

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers  
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: July 10, 2019 @ 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 10, 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, Bruce Anderson, Rick Sikorski, and Scott Klein. Absent was Treasurer Joel Muir.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm & Albright, P.A.), Engineers Nate Dalager & Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Rob Sip (Red River Watershed Management Board), and Darrel Johnson (Kittson Co. Commission).

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 June 5, 2019. Today's meeting agenda was approved upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Sikorski, and **unanimous vote** of the Board. The minutes of the June 5, 2019 regular meeting were approved upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Sikorski, 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 8805 through 8832 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 Klein, a **second** by Klegstad, 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:**

- Spraying for noxious weed infestation is being done by District Technician Thompson on the Springbrook 10 project. Approximately 70 acres has been sprayed so far.
- Survey field work has been completed on Kittson County Ditch 7 and Kittson County Ditch 21 outlet and is in progress on Springbrook 10. Upcoming surveys will be done on Judicial Ditch 10 Branch B.
- The DNR contacted the District and has issued to the District a beaver trapping permit for nuisance beavers. In the past the District has required each beaver trapper to secure their own permit. The DNR prefers that instead of several permits, they will just issue one to the District.
- The Viewers are nearing completion of their report on Kittson County Ditch 21. Once the report is filed, a public hearing will need to be held. The Board set a tentative date for the hearing on August 7<sup>th</sup>, pending receipt of the report and ability to advertise the hearing as required by law.
- Annual ditch inspections are being completed, documenting the condition of the ditches and noting any erosion, sloughing, culvert damage, cattail or woody vegetation,

beavers, or other problems. FEMA has declared a Presidential disaster, and so far 2-3 sites have been identified as eligible for assistance. Under the declaration, FEMA will pay 75% of the costs to repair, and the State of MN will pay 25%. Money attended a FEMA kickoff meeting and is submitting the required paperwork.

- The annual inspection of the Nereson Impoundment will be done with Roseau County and the DNR on the morning of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the Ross #7 inspection will be done that afternoon. If any Board members would like to attend and tour these projects please let D. Money know.

### Program Report:

*One Watershed One Plan:* A timeline and schedule was handed out and discussed regarding the planning process. A series of 3 public meetings will be held in Greenbush, Kennedy, and Lancaster on July 17 – 18, 2019. These meetings are designed to describe the planning process and to collect comments from the public regarding drainage, flooding, erosion, water quality, and other water management issues. This input will be given to the Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees to be analyzed and used to prioritize issues within each subwatershed. This information will comprise about 1/3 of the 1W1P.

*MAWD:* The MN Association of Watershed Districts has asked for watershed districts to consider and provide resolutions to MAWD by September 1. Several ideas for resolutions were discussed, including permitting streamlining, funding for projects, and other administrative and program issues. Money will draft some resolutions for discussion at the August meeting.

*Ring Dike Cost Share:* The District has received one application for farmstead ring dike construction and cost share. A preliminary survey has been done and a cost has been estimated in the range of \$100,000. Available funding from the State and the RRWMB do not appear to be able to fully fund a dike at this price. Money will be meeting with the landowner to do a site visit, explain the program in more detail, possibly change the layout to reduce costs, and revise the plan if possible.

**Red River Watershed Management Board:** Rob Sip, Executive Director of the RRWMB, was in attendance to provide information and status report on activities of the RRWMB. He distributed the 2018 Annual Report and discussed items relative to the update of the Governing Documents, strategic planning activities, 2020 budget and levy proposals, staffing and office location, legislative initiatives, and the Drainage Work Group.

### Project Report:

*Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:* The Board of Managers discussed several facets of the project, including engineering, right of way, land exchange with the DNR, permitting, funding, and natural resources enhancements. Several factors are contributing to project delays. Among these issues are the proposed north outlet, potential impacts to the prairie rich fen, delays in the land exchange process, lack of funding and other items. The following points were discussed in order to streamline the project and reduce estimated costs while still addressing the project goals, purpose, and need:

1. North outlet to SD 72 Lateral 13 – this outlet crosses through the fen, and because of this the MN DNR is opposed to the idea of out-letting water to this existing ditch. Considerable time and effort has been spent on this issue. The Board discussed the pros and cons of eliminating the north outlet.
2. Westerly outlet to SD 50 – Similar discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of eliminating this outlet.
3. The land exchange process with the MN DNR was discussed. DNR originally stated this process would take about 1 year, but recently indicated it may take up to 2 years to complete. Application was made in January 2019, and 2 years is unacceptable to the

Board. The land exchange will affect where the dike will be placed, and therefore permits cannot proceed until the land exchange is certain. If the process can be completed or substantially completed by January of 2020 it would fit into the Districts plans and schedule: If however the process takes longer it is likely the District will withdraw the land exchange application and alter the dike alignment accordingly.

4. Acre feet of storage was discussed. Generally, the project will cost more to construct infrastructure needed to store more acre feet of floodwater. Discussion was held regarding reducing the proposed acre feet, but still being able to address the goals of providing an adequate outlet for Lateral 1 of SD 95, provide enough storage to achieve 20% reduction for the Two Rivers to peak flows on the Red River, and address crossover flooding from the Roseau River. The Board will consider reducing the size of the project to between 20,000 and 30,000 acre feet.
5. Costs were discussed. If the project is reduced to only construct current phases 1 and 2, the cost could be reduced to around \$18 million. Doing this would possibly make the project more palatable and more feasible to realistically achieve.
6. If the project was reduced in size, the width of the diked inlet could be reduced by 50% and its length could be reduced by 2 miles, which would also reduce costs. Agency review would conceivably take less time because it would be less complicated, and local landowners would be more acceptable of the various project features.

After considerable discussion and careful consideration of the above items, the Board directed the impoundment committee (consisting of Managers Olsonawski, Sikorski, and B. Anderson), District staff, and the project engineers to meet and discuss a new plan that would reduce the size, cost and complexity of the project and contain what is currently known as phases 1 and 2, and possibly phase 3. Phases 4 and 5 would not be considered further at this point but could be taken up again in the future after the new reworked proposal is constructed. The new plan should consider storing no more than 30,000 acre feet and no less than 20,000 acre feet of water. It should also consider alternatives for eliminating the north outlet, and potentially eliminating the westerly outlet. It is hoped that this new plan will be able to be funded and permitted in a more timely and efficient manner.

A meeting of the impoundment committee will be held at 8:00 am on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Badger, MN. The meeting will be followed at 9:30 am on the same day by a joint meeting of the TRWD and the SD 72/SD95 Joint Ditch Authority. A meeting of the Big Swamp Project Work Team's NRE subcommittee will be scheduled as soon as feasible after these meetings are held.

**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 duly noted and 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>
2019-10 by committee	Deerwood Twp	Deerwood 33	improve ditch, lower clvrts	APPROVED
2019-12 by committee	Roseau County	Soler 19	Replace 72"cmp W/2-60"cmp	APPROVED
2019-13 by committee	Craig Halfmann	Springbrook 17	install trap on existing 24"cmp	APPROVED
2019-14 by committee	Paul Hamann	Skagen 15	install 2 crossings w/24"cmp's	APPROVED
2019-15 by committee	Steve Sjostrand	St. Joseph 35	install crossing w/18"cmp	APPROVED

2019-16	Mike Kukowski by committee	Skagen 27	install 18"cmp through road	APPROVED
2019-17	Kittson Co Hwy Dept Committee	NRR 13	replace 42"cmp w/49x33cmpa	REFERRED To
2019-18	Kittson Co Hwy Dept Committee	Norway 36	Replace 2-88"span w/ 2 boxes	REFERRED To

Request for Permit Amendment:

The District has received a request to amend permits #1760 and #1761, issued to Enbridge Energy. The permits are to install crossings to access several project sites along the pipeline. The permits did not allow for dewatering activities, and this request is to add dewatering for the construction sites. Complete plans and specifications were submitted, and Thompson recommended approval. Upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote**, the permit amendments were approved.

Permit violations:

Moose 29 Landowner has been notified to rectify.	partial restoration of illegal ditch plug -
Moose 29 Landowner has been notified to rectify.	illegal tile inlet has not been removed -
Moose 29 Permit amendment was approved by committee and sent to landowner.	needs permit amendment for alternate location-
Poppleton 22 the original permit was issued several years ago to install an 18" cmp. A complaint was received and it was discovered that a 24" had been installed. The original permittee is now deceased, however the current landowner has agreed to weld a plate on the culvert to effectively reduce the opening to an 18" culvert. The Board waived all fees concerning this violation with the understanding the plate be installed in a timely manner.	installed 24" cmp but only permitted for 18" -

Permit Appeal: A letter from Lonnie Davidson's attorney appealing permit #1819B to Howell Farms has been received. The District's by-laws indicate that a public hearing be held to hear all comments for or against the permit. Notice of the hearing must be advertised 2 weeks prior and mailed to affected or interested individuals. The Board of Managers set the hearing to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 in the District office at Hallock, MN.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 upon a **motion** by Sikorski, **second** by R. Anderson, and **unanimous vote** of the Board.

Attest:

  
Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

  
Paul Olsonawski, President