

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: December 4, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m.**

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District held their regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at the District Office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, Minnesota.

Managers present included President Paul Olsonawski, Vice President Roger Anderson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Joel Muir, Bruce Anderson, Rick Sikorski, and Scott Klein. None were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm & Albright, P.A.), Engineer Nate Dalager (HDR Engineering), Engineer Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), Carter Novacek, Senator Mark Johnson, Kittson County Commissioner Darrel Johnson, and Shawn Anderson from the Kittson County Highway Department.

The meeting was called to order by President Olsonawski. Olsonawski then called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda and the regular meeting minutes from November 6, 2019. Today's meeting agenda and the November 6, 2019 regular meeting minutes were approved upon a **motion** by Sikorski, **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 8933 through 8955 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 B. Anderson, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

Administrator's Report:

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

January 2020 Meetings: The Regular Meeting for January 2020 and the Annual meeting for 2020 fall on January 1st, 2020 which is the New Year's Day holiday. The Board of Managers changed the meeting date to January 8, 2020 with the Annual Meeting to be from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and the Regular meeting to begin at 9:00 am. The Administrator was directed to advertise and post the meeting notices as required by law.

MN Association of Watershed Districts: The MAWD annual meetings will be held on December 5-6 2019 in Alexandria. Managers R. Anderson and Muir have been appointed as voting delegates, and Administrator Money will also attend.

One Watershed, One Plan update: The 1W1P process is continuing, and the Policy Committee and Steering Committee have met. The "Land & Water Narrative" section of the plan was approved, and work has begun on identifying priorities for the plan. 5 resource categories with 26 issues were identified and ranked and approved by the Policy Committee. The next task will be to work on naming measurable goals. Monthly meetings will continue as work progresses.

Personnel Committee: Treasurer Muir reported that the Personnel Committee met to discuss employee wages. They did not meet with the employees. He handed out information on the Committee's recommendations as follows:

- Discontinue the 'step' scale that has been used the past 3 years and instead do a yearly evaluation of employee compensation.
- Approve a 3% cost of living increase to the 2019 salaries for each employee for 2020.
- Eliminate the clothing allowance that has been in place for the past 4 years. If employees are in need of specific gear, a request can be made to the Board in the future on a case by case basis.
- Change the current compressed 4 day 40 hour per week work schedule to a 5 day 40 hour week during the months of May through October and a 4 day 40 hour week for November through April.

Upon a **motion** by Sikorski, **second** by Klein, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, the bulleted items listed above were approved.

The Board of Managers also discussed salary limits and vacation usage and payout. No Board action was taken regarding these items and the policies were not changed for 2020.

Flood Summary: Money presented data, photos, and information regarding the historic flooding that took place between 9/20/19 and 11/30/19. He also highlighted the District's operation of the Nereson, Ross #7, and Horseshoe/Skull Lake Impoundments. Dalager presented computer model information and satellite imagery within the SD 72 and SD 95 subwatersheds. Discussion was held on the damages that occurred to public infrastructure, private property, and agricultural lands. Senator Mark Johnson was in attendance to hear the report. Discussion was held and information presented regarding the District's proposed 'Klondike Clean Water Retention Project' and how it would have reduced the damages to cropland and public infrastructure during this latest flood.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11: The Big Swamp Project Work Team NRE Subcommittee has been meeting monthly to produce a list of natural resources enhancements that could be implemented by the project. These NRE's will focus in on providing flow augmentation for fish and invertebrates, protecting and enhancing the prairie rich fen, and reducing sediment and nutrients. If approved through the mediation process, the inclusion of NRE's could garner up to 75% project funding from the State of MN, as opposed to 50%. The next meeting of the group will be held on December 12, 2019.

Detailed engineering plans for the 2-phased project should be 90% completed by February, 2020. Once that is done, the District will move forward with permitting components of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, Federal and State wetland permits, drainage ditch permits, and other project components.

Funding was discussed and the TRWD will be once again seeking bonding funding through the legislature utilizing the DNR's flood damage reduction program. The NRCS – RCPP program was discussed, and Money will be meeting with the NRCS and with the Red River Retention Authority to determine whether to continue planning under the RCPP program.

Carter Novacek:

Novacek was in attendance to discuss with the board flooding along Roseau County Road 7 and State Ditches 72 and 95. He was concerned about diking that was done which he says caused damages to public infrastructure. He questioned what the consequences of these actions would be regarding enforcement. He also expressed concerns about tile pumps that were running during the flood, contributing to downstream flooding. The board discussed the issues he raised, the *Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District*, tile and permit policies, and various enforcement actions that could be taken regarding each of the issues that were raised. Generally, if the District knows of a violation or receives a report of a specific rules infraction, it will be investigated by District staff and the Board may take

action on it. Novacek did not identify specific locations of infractions, and no action was taken at this time.

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 filed with the permit documentation in the District office. 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>
2019-33	Myles Efta Motion Sikorski, Second B. Anderson and Approved	Barto 21 B. Anderson and	18" center line culvert for an 18" culvert	Approved
2019-42	BNSF	Hampden 22	Bridge Replacement	Referred to Committee

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

Attest:



Daryl Klegstad, Secretary



Paul Olsonawski, President

