Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers Of the Two Rivers Watershed District Held: Thursday, May 1, 2025 @ 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, May 1, 2025. 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, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski, Mark Langehaug, and Bruce Anderson. Scott Klein was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Engineer Tony Nordby (HEI Engineering), Roger Beisweger (Viewer), Mike Baumgartner (Viewer), Robert Wagner (Viewer), Matt Fischer (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources), and Donna Jacob via phone (HEI Engineering).

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 Langehaug and **unanimous vote** of the Managers. The regular meeting minutes from March 13, 2025, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by Langehaug 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 10413 through 10442 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.

A motion was made by B Anderson, second by Olsonawski, and a unanimous vote, to authorize the treasurer and administrator to either withdraw \$500,000 from CD 101561 at United Valley Bank and pay a penalty or secure a loan to cover expenses, whichever is more financially advantageous.

A **motion** was made by R Anderson, **second** by B Anderson, to transfer \$500,000 from the Flood Control General account to the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project Maintenance account.

The treasurer's report was then approved upon a **motion** by Langehaug, **second** by Klegstad, and a **unanimous vote**.

Administrator's Report:

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

Program Report:

Bookkeeping:

Discussion was held regarding the need for some assistance and training regarding Quickbooks. A **motion** was made by Langehaug, **second** by B Anderson, and approved by **unanimous vote**, to hire Brady Martz to assist with the Quickbooks accounts and training at \$300 per hour for up to eight hours.

Survey Equipment:

A **motion** was made by Olsonawski, **seconded** by Langehaug, and approved by **unanimous vote**, to approve a software purchase from Frontier Precision for \$1,763.00. This is an annual cost for software upgrades and maintenance.

10 Year Floodplain Mapping Project

The Red River Watershed Management Board and the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group have received a \$1 million grant to map areas within the ten-year floodplain. The grant recently was withdrawn by FEMA. Two areas in the Two Rivers were to be mapped. The RRWMB is asking watershed districts if they sill want to go ahead. A **motion** was made by Langehaug, **second** by R Anderson, and approved by **unanimous vote**, to withdraw from the 10 Year Floodplain Mapping Project.

The Board directed Administrator Money to attend the Minnesota State Technical Committee (MSTC) at his discretion. This will be held in St. Cloud, MN, on May 6-7, 2025.

Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB):

RRWMB meeting highlights and information were handed out and discussed.

Minnesota Board of Waters and Soil Resources (BWSR):

Matt Fischer reviewed the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) for TRWD, and found that TRWD has not updated their plan, and needs to do so to meet statute requirements. The plan was initiated in February 2022 by a resolution. If TRWD does not complete their plan in a timely manner, there may be risk to statutory authority.

Fischer encouraged TRWD to set a schedule to complete their plan and offered to provide assistance to TRWD.

The Board directed Administrator Money to complete the plan by the end of the year.

Fischer discussed a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) update including changes to agricultural exemptions to base them from USDA certified determinations, and changes to drainage involving ditch maintenance.

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): The conservation program has been expanded to include Kittson County and could be used on projects such as KCD7.

Buffer Law update: The law has changed to allow more BWSR oversight. BWSR adopted a new administrative penalty order, and they will be in contact with TRWD.

Legal Ditch Report:

KCD 7:

The KCD7 Viewers Roger Beisweger, Mike Baumgartner, and Robert Wagner, presented the KCD7 Viewers' Report to the Board, including their review of the previous benefits, petition that was received, proposed improvements, and other factors including land values. Discussion was held regarding the Viewers' Report, rates, benefit amounts, and levy rates broken out by land class.

Attorney Hane reviewed the process and next steps that will need to be taken according to MN statute 103E. The next steps will include:

- Preparing a Property Owners Report
- The Board will hold an informational meeting.
- The Board will hold a Final Hearing.
- After public comments are received, then the Board will make Findings of Fact and a Final Order.

The Board will hold an informational meeting June 26, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the TRWD office in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN.

The matter was tabled pending holding the informational meeting.

Project Report

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Right of Way
 - A motion was made by B Anderson and seconded by Klegstad to approve paying \$4500 per acre to Gryskiewicz Family Living Trust and Polonia Farms Ltd for right of way.
 - Reported that Gryskiewicz and Ken Chruszch have signed right of way agreements, and Hane is reviewing title work.
 - President Sikorski and Secretary Klegstad have signed the agreements, and Hane will schedule a closing meeting to deliver payment and fully execute documents.
- Permits
 - Wetlands: Donna Jacob (HEI Engineering) joined via phone to discuss the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit. Jacob went over the mitigation plan for wetland restoration. The permit is pending but probable to be approved by next week.
 - DNR Dam Safety Permit: Jake Huwe applied for the permit, and it is currently pending. Huwe recommended requesting the low bidder, Spruce Valley Construction, to honor their bid until the TRWD acquires the DNR dam safety permit.

- Final Hearing Reconvened
 - o The Final Hearing for this project was held in 2017 and was recessed indefinitely pending the Engineering Report, approval of permits, and bids. These items have now been completed.
 - Upon a motion by R Anderson and seconded by B Anderson, the regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the TRWD was recessed, and the Final Hearing of the KCWRP was reconvened under statute 103D.745 subdivision 4 at 10:45 a.m. The minutes of the hearing are attached to these minutes.

The regular Meeting of the Board of Managers of the TRWD reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

R Anderson left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Huwe discussed the need for a new two-year engineering contract at an estimated \$280,000. This will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

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.

App. #	Applicant	Location	Purpose	Action
2025-08	Sawyer Billings	Norway 1	crossing / 30"	Approved
2025-09	Mary Barron	St. Joseph 32	crossing – no culvert	Approved
2005-10	Nereson Township	Nereson 19 & 30	24" center line culvert w/gate	Tabled
2025-11	Kelly Erickson	Svea	field crossing 48"	Tabled

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

Attest:

Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

Rick Sikorski, President