

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: October 31, 2018 @ 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, October 31, 2018 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, Roger Anderson, Gary Johnson, Bruce Anderson, and Rick Sikorski. None were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Joel Muir, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm & Albright, P.A.), Engineer Nate Dalager (HDR Engineering), EIT Jake Huwe, Engineer Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), Rich Slagel & Chad Engels (Moore Engineering), Ryan Schwenzefeier, Merle Schwenzefeier, Jeff Langan (Houston Engineering), Mark Melby, and Vern Langaas.

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 annual meeting minutes from October 3, 2018. Today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the October 3, 2018 regular meeting were approved upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers.

The Board welcomed Rick Sikorski who was appointed by Roseau County for a 3 year term on the Board. He has replaced Al Brazier. This meeting is Gary Johnson's last meeting, and he will be replaced by Joel Muir who was appointed by Kittson County.

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 8601 through 8621 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 R. Anderson, a **second** by B. Anderson, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

Discussion was held regarding billings from Roseau Electric. This is for power to the gate at the Ross project. Because of the timing of their billing cycle and the need to approve bills at a regular board meeting, there is frequently a late fee. Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Sikorski, and **unanimous vote**, authorization was approved to set up automatic payments to Roseau Electric from the TRWD's checking account. The monthly bill ranges between \$46 and \$48.

Administrator's Report:

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

Legal Ditch Report: Beavers and / or beaver dams have been removed from the North Branch Project, State Ditch #49, Kittson County Ditch #10, and Springbrook #10.

Program Report:

One Watershed One Plan; The 'Steering Committee', made up of staff from Kittson & Roseau SWCD's, Kittson County, BWSR, and TRWD, met and discussed the proposed

workplan and budget for the plan. Cost is estimated at \$266,000 and the process will take 1.5 to 2 years to complete. Discussion is being held regarding hiring a meeting facilitator and a consulting engineer. TRWD staff will write the plan. A planning checklist was handed out and discussed.

MAWD Annual Meeting: The MN Association of Watershed Districts annual meeting will be held in Alexandria on November 29 – Dec 1, 2018. Roger Anderson and D. Money will attend. A meeting program was handed out and any Board members that are interested should contact D. Money to get registered on or before November 16, 2018.

Engineering Services: Engineering has been discussed at the past few Board meetings, and Money had been directed to get information and proposals from several firms for the Board to review and consider. Proposals for engineering services have been received from 6 firms. Money provided information from each one and presented a ranking sheet to help prioritize and score each firm. Several firms were represented and each were given the opportunity to speak. The Board of Managers considered the information provided and tabled the matter.

RRWMB: The RRWMB report was distributed for information and review by the Board. The RRWMB has provided a questionnaire to each member district and is asking the districts to spend some time considering and answering the questions. The RRWMB is doing some strategic planning and will utilize the information provided during the planning process.

Hunting Policy on TRWD Owned Lands: With the upcoming deer hunting season, questions have been coming in regarding the District's policy for public hunting on land owned by the District. The current policy is to allow hunting on District land, but no motorized vehicles are allowed. A few parcels are rented out for hunting, and those are not open for public hunting.

It was discovered that a permanent stand had been erected at the Ross Impoundment. Since this has never happened in the past, it is now apparent that a deer stand policy needs to be considered. After much discussion, the Board of Managers upon a **motion** by G. Johnson, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote** decided that the District's policy will be the same as the DNR policy for state Wildlife Management Areas, which is published in the MN deer hunting regulations. Therefore, the permanent stand that has been erected at the Ross Project must be taken down and removed. Money will contact the owner of the stand and explain the policy.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- N. Dalager and J. Huwe presented information regarding engineering plans that they have been working on. This included proposed designs for the project layout, dikes, outlet structures, inlet structures, diked inlet, pilot channel, crossings, spillways, and other project features. A 5 phased approach was recommended.
- A public informational meeting is scheduled for November 14th at Lake Bronson State Park. This will be an opportunity to present project information, answer questions, and get feedback from landowners and other stakeholders.
- D. Money discussed permits that will be needed. Work has started on the US Army Corps of Engineer's wetland permit. An environmental assessment worksheet will be necessary, as will a state of MN wetland conservation act permit. A proposed timeline and schedule was discussed.

- Land exchange with DNR was discussed and this process will start in the near future. DNR has indicated their preference regarding state trust lands, and also with lands they acquired with federal funding. A proposal will be drafted and submitted to DNR for review and comment.
- Manager D. Johnson indicated he would like to see the District perform some maintenance work on existing ditches located in the interior of the project. These have become silted in and need to be cleaned out. Technician Thompson is doing survey work to determine the extent of the maintenance needed. Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Olsonawski, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, authorization was given to hire a backhoe to perform the cleaning as determined by M. Thompson.

Polonia Clean Water Retention Prj. #12: NRCS has bid the project and the contractor is just starting the project. Caroline Clarin from NRCS will give a full report at next month's Board meeting.

Schwenzefeier: Merle and Ryan Schwenzefeier addressed the Board of Managers regarding issues they are having with the outlet to a tile drainage system that the District has issued a permit for, numbered 1393. Their issues are that the tile, which is located upstream from their farmland, discharges into a watercourse which flows through their land. Prior to the tile they could farm this watercourse and drive through it from one side to the other. Now they cannot farm the watercourse, and it stays wet so they cannot cross it, effectively splitting their field into two pieces. This makes accessibility a problem for them and they submitted photos of the problem. They asked the Board to reconsider the permit that was issued. They stated they would not be in favor of future tile project that would discharge to this watercourse.

The Board indicated that this permit was issued in 2013 and that the appeal period has long passed. In addition, hearings were held in 2013 and Merle Schwenzefeier was present and was heard at the hearings. Alterations to the original permit application were made at the time, conditions were placed upon the permit that was issued, and the Board of Managers made 'findings of fact' regarding the permit, all of which is public record. The Board indicated that it would not reconsider the permit that was issued.

Roseau County Ditch #4 - M. Melby / V. Langaas: Melby and Langaas addressed the board with water issues they are experiencing along Roseau County Ditch #4, of which the TRWD is the Ditch Authority. They stated there is ag land and a township road that undergo overland flooding along the ditch. District Technician M. Thompson recently did survey work along the ditch and stated that there is a few hundred feet of the ditch located north of section 9 of Lind Township that is above grade, however most of it is below grade. The Board deliberated the matter, and upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by Sikorski, and **unanimous vote** it was decided to clean the areas that are above grade but not the areas that are below grade.

Permits:

The Board acted on the following permits. The review and comments of the permit committee were carefully considered and taken into consideration. Any comments provided by members of the committee, road authorities, or affected landowners have been recorded and filed with the permit documentation in the District office. Conditions, if any, are listed on the permit sent to the individual.

App. #	Applicant	Location	Purpose	Action
2018-45	Scott Nelson	Granville 6	Tile drainage	Tabled
2018-46	Dean Carlson	Tegner 30	Diking	Approved
2018-47	Sander Dagen	Springbrook 10	Tile drainage	Approved


2018-49 by committee	Deerwood Twp	Deerwood 33	Replace arch with 36"	Approved
2018-51 by committee	Dewey Twp	Dewey 1	Crossing w/culverts	Approved
2018-52 by committee	Ben Diamond	nortcote	Tile drainage	Approved
2018-53	James Dvergsten	Hereim 24	Crossing clvrt TBD	Tabled
2018-54 by committee	Deerwood Twp	Deerwood	2 - 18" culverts	Approved
2018-55 by committee	Tom Dokken	Hampden 15	crossing with 24" cmp	Approved
2018-56 by committee	Hallock Elevator	Skane 1	30" Culvert / trap	Approved
2018-57	Craig Halfmann	Springbrook 17	24" in dry crossing	Tabled

Discussion was held regarding the ongoing appeal / lawsuit with Mike Jorgenson regarding permit application 2018-10, which was denied by the Board. Jorgenson has submitted an amended proposal asking for an 18" culvert to be placed in a crossing. The permit committee recommends that instead two 21" x 15" metal arch pipes be approved, due to the upstream drainage area and other factors as documented in the application file. Because there are upstream unresolved permit violations, the committee recommends a plate be welded over one of the culverts to effectively prevent flows from entering it, but that the plate be removed once the upstream violations are corrected. This would protect the Jorgenson property but ensure that once the violations are corrected the plate be removed and the crossing will have the full capacity that is needed. Upon a **motion** by Sikorski, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote**, the recommendation of the permit committee was approved.

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

Attest:


 Darrel Johnson, President


 Daryl Klegstad, Secretary