

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: Thursday, February 4, 2021 @ 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 Thursday, February 4, 2021. 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 in person included President Paul Olsonawski, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Bruce Anderson, Rick Sikorski, and Scott Klein. Vice President Roger Anderson attended electronically. Treasurer Joel Muir was absent.

Others present in person were District Administrator Dan Money and Head Technician Matt Thompson. Attending electronically were Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm & Albright, P.A.), Engineers Jake Huwe and Nate Dalager (HDR Engineering), Engineer Blake Carlson (WSN Engineering), Rob Sip (Red River Watershed Management Board, Mark Aanenson (Houston Engineering) and landowner Carter Novacek.

The meeting was called to order by President Olsonawski. Olsonawski then called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda, the annual meeting minutes from January 7, 2020, the regular meeting minutes from January 7, 2020 and the special meeting minutes from January 26, 2020. Today’s meeting agenda and the minutes annual, regular, and special meetings were approved upon a **motion** by B. 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 9285 through 9302 and electronic funds transfers to PERA, MN Dept. of Revenue, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, as reported and contained within the report. 2021 tax levies were reviewed and discussed.

Discussion was held regarding cd rates and options for investments. The District currently has one 12 month cd renewing at 0.4%. Rates were compared to various local banks, and it was consensus of the Board to let this cd renew for 12 months.

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: Information was presented to follow up on Kittson County’s desire to possibly turn over a few legal ditches to the Watershed District. Money presented maps of the ditches and their benefitted areas, their current fund balances, and amounts levied by the county for 2021. Questions were raised regarding benefit areas and benefit amounts. The District should be able to handle the added administration and inspection of these ditches without the need to hire any additional staff. The District will wait to hear back from Kittson County regarding their wishes and staff will keep in contact with County staff.

Program Report:

One Watershed One Plan: Discussion was held regarding the one watershed one plan progress. The plan is close to being finished and the Policy Committee will be discussing the plan administration. The decision will need to be made on whether to enter into either a collaboration or a joint powers agreement with the planning group. The group is considering a collaboration, however there are pros and cons for each. Attorney Hane discussed some of these and the Board of Managers tabled the issue for further review. The timeline was discussed and the plan will be submitted to BWSR in February for a 60 day comment period. The plan could potentially be approved by June 2021.

Several Managers expressed concerns regarding the 1W1P, the rigid standards, and questions on how BWSR will review this plan as it moves through the 10 year process. Money reviewed some of the pros and cons and included examples of how the plan is being written and some of the requirements. At times the resulting new plan is less pertinent to the Watershed District operations than its 2004 overall plan, however other aspects of this plan may open up funding opportunities for water quality grants. The new plan process and plan funding put forth by BWSR largely focuses on water quality and less on flood control and drainage issues. The Board of Managers indicated to cautiously move forward with the process and review and discuss the administrative agreements that will need to be approved.

Project Report:

North Branch Project – Skull Lake

A feasibility report has been received from the DNR regarding their recommendations for the outlet structure at Skull Lake. The project was installed in the late 1960's by the TRWD and is jointly inspected and maintained by the DNR, Kittson County, and the TRWD. TRWD engineer B. Carlson provided comments regarding the DNR's study and noted there are deficiencies with the DNR report and their recommended actions. The Board directed Money to write a letter to the DNR expressing these concerns and asking to hold a project team meeting in order to jointly discuss the matter. Carlson will provide a memo with his opinion to the TRWD.

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Permitting
 - Wetlands – M. Aanenson of Houston Engineering gave a report on the status of wetland permit applications with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources. The wetland delineation has been formally accepted by both, and pre application materials and information are being gathered and prepared. Actual applications will be submitted once the agencies have ok'd the pre application materials. We are currently waiting for information from the USCOE. Discussion will be needed by the board regarding the wetland mitigation/replacement plan.
 - Ditches – HDR Engineering, Attorney Hane and Money have been working on the application materials that will be submitted to the State Ditch 50, State Ditch 72, and State Ditch 95 ditch authorities to alter existing ditches and impound water on these ditches. Applications will be submitted in the next month, and the ditch authorities will need to schedule public hearings before making a decision.
 - Roads – Similarly, HDR, Brink Lawyers and staff have been working on applications that will be submitted to Township and County road authorities to alter public roads in and adjacent to the project. Once these are submitted a hearing will be held along with a site visit and then the road authorities can make their decision.

- Discussion was held in general regarding the plans and specifications and the effects of the impoundment to adjacent properties. A special meeting of the Board of Managers will be held on February 18th to discuss the project in detail.

RRWMB: Executive Director Rob Sip addressed the Board and gave an update on Red River Watershed Management Board activities. He gave a presentation on funding the RRWMB has provided to the Two Rivers WD dating back to the 1990's, data and reports the RRWMB has been involved with, water quality and the River Watch program, LIDAR data collection, lobbying at the MN Legislature for project funding, and various other activities.

Permit Update – Hazelton section 17:

Discussion was held regarding the permit issues in section 17 of Hazelton Township. This was the subject of the special meeting that was held on January 26th, 2021. The permit committee will follow up with data gathering and records research that was specified at the special meeting, and will present updated information and recommendations at the March 4th Board meeting. The Board will also consider and determine the appropriate after the fact permit fees to assess the applicant. A final design will need to be reviewed and a final permit issued in order to wrap up the process.

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>
2020-46	Middle River Fm	Lind 36; East Pk 1&12	Drainage; Culverts	Tabled
2020-76	Jamie Isane	Grimstad 17	install culvert in dry crossing	Tabled
2020-79	Blawat Farms	Soler 15	lower existing 24" cmp	Tabled

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

Attest:


 Daryl Klegstad, Secretary


 Paul Olsonawski, President

