

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: July 1, 2020 @ 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 1, 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room of the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN with social distancing guidelines in place. The meeting was also held via “GoTo Meeting” to allow for the public to attend electronically either by phone or by computer.

Managers present included President Paul Olsonawski, Vice President Roger Anderson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Joel Muir, Bruce Anderson, and Rick Sikorski. Scott Klein was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, Head Technician Matt Thompson, Attorney Jeff Hane and Ethan Johnson (Brink Lawyers), Engineers Nate Dalager & Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), and Engineer Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), landowners Eric Ristad, Richard Lambert, Matt Vig, Ryan Schwenzefier, Roseau County Commissioner Daryl Wicklund, and landowner Russ Anderson.

Participating electronically was Engineer Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering.

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 3, 2020. Today’s meeting agenda was approved upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **second** by B. Anderson and **unanimous vote** of the Board. The minutes of the June 3, 2020 regular meeting 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 9113 through 9133 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:

Legal Ditch Report:

- Kittson County Ditch #21 – the planned cleanout has been delayed due to the recent heavy rains and summer flooding. Kraulik Excavating has been hired to do the work and will begin once conditions are favorable. Money mentioned he had been contacted by one landowner who would like to see the project extended beyond the planned excavation. Due to a low fund balance the Board previously made the decision to only clean the downstream end. If additional work were to be done, the ditch fund would be at a deficit. This could be made up by levying a larger tax for 2021 and 2022. The landowner indicated willingness to pay a larger amount in order to get the cleaning done. Staff were directed to contact Kraulik for an estimate for the extra proposed work for discussion at the August meeting.
- Judicial Ditch #3 – as discussed at last month’s meeting B. Carlson was hired to design side water inlets along the ditch at tributary field drainage ditches. The Red River

Watershed Management Board and the Kittson SWCD have cost share funding available resulting in no cost to the landowners. The project would include the installation of side water inlet structures and a 5 foot grass buffer along the ditch to prevent soil from plugging the ditch. Money stated he has been in contact with most of the landowners and while none have declined to participate, none have signed up, even though it is little or no cost. The Board discussed that each landowner is contributing sediment to the ditch which increases the maintenance costs. Upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by Klegstad and a **5-1 vote** it was decided that the cost of cleaning the ditch will be directly billed to lands contributing the sediment.

- A spreadsheet was distributed showing all of the ditches and projects of the District, fund balances and expected upcoming maintenance activity. Beaver removal, brush and cattail spraying, and sloughing repair are the main activities needed. The Board authorized staff to inventory needed cattail and brush spraying on District ditches and hire aerial spraying where necessary.

Program Report:

One Watershed One Plan: The Policy Committee met and approved sections 3 (issues identification) and 4 (measurable goals). Section 5 is next to be written, which is the implementation activities in each subwatershed. For the next steps in the process, a budget and funding discussion will need to be held both among the Steering Team and Policy Committee.

Summer Flooding: Staff has been busy dealing with the extreme flooding the past 2 weeks. Parts of the District received 6-10 inches of rain or more within a 3 day period. Other parts of the District received over 3 inches. Severe flooding was occurring and the State of Minnesota has released disaster funds for Kittson County. Several sloughs have been noted on District ditches.

A report of residences flooding near the City of Karlstad was noted. These residences currently are not in the benefitted area of Kittson County Ditch #10 and do not have an outlet. The City fire department is asking that pumping be allowed to discharge into Kittson County Ditch #10 in order to relieve flooding to homes.

Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Muir and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, under MN Statute 103D an emergency was declared due to excessive rainfall causing flooding of residences, damage to public infrastructure, and damage to cropland. Emergency pumping was granted to Karlstad Fire Department to temporarily pump water into KCD #10 from an area not within its benefitted area to prevent damage to homes and property. The pumping must stop once flooding of the homes has been alleviated, as defined by TRWD staff.

District Monthly Meeting Day: Discussion was held at last month's meeting and was again taken up at this month's meeting regarding potentially changing the meeting day from the first Wednesday of the month to the first Thursday of the month. Recently the District's attorney, Jeff Hane indicated he has conflicts with court schedules on the first Tuesday. Also, HDR Engineering has had conflicts with other meetings on the first Tuesday as well. After discussion a **motion** was made by Sikorski, **seconded** by Muir and **unanimously approved** to move the District's regular monthly meetings from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Thursday of the month beginning on August 6, 2020.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Engineering – Jake Huwe and Nate Dalager of HDR Engineering discussed project components that they have been designing.
 - A review of phases 1, 2, and 2A was done and line item costs were discussed. These costs are \$13 million, \$7 million, and \$5 million respectively. It was noted that \$6.5 million has been expended on land and engineering to date.
 - New designs for the “Huseby” inlet and the “Mel Wang” inlet were introduced. It was suggested to eliminate the “Mel Wang” inlet and leave it as it currently is as a pipe with a gate on the north end. The “Huseby” pipe was proposed to be lowered and possibly add an additional pipe to provide better capacity to drain the upstream ag lands. The Board discussed these options and generally agreed with the new proposals.
 - Discussion regarding project Operating plans was held. A Big Swamp Project Work Team meeting should be held to discuss both the operating plans and the natural resources enhancements. Money will work on scheduling either an in person or on line meeting for late July or early August.
- Permitting
 - Wetland delineation field work has begun but is hampered by the large rainfall events. This work will continue and once completed the federal and state wetland permit applications can be prepared.
 - Once the wetland delineations are done substantial work on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet can be started. The tentative timeline for writing the EAW is to complete by the end of August so it can be submitted and go through the comment and review periods.
 - Permits will be need to alter the existing ditch systems and township roads, and various other permits will be needed along the way.
- Funding
 - An application was submitted to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to fund the portions of the project that provide habitat for fish and accomplish protection and enhancement of a rich fen. The Council received 53 applications and they will score and rank them by the end of July. We will be notified if we succeed in making it through the first round of review.
 - The 2020 legislature still has not decided on a bonding bill, and it is not known if or when this may be accomplished.
- Natural Resources Enhancements – these include the above mentions habitat components, and also include water quality improvements, flow augmentation, and fen protection/enhancement. These need to be presented to the Big Swamp Project Work Team for approval.

Permit Violations:

Hazelton Sections 16/17: During the recent flooding, work was done to raise the elevation of a Hazelton Township road between sections 16 and 17. Complaints were fielded and the District Technician did survey work and held discussions with those involved. Landowners Eric Ristad, Richard Lambert, Ryan Schwenzefeier, and Matt Vig were in to discuss the issue. Ristad had raised the road and in doing so allegedly caused excess water to both pond to the east and to overflow to the north and potentially impact Lambert, Schwenzefeier and Vig.

Discussion was held regarding the historical flooding impacts and current conditions on the site. Technician Thompson indicated that a permit is required from the District for the work done. Since none was applied for this is viewed as a violation. Alternatives were discussed and

discussion was held regarding adequacy of the outlet, upstream ponding of water, protection of a public road, and other variables. It was decided that prior to the next Board meeting all parties should get together to come up with a preferred alternative that is equitable and all could endorse. Ristad agreed to submit the permit fee and apply for a permit. Discussion was also held regarding a potential watershed district project to ensure the long term operation and maintenance. It was decided to hold one or more permit committee meetings with those involved to develop a project and a preferred alternative that can be accepted by all parties.

Daryl Wicklund: Roseau County Commissioner Wicklund discussed with the Board of Managers current and potential future impoundment projects. The flooding problems of last fall and this summer were noted, and solutions are needed. The Klondike Clean Water Retention Project will help, but other areas are in need of projects as well. He mentioned areas south of Badger, MN and east and south of Greenbush, MN in the State Ditch #91 system. The District is aware of these problem areas and may look at projects in these areas if citizens are interested and opportunities arise.

Russ Anderson: Anderson is a landowner in the SD 91 system and mentioned that the South Branch Two Rivers, downstream from SD 91 in the Pelan area, has blockages of vegetation and sediment. He noted that in the past the TRWD cleaned this area and questioned if something could be done. Money noted the past efforts of the TRWD were to use sentence to serve to cut out log jams. State funding used to be available for clearing and snagging, however that funding is no longer available and neither is the sentence to serve program.

Questions were asked as to the nature of the blockage, and Engineer Carlson indicated that because of the slope and cross section of the channel, cleaning in the Pelan area may not have any effect 2 to 3 miles or more in upstream areas. Engineer Dalager noted that any work in the channel beyond removing logs or beavers would require review and permits from the MN DNR. No action was taken by the Board 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>
2020-07	Butch Kraska	Poppleton 29	lower 48"; new 24"	Approved by Committee
2020-12	Darron Benson	Svea 20	field xing w/ 18"	Approved by Committee
2020-13	Brett Sobolik	Hampden 21	field xing no clvrt	Approved by Committee
2020-14	Richard Pat Collins	Deerwood 10	field xing w/ 24"	Approved by Committee
2020-15	Justin Osowski	Thompson 5	add 30" to xing	Approved by Board
Motion Muir, second B. Anderson – unanimous vote ; see findings of fact on file with permit application				
2020-16	Rodger Johnson	Springbrook 3	alter CR61 project	Tabled – pending info
2020-17	Brandon Clark	Deerwood 19	18" w/trap; drainage	Approved by Committee
2020-18	Jim Weleski	Poppleton 17	¼ mi drainage ditch	Tabled – pending info
2020-19	Svea Township	Svea 1	replace 24"&30" w/36"	Approved by Committee

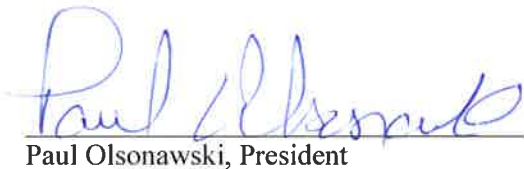
2020-20	Granville Township	Granville 20	increase culvert size	Approved by Committee
2020-21	Roy Frame	Mckinley 26	lower culverts; drainage	Denied
	Motion Olsonawski, second	R. Anderson – unanimous vote ;	see findings of fact on file with permit application	
2020-22	Terry Osowski	S. Red River 13	remove existing crossing	Tabled – pending info
2020-23	Teien Township	Teien 112	increase culvert size	Tabled – pending info
2020-24	KC Hwy Dept.	Hill 26	replace 36" & 48" w/ 73" span	Tabled – pending info
2020-25	Deerwood Township	Deerwood 27	install gate on in place 36"	Tabled – pending info
2020-26	Louis Cater	Davis 28	road w/ 18"	Tabled – pending info

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

Attest:



 Daryl Klegstad, Secretary



 Paul Olsonawski, President

