

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers  
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District  
Held: Thursday, February 6, 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, February 6, 2025. 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 President Rick Sikorski, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski, Bruce Anderson, Scott Klein and Mark Langehaug. Vice President Roger Anderson was absent.

Others present during the meeting included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Alex Halstensgard, and Ken Chruszch. Mark Aanenson (HEI) called into a portion of the meeting.

The annual Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Citizen's present at the meeting were Rodney Sikorski, Kurt Kraulik, and David Lindegard.

**Citizens' Advisory Committee:**

Attorney Jeff Hane described that MN Statute 103D / Watershed Law requires that the Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) annually appoints a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) and that at least one meeting be held each year. He noted the CAC members should elect a chairman and a secretary. The statute states the CAC should discuss activities and projects of the TRWD and advise, assist, and make recommendations to the Board of Managers.

The three committee members present decided that since there is only 3, they shall be co-chairs. The CAC requested the TRWD Administrator to record meeting notes. They set their meeting schedule to be once annually held in February of each calendar year.

Administrator Money gave a presentation on the prior year's activities of the TRWD. This included the stream flow and water quality monitoring activities, 2024 construction activities, project planning, permits approved, and other information items.

Discussion was held on the following;

- Rodney Sikorski discussed a project of the Roseau River Watershed District that he feels has potential to greatly impact the Two Rivers. He stated the project proposes to restore meandered channels to the Roseau River in the areas that had been straightened many years ago. He feels that the channel capacities being proposed are not large enough and will cause additional water to overflow from the Roseau River and enter the Two Rivers WD. The Board indicated that joint Roseau and Two Rivers Watershed District meeting is scheduled later in February, and this can be brought up.
- Kurt Kraulik discussed the Kittson County Ditch #7 improvement project. The Board and Administrator gave a project update and noted that the Engineer's report is supposed to be submitted on or before 2/14/25. Once that is complete a Viewer's report can be completed and once that is submitted a public hearing can be held regarding the project.
- David Lindegard mentioned the Lake Bronson Sediment project that the LB Cabin Owners brought to the TRWD in 2024. Several meetings were held with DNR,

TRWD, MPCA, Cabin owners, and others. Meetings have stalled out and there is nothing new scheduled.

There were no further discussion items, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The regular meeting of the TRWD was called to order by President Sikorski at 9:10 a.m. Sikorski then called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda, which was then approved upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by Langehaug and **unanimous vote** of the Managers. Both the regular meeting minutes and the annual meeting minutes from January 2, 2025, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **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 10351 through 10375 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.

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

### **Administrator's Report:**

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

#### **Program Report:**

*Auditing Services:* The 2024 annual audit will need to be completed and submitted to the State of MN by June 2025. Auditing services were discussed by the Board and a quote from the firm Brady Martz was considered. Upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Olsonawski, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, it was approved to hire Brady Martz for a 3-year period with audit costs of \$9,600 for 2024, \$10,100 for 2025, and \$10,700 for 2026.

*March Regular Board Meeting:* Money made a request to move the meeting from March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>, due to a scheduling conflict. Upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Langehaug and **unanimous vote** of the Managers, the Meeting scheduled for March 6, 2025, was moved Thursday, March 13, 2025.

*Administrative Assistant Position:* Advertisements have been posted for this new staff position, and 4 applications have been received. The Board decided that the Personnel Committee will meet to interview each applicant. Money will work with the applicants and the Committee to schedule interviews. A recommendation will be made to the Board after interviews are done.

*Hunting Lease Agreement:* Alex Halstengard attended the meeting to discuss his proposal to lease land owned by the TRWD located at the Ross #7 project for hunting. The land is currently idle, with some of it previously leased for agriculture

and one parcel for logging. The Board discussed the current rental rates for ag (\$45/acre), hay (\$25/acre) and pasture (\$20/acre). Currently there is not a set price for hunting leases and this has been negotiated case by case with prospective renters in the past. Money has done some research and suggested a rate of \$10 to start the discussion. Halstensgard suggested a multi-year lease with the first year at \$8, and later years increasing to \$10. The board tabled the matter and would like to obtain more information on the land uses and rates and directed Money to research and report back at the March meeting.

*Office Remodel Discussion:* Kittson County Commissioners Loren Younggren and Ryan Swenson attended the meeting at the request of the TRWD to discuss a potential remodel and addition onto the existing office, which is rented by the TRWD from Kittson County. This was first brought up about 1 ½ years ago, however discussion was halted pending other major courthouse renovation plans. TRWD proposes an addition to the current office, asking if this project is still a possibility and if so what would be a logical timeline and how would we chart progress. The Commissioners discussed current courthouse projects and noted there are currently heating and other concerns that are more pressing. They indicated that they would work to answer the question of whether it is a possibility and may need an architect. Updated information will be provided periodically on the matter.

*MN Watersheds Legislative Meetings:* Olsonawski and Money will attend this annual event which will be held in St. Paul on February 18-20, 2025. Meetings with state and federal agencies and state legislators have been scheduled. Priorities for the Two Rivers WD are funding requests for the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project, support RRWMB legislative issues, and to monitor bills regarding drainage, permitting, and other water related issues.

*Juneberry Project Work Team:* It was noted that the Juneberry Project Work team will meet in Roseau on Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

*Joint Meeting with Roseau River Watershed District:* It was noted that a joint meeting with the Roseau River Watershed District will be held at the Nordhem Café in Karlstad, MN at 10:00 a.m. on Monday February 24, 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss projects and programs of each district and exchange information.

*Flood Damage Reduction Work Group:* The annual March Conference will be held in Moorhead on March 18-19. An agenda was handed out and all managers are encouraged to attend. Money was authorized to attend this meeting because of his role with the FDRWG and with the RRWMB.

#### **Legal Ditch Report:**

*Kittson County Ditch #7 Improvement:* Engineer Blake Carlson has indicated that he has not yet completed the Engineer's report. The Board expressed frustration that this has not been done and has taken over a year to complete. Once the report is submitted, it will be provided to the Viewers, and they will use it to complete their report. When that is submitted, District staff will prepare a property owners report, and the Board will be able to schedule the final hearing. Most likely the final hearing will be held in May or June depending upon when the various reports are provided.

*Kittson County Ditch #13 Improvement:* The TRWD has hired the H2Overviewers to prepare and submit the viewers report. Houston Engineering has been directed to submit the final engineer's report. Once these documents are submitted the Board will need to schedule a final hearing.

**Project Report:**

*Horseshoe (Skull) Lake:* As previously noted, the outlet structure is failing and needs to be replaced. Bids were advertised and opened on February 5, 2025. Only one bid was received from Landwehr Construction. The bid was \$421,921 and was 10.66% lower than the engineer's estimate. The bid documents have been checked and no issues were found, therefore it is recommended by Engineer Huwe to award the bid to Landweher Construction. Upon on a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Langehaug and 5-1 **vote** (Olsonawski opposed), the Board awarded the bid to Landwehr Construction. The District Engineer, Attorney and Administrator were directed to complete the necessary paperwork and proceed with construction. Funding sources for the project have been approved by the DNR, TRWD and FEMA and a funding application will be considered by the RRWMB.

*Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:*

- Engineering
- Right of Way –
  - Ken Chruszch attended the meeting to discuss the offer from the District to him for the purchase of approximately 17 acres of right of way. He stated he will accept the offer and he is in favor of the project. However, he also stated that he would not sign any easement yet, because he and one neighboring landowner want the TRWD to have secured all of the necessary funding to construct phase 1. Discussion was held regarding and the Board explained the many intricacies and decisions over the 15 years of planning. Further discussions with the two landowners will need to take place.
  - Right of way on DNR lands was discussed, and this is progressing with DNR working on the language for the easement.
  - The land exchange with DNR is progressing and appraisals will be ordered by the DNR. Coordination is being done between the DNR and the TRWD and the process is proceeding.
- Permitting – Wetland specialist Mark Aanenson phoned into the meeting to report on the US Army Corps of Engineers section 404 wetland permit. All materials for the application have been submitted to the USACE and they have accepted them and are doing the final review. A permit is expected in the very near future. Aanenson reviewed consulting costs and an overrun of \$52,651.73 has been incurred because of additional requirements and extended reviews by the USACE. Upon a **motion** by Olsonawski, **second** by B. Anderson and **unanimous vote** the Board approved the expenditure to Houston Engineering. Aanenson indicated this will pay for work until the permit is approved. Additional authorization will be needed for work to restore the wetlands on the mitigation site once construction activity begins.
- Funding - The RRWMB will be considering an additional \$6.85 million request from the TRWD with its revised step 2 application. Bonding funding from the MN Legislature is also being applied for through the MNDNR.

- Sale of unneeded District lands – This matter was discussed at last month’s meeting and it was decided to table it at this time and bring back for discussion at the April 2025 regular board 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.

<u>App. #</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Action</u>
2025-01	Lind Township	Lind Sect 25	center line culvert	tabled
2025-02	KittCo Hwy Dept	Arveson 19/city of Karlstad	center line culvert	tabled
2025-03	KittCo Hwy Dept	North Red River Sect 5	Replace arch w/ Box Clvt	tabled
2025-04	Didrickson Farms	Nereson Sect 19	culvert / road work	tabled

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Attest:

  
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 Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

  
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 Rick Sikorski, President

