

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: Thursday, August 4, 2022 @ 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 Thursday, August 4, 2022. The meeting was held in the District office in the Kittson County Courthouse, 410 S. 5th Street, Hallock, MN.

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

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), and Kurt Kraulik. Engineer Blake Carlson (Widseth) and wetland specialist Mark Aanenson (HEI Engineering) attended a portion of the meeting by phone.

The meeting was called to order by President Sikorski. Sikorski then called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda, which was then approved upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **second** by Klein and **unanimous vote** of the Managers. The regular meeting minutes, the public hearing on Judicial Ditch 10, and the public hearing on Kittson County Ditch 10, all from July 7, 2022, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by B. Anderson and **unanimous vote**.

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 9665 through 9686 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 Johnson, a **second** by Klein, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

Kittson County Ditch #7 Improvement:

Engineer Blake Carlson was contacted via electronic means and reported on the progress of his investigations pertaining to the Engineer's Report for the petition that has been received. Carlson has been holding discussions with two pipeline companies, Enbridge and Viking. Of issue is the depth of the pipelines as the ditch cannot be lowered in that area because the pipes need adequate cover over them and it is cost prohibitive to lower the pipeline.. Carlson presented information on the varying depths of 8 various lines and a proposed plan for the ditch with various alternatives. He is waiting for information from Enbridge before he can finalize a recommendation. The matter was tabled pending further information.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Wetland Permits: Mark Aanenson of Houston Engineering phoned into the meeting to discuss wetland permit status. A recent meeting between the District, HEI, DNR, BWSR, and Kittson & Roseau SWCD's was held to look at the proposed mitigation site and determine suitability to restore outstanding resource value wetlands. DNR provided input and questions arose regarding the probability of restoration given there currently are less desirable cattail and reed canary grass on the site.

Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of a restoration on the site. It was noted that a drone flight over the entire section could be of value in evaluating the site. Discussion was also held that more information is needed, and HEI could contact a wetland restoration expert who has background in restorations of this nature on peat soils in Minnesota. The project impacts to wetlands were discussed and approximately 340 acres of wetland credit is needed.

Upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Johnson, and **unanimous vote** of the Board, it was authorized to spend up to \$4,500 for a drone flight to provide photo documentation of the mitigation site. This will be used to interpret existing vegetation and inform the wetland restoration plan. It was also decided to work with the wetland specialist to determine the viability of using the site for mitigation.

- Environmental Assessment Worksheet: D. Money informed the board that DNR has provided draft comments regarding the EAW. Money, Huwe, and Aanenson have reviewed the comments, and some are deemed to be valid and some not. Money will put together a reply to DNR and a meeting will be set up to discuss the comments in detail. Once the meeting is complete the District will move forward with the EAW process, which will take one to two months.
- Funding
 - Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council: The MN Legislature approved the LSOHC recommendation to provide funding to the project in the amount of \$988,000. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by R. Anderson and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, authorization was approved for the President and the District Administrator to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the District.
 - RRWMB Step 3: Discussion was held regarding the need to either apply to the RRWMB for step 3 or request an extension. At step 3 a revised cost estimate and star value is needed, proof of all permit approval, and various other items. Money and Huwe will work on the needed information and report back to the Board in September. Because the wetland permits are lagging, it seems prudent to request an extension.
- Right of Way: No progress has been made lately on this issue. Several landowners have signed agreements, however several have not. Follow up letters were sent however no replies have been received. It was noted that right of way efforts will ramp up again after harvest when there will be more time to attend to this task.

Permits:

The Board acted on the following permits. The review and comments of the Permit Review Group (PRG) were carefully considered and taken into consideration. Any comments provided by members of the PRG, road authorities, or affected landowners have been recorded and filed with the permit documentation in the District office. Conditions, if any, are listed on the permit sent to the individual.

<u>App. #</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Action</u>
2022-10	Poplar Grove Twp - Motion Olsonawski, second B. Anderson – unanimously denied - Township will resubmit with updated information	Poplar Grove 3	Drainage	Denied
2022-19	Brian Dahl - Previously approved by the PRG - Conditions: needs tile agreement; no discharges when downstream flooding/gates required;	Springbrook 19	Tile	Approved
2022-21	Sander Dagen - Previously approved by the PRG - Conditions: needs tile agreement; no discharges when downstream flooding/gates required	Deerwood 20	Tile	Approved
2022-22	Brandon Kuznia - Motion R. Anderson, second Klein – unanimously approved - Conditions: needs tile agreement; no discharges when downstream flooding/gates required	Tegner 7	2 SWI; tile outlet	Approved
2022-23	Mike Olsonawski - Motion R. Anderson, second Johnson – unanimously approved - Conditions: needs tile agreement; no discharges when downstream flooding/gates required	North Red River 2	Tile	Approved
2022-24	Hallock Township	Hallock 20	Replace 1-30" w/3-30"cmp	Tabled

Permit application 2022-20 from Mike Olsonawski was discussed. It was noted that this permit application to install a new field crossing with a 24" culvert was approved at the July 7, 2022 meeting. In discussion with the applicant, it appears he no longer wishes to install a crossing at this location. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Olsonawski, and **unanimously approval**, the permit was revoked. It was noted that the applicant will be applying for a permit to install a crossing at a different location.

Manager Klein left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Administrator's Report:

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

Program Report:

MN Association of Watershed Districts:

- The MAWD summer tour and meetings will be held this year in Grand Forks ND / East Grand Forks MN. One of the tour stops will be at the TRWD's Springbrook Project #10. All board members were encouraged to attend. Money was authorized to attend the event at a cost of \$135 registration fee.
- MAWD is asking for potential resolutions to be submitted by September 1st. These resolutions will be acted upon by the MAWD membership at the annual

meeting in December and will be used to direct lobbying efforts. The Board of Managers indicated that a resolution should be submitted to work towards stable funding for the state Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

2023 Budget: The District is required each year to hold a budget hearing and certify their general levy and ditch levies to each county by September 15th. The Budget Hearing was set to be held on September 1, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the District office. Money presented a draft budget for review by the Board, and the Board directed Money to advertise the budget hearing as required by statute.

Meetings:

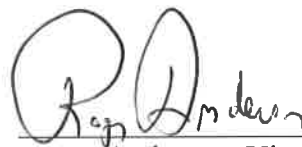
- Money attended a MN Farm Bureau meeting and gave a presentation about the TRWD's projects, monitoring programs, and activities. Representative Burkel was also at the meeting and discussion was held regarding recent bills affecting watershed districts. Money will be holding a follow up meeting with representative Burkel to discuss flood control impoundments and projects, issues of eminent domain and other powers of watershed districts.
- Roseau Overflows – Roseau County Engineer S. Slick has asked that one or more meetings be convened to discuss issues in the vicinity of Roseau County Road #7 relative to Roseau River overflow flooding be discussed. A meeting is scheduled for August 30th in the Roseau County Courthouse among representatives of Roseau County and the Roseau River and Two Rivers Watershed Districts.

2022 Construction:

- *FEMA Disaster Declaration* – FEMA has declared a federal disaster, however it is highly likely that the funding for hazard mitigation projects will not be authorized in time to be utilized this construction season. There are several ditch sloughs which need to be repaired now or risk further damage in spring of 2023. Upon a motion by Johnson, second by Olsonawski and unanimous vote, the Administrator was directed and authorized to immediately proceed with repairs to ditches and projects that sustained damage during this spring's runoff event. This includes work to Judicial Ditch #10 Branch B, Kittson County Ditch #21, and any other damages that are found as a result of inspections.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Attest:



Roger Anderson, Vice President



Rick Sikorski, President