

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers Of the Two Rivers Watershed District

Held: Thursday, January 5, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District held their regular meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023. 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, and Scott Klein. Secretary Daryl Klegstad was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Blake Carlson (Widseth), and landowner Kurt Kraulik. Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR 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 from -December 8, 2022, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Olsonawski 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 9776 through 9803 and electronic funds transfers to PERA, MN Dept. of Revenue, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, and MN State Retirement System as reported and contained within the report.

Discussion was held regarding investments of the District. D. Money noted that all investments must follow MN Statute 118A – deposit and investment of local public funds. It was noted that interest rates have currently been rising significantly and have outpaced current money market rates that the District currently has. Upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Olsonawski and **unanimous vote**, the Treasurer was authorized to invest up to ½ of the funds currently in the District's money market account. The Treasurer and the District Administrator were directed to research local options, preferably for a 6 month time period, and make the appropriate transaction.

The treasurer's report was then approved upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, a **second** by Olsonawski, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

Kittson County Ditch #7 Improvement:

Engineer Blake Carlson gave an update status report on the proceedings for improvement and the progress of completing the Engineer's Preliminary Survey Report. He gave a brief history of the project. In looking at possible options to accomplish the improvement, he analyzed construction of set back levies along the ditch and concluded that

they would not improve field drainage as desired. He then looked at a deeper wider ditch and purchase of flood easements along downstream affected lands. He noted that downstream flows would increase about 100 cubic feet per second.

Carlson proposed a ditch design to carry a 10 year event. A 2,000 foot section of the ditch upstream of the existing Enbridge pipeline would have a flat grade and be 40 feet wide, eventually transitioning to a 15 foot wide bottom. This alternative is necessary because of the elevation of some of the pipes and exceedingly high cost to lower them. He will prepare and submit his Preliminary Survey Report to the Board of Managers at their February 2, 2023 meeting. This will contain a preferred alternative and a cost estimate for the work. Once the report is received the District must forward it to the DNR for their advisory report.

Once the DNR advisory report is received, in order to move the project forward at that point, a new bond will be needed from the petitioners. Their original bond of \$25,000 has been used up on the proceedings to date, and according to statute a new bond would be needed. Once that is received, the District must set a date for the Preliminary Hearing, provide notice, and hold the hearing. The matter was tabled until the February 2, 2023 meeting.

Administrator's Report:

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

Program Report:

MN Association of Watershed Districts: MAWD will hold its annual legislative breakfast and briefing on February 15 and 16, 2023 in St. Paul. It will be important this session for the District to communicate with Legislators because of the funding the District is asking for through bonding and the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation grant program. Upon a motion by R. Anderson, second by Klein, and unanimous vote of the Board, District Administrator Money was authorized to attend along with any members of the Board who would like to go. Money will obtain lodging and registrations.

Special Meeting: Discussion was held on the need for a special meeting of the managers to discuss the District permitting policies and procedures, Rules of the TRWD, transition to a new engineer to replace Blake Carlson (who is retiring), and other projects of the District. A meeting was set to be held at 5:00 p.m. in the District office on Wednesday, February 18, 2023.

Other Meetings: Upcoming meetings were mentioned with regard to the NRCS MN State Technical Committee, a drainage conference, and the update of the District's water management plan.

Stream Gaging Program: An overview of the District's stream gaging and flow monitoring program was given. The District maintains over 25 locations to measure flows. A staff gage is installed at each location to monitor water levels, and automatic water level monitoring equipment is installed at over 10 locations. During a runoff event District staff visits these sites and uses a flow meter to measure and record the flows passing through each location. This data is used by the District and state and federal agencies to help predict flood elevations and crests, plan for future projects, and maintain baseline data.

Erosion Control Cost Share: Prior action of the Board created a policy to cost share with SWCD's on erosion control projects. The Board had established they would

cost share up to 12.5% of the cost, with the SWCD contributing 75% and the landowner 12.5%. The TRWD's annual cost is not to exceed \$15,000, however this could be leveraged with the RRWMB's water quality cost share at \$30,000 for a total of \$45,000 from the TRWD/RRWMB per year. Kittson SWCD has indicated they will provide some numbers for what is expected in the coming year. No action will be taken until the SWCD provides application information.

Ditches and Construction:

Roseau CD 4 Redetermination of Benefits: The Viewers for the project have indicated that they will be working to complete their report this winter and spring. Once the District receives their report a property owner's report will be completed and sent to the landowners and a public hearing will be held according to statute. The matter is tabled until the Viewer's Report is received.

FEMA 2022: KCD 21, JD10, and the Horseshoe Lake dam are still being reviewed by FEMA. Work has been completed on KCD 21 and 3 of 4 sloughs on JD10 have been repaired. No work will be done on Horseshoe Lake until FEMA has completed its review and a decision on funding has been made.

2022 Surveys: Technician Coffield is working to draw up surveys that were done on the Middle Branch Project and the North Branch Project. These will be presented to the Board upon completion of the survey reports.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- **Engineering:** Engineer Huwe called into the meeting and provided information on project design. He suggested a potential change to the diked inlet to allow more crossover floodwater from SD 72 to enter the project and provide a greater storage benefit. This would increase side inlets from an existing 18" culvert to a 48" culvert with flap gates at two separate locations (one located .25 mile east of Lateral 6 SD 72 and the other located .50 mile east of Lateral 6 SD 72. Huwe will prepare details of the proposal along with estimated costs and present to the board at a later meeting. It was noted this would need to be approved by the Board, and could affect permit applications that have already been submitted.
- **Right of Way:** Meetings will be scheduled with landowners who have not yet signed right of way agreements. Money and Huwe will hold as many meetings as possible the week of January 23rd.
- **Environmental Assessment Worksheet:** Money discussed the completion of the EAW and it is ready to be submitted to the Environmental Quality Board for 30 day public notice. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by R. Anderson and **unanimous vote**, the EAW was approved by the Board (acting as the RGU) and Money was directed to submit the EAW to the required local, state and federal entities.
- **Land –**
 - Several CRP contracts expired on lands that are rented out. These rental contracts will not be renewed and the land will be idle unless there is interest from any operators to rent it. A few

CRP acres remain on the project site, and will come out of the program in 2028.

- Funding – The RRWMB will be lobbying for a bonding bill in the legislature of around \$70 million. \$16 million to \$18 million of this would be for the KCWRP.

Juneberry Resiliency Flood meetings: Manager Sikorski brought up these meetings, which the last one was held in October. Administrator Money was directed to discuss with the Roseau River Watershed District and the Roseau and Kittson County Highway Departments to see about the next meeting and the next steps to continue discussions.


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.


<i>App. #</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Action</i>
2022-39	MNDOT	Hwy 32	overlay; culverts	Tabled
2022-45	Kittson Co. Hwy Dept	CSAH 10	Tegner Twp ditching; culverts; paving	Tabled
2022-46	Dion Wikstrom	Deerwood 3	crossing w/18" cmp	Tabled
2023-01	Mark Melby	Dewey 13	tile drainage	Tabled

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

Attest:



Roger Anderson, Vice President



Rick Sikorski, President