

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Managers  
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.**

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District held a special meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024. The meeting was held in the District office in the Kittson County Courthouse, 410 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Hallock, MN.

Managers present included Vice President Roger Anderson, Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski, Bruce Anderson, Scott Klein. Manager Mark Langehaug arrived at 11:00 a.m. President Rick Sikorski and Secretary Daryl Klegstad were absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers) and Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering).

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Anderson. Anderson noted that the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss in detail all facets of the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project. The meeting agenda was approved as previously mailed out.

**Permits:** D. Money reported on status of permits. Currently 14 of 18 permits have been approved. The US Army Corps of Engineers permit is nearly complete. J. Huwe commented on the DNR Dam Safety Permit. He has been discussing details with the DNR, and soon will be submitting the full permit application. The two other permits will be a road alteration permit from Soler Township and a construction stormwater permit from the MPCA.

**Funding:**

- **Current funding** – Current committed funding sources include the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (\$2.9 million), Red River Watershed Management Board (\$7.2 million) and Two Rivers WD (approximately \$3.8 million). The new project cost estimate for construction phases 1, 2, and 3 is just over \$33 million. Several funding mechanisms are expected to be utilized and applications will be made to the State flood hazard mitigation grant program and other sources.
- **Sell Excess Lands** – D. Money discussed with the board a potential funding source would be to sell TRWD owned lands that will not be a part of the project. Currently the District owns about 2,580 acres located outside of the impoundment. Some is utilized to provide a rental income, some is enrolled in the federal wetland reserve program, and some is currently idle. The sale of these lands could reduce tax costs and provide sizeable project funding. The Board of Managers requested that Money create a map of the locations and the current land use to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Right of Way:**

- **Status:** J. Hane and D. Money discussed right of way. All but 2 private landowners have agreed to easements with the District. Hane will be contacting one of these with a new offer. The other landowner has not indicated a willingness to enter into an agreement and the Board of Managers previously authorized to proceed with eminent domain. Hane described the eminent domain process and noted that the court can give control of the easement area to the District within 90

days of the District asking. Funds are typically deposited with the court and the entire process can be completed within 6 to 9 months. Of course each case could vary from this scheduled depending on specific circumstances.

- **DNR**
  - o **ROW** – Money has been providing information to DNR regarding several parcels the TRWD needs right of way on along the diked inlet. DNR has accepted the information and is processing the request.
  - o **Land Exchange** – Money and Hane are working to address several DNR requests. The most pressing at this time is issues with the title insurance. DNR has sent a letter detailing what needs to be done, and Hane has contacted a title insurance company in order to proceed.
- **Rental Lands** – an issue has arisen with a land located in Klondike sections 27 and 35 that was rented from 2012 through 2023 for pasture. The renter had indicated he no longer wished to rent the land but wanted to reclaim his fence. The TRWD had given him until June 30, 2024. The renter pulled his posts but has left the wire laying on the ground. This causes a safety risk and the District would like him to clean up the mess. The renter has stated in writing that he does not intend to complete the cleanup. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Olsonawski and **unanimous vote**, the Board directed Hane to write a letter and have it served upon the former renter. The Board indicated they expect the renter to remove any an all fence and related materials that he had placed upon the property. If the renter fails to do so, the TRWD will hire it done and bill him for the cost.

Mark Langehaug arrived at the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

#### **Plans-Specs-Construction:**

- **Bids:** Discussion was held regarding the grant deadlines of June 30, 2026 to spend the first LSOHC grant. There is really only the 2025 construction season and a small part of 2026 to spend the funding. It is anticipated that all permits and most right of way will be obtained within the next 6-8 months. Based upon this information, there is a need to begin a portion of the project construction in order to spend the grant funding by the deadline. Engineer Huwe discussed that the two outlet structures and a portion of the west dike could be undertaken first. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by B. Anderson and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, Engineer Huwe was directed to put together a construction plan and bid package that would utilize up to \$3 million in funds, emphasizing construction of the two outlet structures, a portion of the dike, and associated ditches and borrow areas. Huwe was directed to report back at the December 12, 2024 board meeting with more detailed information. It was noted that the optimal time to advertise for bids will be in January, February or March of 2025.
- **Phasing** – Engineer Huwe went over the project plans and drawings for phases 1 and 2. This included plans for the diked inlet, new lateral 1 SD 95, pilot channel, upstream inlets and diversion channels, the northwest levee and the southeast levee.

Gerald Olsonawski left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.


**Operating Plan** – The draft operating plan was discussed, which details when and how the outlet gates will be closed and opened during the spring, summer, and fall. The plan was written with input from the DNR and the MPCA. Money noted that this plan should be

presented to county and township officials as well for review and comments prior to being finalized.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Attest:

  
Gerald Olsonawski, Treasurer

  
Roger Anderson, Vice President

