

# Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers Of the Two Rivers Watershed District Held: Thursday, March 13, 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, March 13, 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, Vice President Roger Anderson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Bruce Anderson, Scott Klein and Mark Langehaug. Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski 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) and landowner Ken Chruszch.

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 February 6, 2025, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by B. Anderson, **second** by Klegstad 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 10367 through 10397 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.

It was noted that a certificate of deposit at United Valley Bank is coming due. Treasurer Olsonawski had reviewed this and his recommendation was to renew it at the highest available interest rate. Discussion was held regarding upcoming construction projects and availability of funds. Money was directed to check rates at local banks and re-enroll it accordingly.

The treasurer's report was then approved upon a **motion** by Klegstad, a **second** by B. Anderson, 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:

### *Farm & Recreation Lease Agreements:*

- Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Langehaug and **unanimous vote**, approval was made to enter into a hunting lease agreement with Alex Halstensgard for a 6 year term, with the first 3 years at \$8 per acre and the second three years at \$10 per acre. It was stipulated that only food plots can be grown. No agricultural crops are allowed and no bait piles or feeding is allowed. Attorney Hane will provide details to include in the lease agreement.
- Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Langehaug, and a **unanimous vote**, approval was made to renew a farm lease agreement for haying with Shawn Stanislawski for 3 year term at \$25 per acre.

### *Administrative Assistant:*

The Board of Managers discussed the new position of Administrative Assistant. The Personnel Committee has met and interviewed prospective applicants. As previously discussed, this would be a part time, 16 hours per week position. The committee recommended hiring Kimberly Soberaski, and this was approved upon a **motion** by Langehaug, **second** by Klein and **unanimous vote**.

Salary was discussed, and a **motion** was made by Klegstad, **seconded** by Langehaug and **unanimously approved** to offer a starting salary of \$21/hour. The position will have a 6 month probationary period and the employee manual will be followed regarding annual leave, sick leave, holidays, and hazardous weather leave. All applicable state and federal laws will be followed regarding this position. Administrator Money was directed to contact Soberaski and offer the position to her. The starting date was set for April 1, 2025.

Since this is a new position, office furniture and computer equipment will be needed. Upon a **motion** by Klein, **second** by Langehaug and **unanimous vote** the Administrator was authorized to spend up to \$5,000 to set up and support this position.

*FEMA Appeal:* After the 2023 Presidential disaster declaration, the TRWD had applied for assistance from FEMA for damages at two locations on JD 10 Branch B and 2 locations on the North Branch Project. Funding was approved for one location on JD 10 Branch B but was denied for the other location on JD 10 Branch B and the two locations on the North Branch Project. The TRWD subsequently appealed the FEMA denial, and was recently notified by FEMA that the appeal has been denied. The Board of Managers discussed the situation and directed Money to submit a second appeal. This will be done by the deadline of April 25, 2025.

## Legal Ditch Report:

*KCD #7:* Engineer Blake Carlson joined the meeting electronically via MS Teams. He submitted his final engineer's report and a meeting with the project Viewers needs to be set up so they can go over the proposed right of way and finalize their report. Carlson discussed his report including details where the ditch crosses the Enbridge pipeline, culvert specifications at various locations, ditch grades and grade changes, ditch dimensions at various locations, overflow sections and elevations where

high water will spill into adjacent fields, downstream easements and a revised cost estimate. The managers posed several questions and general discussion ensued. Once the Viewer's report is received the Board can accept both reports and set a time and date for the public hearing. The matter was tabled pending the Viewer's report.

*KCD #13:* Engineer Tony Nordby discussed the project and the report he is working on. He indicated they are looking at potential cost savings by salvaging existing pipes, installing metal pipes instead of reinforced concrete, and using 18" culverts at side water inlets. Nordby is currently working on a new cost estimate and will submit the engineer's report at a later date.

*Judicial Ditch #10 Branch B:* Technician Tyler Coffield presented a survey that was done last summer/fall as part of the District's ditch inspection and maintenance program. The survey shows some areas of the ditch that have 1 foot or less of sediment accumulation. Coffield also reviewed several ditch cross sections. He noted that the outlet of the ditch has some issues and recommends that the ditch be closely monitored for any changes, erosion, blockage or other issues. It was determined that the ditch does not need any maintenance at this time.

### Project Report:

*Juneberry Project Work Team:* A project team meeting was held on February 27, 2025 and the meeting notes were discussed. An engineering study is pending and it focuses on 3 areas that could be worked on to address the flooding and environmental issues. These are SD 69, SD 72, and Roseau Co. Rd 7. Roseau River WD is working on projects to abandon several laterals of SD 69 and a channel restoration on the Roseau River. Roseau Co. Highway Dept. is working on the Co. Rd 7 overflows. If anything is to be done with SD 72, either the TRWD or the Joint Ditch Authority could undertake a project. Discussion was held and the matter was tabled pending the completion of the engineering report.

*Horseshoe Lake – Outlet Structure Replacement:* D. Money submitted an application for partial funding to the Red River Watershed Management Board in the amount of \$112,365. This adds to funding already secured from FEMA, the MN DNR, and local project funds. The RRWMB approved the application and therefore full funding has been secured for the project. Upon a **motion** by R. Anderson, **second** by Sikorski and a **unanimous vote**, the funding from the RRWMB was accepted and D. Money was authorized to sign the grant documents on behalf of the TRWD.

### *Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:*

- Engineering – Engineer Huwe discussed the project plans and what the next steps could be. The Board of Managers directed Huwe to prepare a bid package for the two outlet structures and a portion of the main dike to be reviewed by the Board at the April 3, 2025 regular meeting. Bids could be advertised a bid opening and award could potentially be held at the May 1, 2025 board meeting. It was noted that prior to construction all permits need to be approved and a public hearing will need to be held.
- Right of Way
  - Ken Chruszch attended the meeting to discuss the Board's offer to him to purchase right of way. He is concerned with field drainage in sections 5 and 8 of Barto Township and asked how the project will affect these fields.

He requested an increase in culvert size for a crossing located on his land. Engineer Huwe explained the project plans for this location and indicated the intent is to replace the existing 60” pipe to two 48” pipes, which will in fact increase the capacity. Chruszch indicated he is in favor of the project, and attorney Jeff Hane will continue to work with him on the right of way transaction.

- Right of Way for the Gryskiewicz trust and Polonia Farms was discussed. The landowners have made a counter offer to the TRWD and want concessions that the TRWD pays for moving a pasture fence and that a planned Texas crossing be made into a full all season crossing. The board discussed the offer and was in favor of paying a higher price, but not in favor of the all season crossing nor moving the fence. It was reasoned that the higher price is more than the appraised value and will cover the cost of moving the fence. It was also reasoned that the very high cost of a bridge versus a Texas crossing outweighs the benefit. Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Langehaug and **unanimous vote**, it was approved to offer \$4,500 per acre. Jeff Hane was directed to contact the landowner regarding.
- Permitting – The only permits remaining are the USACE wetland permit, which is nearing completion and the MN DNR dam safety permit, which is in preliminary stages. Each of these permits may be completed by the end of spring or early summer.
- Funding – Phase 1 costs are estimated at \$21 million. Of this, the RRWMB and TRWD will cover ½ the cost. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has pledged \$2.9 million and the remainder is being sought through the legislative bonding process with the DNR’s Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant. A bill has been introduced in the legislature for this funding and we will not know the outcome until the legislative session is done in May.

**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>
2025-01	Lind Township <b>Motion</b> R. Anderson, <b>second</b> B. Anderson – <b>unanimous</b>	Lind Sect 25	center line culvert	Denied
	Noted that additional information is needed and can be resubmitted once this is available			
2025-02	KittCo Hwy Dept <b>Motion</b> Langehaug, <b>second</b> R. Anderson – <b>unanimous</b>	Arveson 19/city of Karlstad	center line culvert	Approved
2025-03	KittCo Hwy Dept <b>Motion</b> Langehaug, <b>second</b> B. Anderson – <b>unanimous</b>	North Red River Sect 5	Replace arch w/ Box Clvt	Approved

2025-04 Didrickson Farms Nereson Sect 19 culvert / road work Denied  
**Motion** R. Anderson, **second** Klegstad – **unanimous**  
Noted more information is needed and can be re-submitted once it is available

2025-05 Gary Langaas Lind 12 crossing / 24" tabled  
Referred to staff and / or the permit review group for review and action

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attest:

  
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Daryl Klegstad, Secretary

  
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Rick Sikorski, President

