

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers  
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: July 6, 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 Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at the District Office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

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

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane, Engineer Blake Carlson, Engineer Nate Dalager, KCHD Engineer Kelly Bengtson, Landowners Russ Anderson, Mark Melby, Vern Langaas, George Hanson, and Mike Jorgenson, Enbridge Energy Representatives Jennifer Maleitzke, Paul Lehman, & Meg Morley, and Roseau Co. Commissioner Mark Foldesi.

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 June 1, 2016. Today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the June 1, 2016 regular meeting were approved upon a **motion** by Brazier, **second** by Klegstad, 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 7913 through 7933 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 Kukowski, a **second** by Anderson, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

**Administrator's Report:**

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

**Legal Ditch Report:** Discussion was held regarding ditches that need cattail and brush spraying maintenance. Upon a **motion** by Kukowski, **second** by Brazier, and **unanimous vote**, quotes were accepted from Larson Helicopters to spray 8.5 miles of ditch for cattails at \$380/mile and 14 miles of ditch for brush at \$493/mile. Head Technician Thompson was directed to contact Larson and coordinate the spraying.

Beaver trapping and beaver dam removal is being done on the Sprinbrook #10 project. A trapper was hired and also Kraulik excavating has been hired to remove beaver dams. These efforts have somewhat been hampered by the recent rains and high water.

Several ditches are scheduled to be surveyed this year, however the rains and high water have delayed this process.

A problem was reported to the District on the Springbrook #10 project. A landowner has added earthen material to the dike in an area of the designed overflow section. This could cause the project to act differently than originally designed, and could cause erosion problems. District staff were directed to investigate the issue and if necessary contact the landowner to correct the problem.

The MPCA has closed out the oil spill incident on Kittson County Ditch #10. There is some residual oil sheen in the area, but it was determined not to be hazardous.

**Program Report:**

*Watershed Restoration & Protection Plans;*

- **Lower Red River WRAPS** - A technical advisory meeting was held, and the draft WRAPS and TMDL documents were discussed.
- **Two Rivers WRAPS** – A technical advisory meeting will be held in July or August, once the draft WRAPS and TMDL documents have been written.

**Project Report:**

*Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:*

- Manager D. Johnson and Head Technician Thompson made a site visit and obtained some elevation information with regard to maintenance on existing field ditches. They recommend maintenance activity at this time on the one mile between sections 22 & 23 of Klondike Twp. Randy Emanuelson is available for hire and his cost is \$125/hour for an excavator. Upon a **motion** by Anderson, **second** by Brazier, **and unanimous vote** of the Board, Emanuelson was hired at \$125/hour to clean out 1 mile of drainage ditch.
- Work is being done regarding the legislation recently passed directing the DNR & TRWD to work jointly to prepare a fen management plan. TRWD & DNR staff made a site visit and monitoring wells are being installed to determine groundwater vertical and horizontal flows. Equipment is needed to continuously log water elevations, at a cost of approximately \$3,000. This expense can be covered 70% by the USDA/NRCS PL566 grant recently awarded to the District. Upon a **motion** by Brazier, **second** by G. Johnson, and **unanimous vote** of the Board, authorization was approved to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase 10 'Hobo' data loggers.
- Engineer Nate Dalager presented information on project alternatives. One item that can begin at any time is the collection of soil borings. These are necessary to determine soils and soil stability in areas where diking and ditching will take place. It will also be valuable information when designing the moist soils management units, analyzing groundwater movement, and other project features. Quotes have been received from various companies, and upon a **motion** by Anderson, **second** by Brazier, and **unanimous vote** the quote from Braun Intertec for \$32,382.50 was accepted. Dalager was directed to order the soil borings to begin as soon as possible.
- A 'Big Swamp Project Work Team' was held and also a public meeting was held, both in Badger, MN on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Project details were discussed at both meetings, including both flood damage reduction and natural resources enhancement features of the project. Permits were discussed, in particular the USACE permit process and the state of MN environmental assessment worksheet. Comments from the public were received and discussed.
- Administrator D. Money has been working on the environmental review. This includes the state Environmental Assessment Worksheet, the federal PL 566

Environmental Assessment / Plan, and permits like the USACE, DNR, and SHPO permits.

*Polonia Clean Water Retention Prj. #12:*

- Engineer Blake Carlson reported that he has been working with the NRCS to design and plan two outlets structures for the project. One would be for the northern part of the impoundment, and the other the southern part. They both would discharge into lateral 1 State Ditch #95.
- Discussion was held regarding an inlet that would be needed to allow water to enter the site. An alternative use authorization would be needed from NRCS for this. The District at some point in the future will hold a meeting with the area landowners to get input and hold discussion on the inlet.

**August Meeting Changed:** The next regular board meeting is for August 3, however a regional meeting on buffers has been scheduled for the same day by the Board of Water & Soil Resources. Due to the pending harvest and also other scheduling conflicts, the August meeting was rescheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the District office.

**Legislative Update:** Updates from both the Red River Watershed Management Board and the MN Associations of Watershed Districts were given with regard to the recent legislative session.

**Buffers:** A packet of information was distributed regarding the buffer law. The DNR buffer mapping process is nearing completion. Also, the BWSR and the local government roundtable will be holding informational meetings the first week of August.

**Attorney's Report:**

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

**Permit Policy:** Based upon discussion at last month's Board meeting, Hane has prepared a draft policy statement to use when determining whether a water related work is maintenance as opposed to an improvement. A list of 6 suggested criteria were proposed and discussed. The Board tabled action on the draft policy until the August meeting.

**Petition to Improve KCD #21:** Administrator Money received a petition and bond for the improvement of KCD #21, and forwarded it to Hane for review to make sure it meets the requirements of MN Statute 103E. Hane pointed out items that need to be addressed. Money will contact the petitioner to sort out the discrepancies.

**Right of Way SD 49:** A question has been asked by a taxpayer whether ditch right of way can be used for access to private lands. Hane reviewed the question and determined that a ditch authority cannot allow the general public to use ditch right of way for public use. However, the individual may pursue other means, such as submitting to the Township to establish a cartway along the same corridor.

**Enbridge:** Representatives of Enbridge Energy were in attendance to provide information on an upcoming project they are contemplating to remove one line from service, and replace it with a new line. Pipeline safety and programs were also presented and discussed.

**M. Jorgenson:** Mike Jorgenson addressed the Board regarding water issues he is experiencing in the vicinity of Moose Township sections 19 and 30. He discussed poor farm drainage and upstream drainage coming to his land. He indicated he is considering submitting a permit application for ag dikes to protect his parcels.

**Dewey – Lind Twp water issues:** Russ Anderson, Mark Melby, and Vern Langaas addressed the Board regarding water issues in the vicinity of Dewey Township sections 35 & 36. Roseau County Commissioner Mark Foldesi was also in attendance regarding the matter.

- The group mentioned that the South Branch Two Rivers between Roseau County Ditch #4 and the Roseau-Kittson County line has become plugged. They stated that trees, brush, and sediment is restricting water flows and water that is in the Two Rivers (State Ditch 91) between the City of Greenbush and Roseau County Ditch #4 backs up and causes flooding. Discussion was held regarding what could be done and what entity would be able to work on the issue. It was noted that there is no entity responsible to do any work on natural watercourses like a coulee or a river, and it would generally be up to individual landowners to do such work. Depending on the type of work, a permit from the DNR may be needed. It was also noted that in the past when funding was available, the Two Rivers Watershed District has removed log jams from sections of the river, and that is something that could be looked at again.
- The group discussed a block that presently does not allow water to flow north from section 1 of Lind Township into section 36 of Dewey Township. Mark Foldesi stated that the ditch on the east side of the Township road in Dewey sections 25 and 36 has recently been declared by the County as a lateral to State Ditch 91. The group of landowners would like to see the block removed and water allowed to flow north. The Board indicated that the legal ditch proceedings to establish the lateral should have included plans that show a ditch design with a grade and cross section, and so the ditch can be maintained to that grade and cross section without a permit from the District. If something is contemplated that is different from the ditch plans, then a permit most likely would be needed prior to any work being done. Attorney Jeff Hane has recently requested the ditch plans from Roseau County, but no survey or design plans have been provided. Manager Brazier indicated that there is a 42” culvert one mile to the north, and that the block should not be opened any larger than what the ditch to the north can handle. The Board of Managers asked that Roseau County provide the ditch plans prior to doing any work.

**G. Hanson:** George Hanson was in attendance to discuss water and drainage issues in Richardville Township in Kittson County. He indicated that several square miles that are currently within the boundary of the Joe River Watershed District actually drain into the Two Rivers Watershed District. He and other landowners would like to do some drainage improvements, but boundary issues and ditch benefit areas need to be worked through. The TRWD will discuss the boundary issue with the Joe River Watershed District.

**Permits:**

Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **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>
2016-23	Lance Hapka	Norway 8	crossing/ 48"	Approved
2016-24	Arvin Sundby	Deerwood 31	Tile	Approved
2016-26	Scott Nelson	Richardville 20	sub irrigation	Tabled
2016-28	Alex Moore	Hallock 5	ditching, lower culvert	Approved
2016-29	Clifford Steyn	St. Joseph 6	ditching, culvert ATF fee	Approved
2016-33	Mike Jorgenson	Moose 29	trap	Denied
2016-34	Terry Osowski	N Red River 36	tile	tabled more info
2016-35	Hampden Twp	Hampden 14	enlarge culvert	Approved

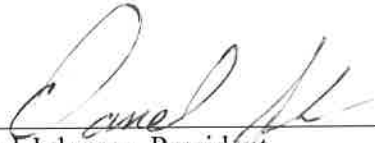
The following permits have been or are under review by the permit committee.

2016-22	Lance Hapka	Norway 9	xing	review pending
2016-25	Blake Nelson	Richardville 30	xing	approved
2016-27	Hallock Coop Elevator	Skane 1	xings (x3)	approved
2016-30	Blawat Farm	Barto 16	driveway, ditch	approved
2016-31	Blawat Farm	Barto 5	xing	approved 18"
2016-32	Teien Twp	Teien 11	ditching, culverts	approved
2016-36	Mark Foldesi	Barnett 9	xing	review pending
2016-37	Mark Foldesi	Skagen 31	side water inlet	review pending

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

Attest:

  
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Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

  
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Darrel Johnson, President

