cover this in detail in his report.

Legislature: An update from MAWD was distributed. Bills have cleared committees in both the House and the Senate for the KCWRP #11 land exchange with the DNR. The buffer bill has cleared both the House and Senate, and appears it will be signed by the Governor. A bonding bill has been proposed by the House and by the Governor, and we are awaiting the Senate version. It is hoped that around \$20,000 million can be approved for flood damage reduction projects.

Envirothon: Staff participated in the annual ‘Envirothon’, which is an outdoor, hands on competition for high school students to test their knowledge in science, conservation, and natural resources. 26 teams from area high schools competed, with 2 teams from Tri County and 1 team from Kittson Central advancing to the State Competition.

Buffers: The MN DNR has completed a draft map of all the watercourses that will be subject to the Buffer law. They are asking for review and comment. At first look there seems to be a few mistakes, and staff will be preparing and submitting comments.

RRWMB: The long time RRWMB – DNR liason, Dan Thul, will be retiring this summer. He has been the contact point for the RRWMB with regard to the Technical Advisory Committee, and for many various other committees. The DNR has introduced his replacement as Henry Van Offelen.

Attorney's Report:

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

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11: Hane reviewed "Task Order #3" which was provided by HDR Engineering. This task order is with regard to the preparation of the Engineer's Report. Upon review and approval and consideration of Hane's comments, the Board approved the District entering into the contract, and President Johnson signed the document.

Engineer's Report / Polonia CWRP #12: Engineer B. Carlson of WSN Engineering reported on the plan the NRCS has presented for their 'Wetland Reserve Program' located on land owned by the District located in Polonia Township, Roseau County. Their plan is to install a perimeter dike to restore wetlands and provide about 1,060 acre feet of floodwater storage. NRCS would like the TRWD to determine if they would like outlet structures included, and also inlet dikes and structures. Upon discussion, the Board of Managers indicated that at a minimum outlet structures should be designed and made a part of the project. Inlet ditches could be added at a later date. Upon a **motion** by G. Johnson, **second** by Olsonawski, and **unanimous vote**, it was approved to hire Carlson (WSN Engineering) to design 2 outlet structures and to review, approve, and provide comments to NRCS regarding their dike design. Because the project could provide significant local benefit to drainage, the Board specified that local landowners will be notified and informed of the options that will become available once the project is in place.

R. Solberg: Landowner Solberg was in attendance to discuss 3 permit issues that have arisen because of projects that he has undertaken, as listed below:

- NW NW Section 2, Barto Township: A permit was previously approved to Solberg to attach a trap on the north end of an existing culvert in a private driveway. A trap was attached however the design of the trap is an internally attached trap, and as such it effectively reduces the size of the existing culvert. The issue was referred to the permit committee for review and consideration.
- NE NE Section 2, Barto Township: A permit was previously approved to Solberg to attach a trap on the north end of an existing culvert in a field crossing. A complaint was received that the culvert had also been lowered. Upon a field investigation, it was confirmed the culvert was lowered, and in addition the 18" culvert had been replaced with a 24" culvert without any permit approval. Solberg indicated that he would submit an application for the work along with the required after the fact permit fee.
- W ½, SW ¼, Section 31, Moose Township: Ditch work was done in an existing township road ditch. Photos were submitted showing clay material in the spoil pile, indicating the ditch was deepened beyond its original constructed grade and cross section. No culverts along the length of work had been altered. Upon **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by D. Johnson, and a **4-1 vote**, it was determined that a permit was not needed for the work that was done because it viewed as maintenance and not an improvement of a ditch.

Permits:

Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Olsonawski, 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>
2016-07	KCHD / Pemberton	Mckinley 5	ditching, culverts	Approved
2016-08	BNSF	Davis 31	railroad grade	Approved
2016-09	Dawn Kasprowicz	Deerwood 14	30" cmp crossing	Tabled
2016-10	Mike Jorgenson	Moose 19 & 30	install traps on culverts	Approved
2016-11	Rick Sikorski	Skagen 6	increase clvert size to 48"	Tabled

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

Attest:


Daryl Klegstad, Secretary


Darrel Johnson, President