

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: October 2, 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, October 2, 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. Treasurer Joel Muir was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm & Albright, P.A.), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Engineer Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), Roseau Co. Commissioner Roger Falk,, Kittson Co. Commissioner Darrel Johnson, Kittson Co. Commissioner Leon Olson, Luke Novacek, and Larry Kern.

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 September 4, 2019. Today's meeting agenda and the minutes of the September 4, 2019 regular meeting were approved upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **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 8879 through 8907 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 Sikorski, 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:

Hunting Policy on TRWD Lands: Hunting season has begun, and several questions have been fielded by staff regarding waterfowl hunting. The current District policy is to allow hunting on watershed owned lands, but no motorized vehicles are allowed. The MN DNR's regulations for wildlife management areas are adopted, which include regulations for deer stands. One item that has come up is the use of boats with trolling motors for waterfowl hunting at the Ross Impoundment. Discussion was held and upon a **motion** by Sikorski, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote** of the Board, it was re-affirmed to follow WMA rules published by the DNR and to allow electric trolling motors only on lands owned by the District at the Ross Impoundment.

Program Report:

RRWMB: The RRWMB will once again be active with watershed issues and funding during the upcoming 2020 legislative session. The RRWMB has received 3 resolutions and is asking all member districts for input and whether they support these resolutions. They deal with proposed MPCA rules relating to classification of drainage ditches, DNR permit

streamlining, and increasing the WD administrative levy. Upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote**, the Board approved of supporting the three resolutions.

One Watershed One Plan: Discussion was held regarding the Two Rivers Plus One Watershed One Plan process. Money explained the process being followed, with a Policy Committee, Advisory Committees, and Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has been working on identifying resource categories to include in the plan, resource concerns, and resource issues. An Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on October 24th to go over the resource issues and begin to rank and prioritize them within each of the 11 subwatersheds that have been identified. Recommendations from the Advisory & Steering Committees will then be presented to the Policy Committee.

FEMA/JD10B: Damages to JD 10 branch B were sustained in the spring flood, and FEMA inspectors will make a site visit later this month. It does not appear that FEMA approval will be made in time to hire a contractor and do the repair work prior to freeze up. Money will continue to work with FEMA on the funding.

MAWD: The MN Association of Watershed Districts will hold its annual meeting Alexandria on December 5-6, 2019. A block of rooms has been reserved and registration is now open. Any Managers who would like to attend should let Money know so that registrations can be made and rooms procured. This is an excellent opportunity for new Managers.

Flooding Updates: A series of large rainfall events have occurred, and the latest was on September 20. The Ross #7 impoundment gate was closed and the project is storing around 3,200 acre feet. The Nereson Impoundment is also operating and the gates are being tended by the MN DNR.

Several County Commissioners and landowners were in attendance to discuss flooding and TRWD operations. A suggestion has been made that a cut should be made in the county line road in section 1 or 12 of Klondike Township, Kittson County to allow water to flow onto TRWD owned lands. Concern was expressed that this is the future site of the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project, but no dikes or control structures are in place. Kittson County Engineer Kelly Bengtson indicated that without dikes or controls, a cut in the dike road could endanger roads and infrastructure to the west. D. Money noted how the water has moved through the area in prior floods, and the flood wave has not yet moved into this area. He also noted that prior policy of the TRWD during flooding is to not allow the cutting of any roads, unless there is an immediate risk to life and property. M. Thompson provided flooding observations and water level elevations that were surveyed at various locations.

After discussion and deliberation, the Board of Managers decided against the cutting of any roads or dikes.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Engineering – Jake Huwe reviewed 2 phased plan that was approved by the Board on August 7th, 2019. The Board has directed HDR Engineering to proceed with the final plans and specifications. Huwe stated that these will be 90% complete by February 2020.
- Land Exchange – Money received an update from DNR that the application is still being reviewed.

- Permitting – Work is continuing on the RCPP/PL 566 plan and environmental assessment. The deadline for completion is September 30, 2020. Review point 3 will be completed by the end of 2019, and review point 4 will be submitted by February 2020. Wetland permits are beginning to be prepared but will need to wait until February 2020 when the engineering plans are ready. The State environmental assessment worksheet will need to be prepared as well but also will need details from the engineering plans.
- Funding – The District has applied for state bonding money each of the past 3 years, but has not been funded. Funding has been received from NRCS, the RRWMB, and Enbridge Energy and the District has been expending its own funds on project development. The need for a better defined funding strategy is needed. At the current status, project design and permitting will be able to be completed, but construction will not be possible without a Federal or State funding commitment. Money will work on this issue and report at the November Board meeting.
- Natural Resources Enhancements – A meeting was held of the NRE Subcommittee of the Big Swamp Project Work Team. Another meeting is scheduled October 9th, 2019. In order to get approval for up to 75% funding from the state, specific NRE’s will need to be designed into the plan. There is general agreement on benefits to water quality and for stream flow augmentation. There is more work and discussion needed regarding benefits to the rich fen. Information was presented regarding the fen, water quality, habitat, flow augmentation, and Lake Bronson. The subcommittee will finish its work and provide recommendations by the end of 2019.

Other: Local pilot and County Commissioner Darrel Johnson has taken Board members and staff up in his plane several times to look at the flooding situation. It seems feasible that the TRWD reimburse him for fuel and expenses. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Sikorski, and **unanimous vote**, the Board authorized payment to Johnson in the amount of \$200.

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.

Permits Under Review

App. #	Applicant	Location	Purpose	Action
2019-31	Matt Anderson	Cannon 6	Culvert & Crossing	Tabled
0219-33	Myles/Devan Efta	Barto 21	18” center line	Tabled
2019-36	Mike Johnson	Deerwood 27	Crossing w/36” cmp	Approved

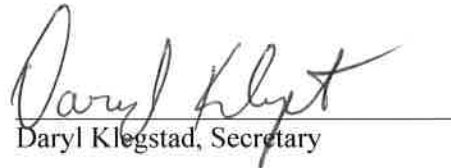
Motion Klegstad, **Second** B. Anderson – **unanimous**; Condition – culvert is not to exceed an open end area of 12 square feet.

Permits Approved by Committee

2019-32	Jason Sobolik	Teien 11	Remove 18" Install 24"	Approved by
Technician				
2019-34	Roseau Co. Hwy		Lower culvert to grade	No Permit needed
- Permit #1781 previously approved and issued				
2019-35	Claire Erickson	Stokes 1	driveway/18"cmp	Approved by
Committee				

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

Attest:


Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

Paul Olsonawski, President