

Watershed District Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Located at: Sauk Centre City Hall, Sauk Centre, MN, 6:00 p.m.

Managers Present:	Tyler Carlson, Dennis Ritter, Gary Barber, Larry Ladwig, Lee Bautch, Scott Klatt, Emily Wolf, Donavon McKigney, Bill Becker
Staff Present:	Scott Henderson, Administrator; John Kolb, Attorney; Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager; Jon Roeschlein, Ditch & Permit Coordinator
Guests Present:	John Ainali, Benny Fleischacker, Donald Schmidt, Bernard Busmann, John & Alicia Elfering, John Harren, Vicki Willer, Tom Fischer, Sharon Fischer, Julie Zimmermann, Sherry Kutter, Paul Hartmann, Dan Morrissette, Lynette Drager, David Drager, Randy Neumann, Cody Rogahn, Jerry Rapp, Gene Miller, Jerry Breth, Gary Toenies, Curt Blaisdell, Shannon Sweeny, Gary Berndt, Steve Notch, Pat Klasen, Jeff Mayer, Nancy Middendorf, Liz Berckes, Tom & Dorothy Elfering, David Zerr, Greg Duchene, Leon Duchene
Manager's Absent:	

1. **Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance** – The meeting was called to order by President Carlson at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda items** – President Carlson asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. There were none. **Manager Becker made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. The motion was seconded by Manager Ritter. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes**
 1. Checks for January
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. January 21, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status

b. Appropriations

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Description of Payment</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Rinke Noonan	Retainer	\$700.00	101
Rinke Noonan	General Correspondence	\$69.00	101
Rinke Noonan	CD 26	\$227.00	550
Rinke Noonan	Clean Water Partnerships Projects	115.00	101
Rinke Noonan	Pope JD 1 Repair	\$177.50	505

Rinke Noonan	Pope CD 6 Repair	\$177.50	515
Rinke Noonan	Pope CD 11 Repair	\$177.50	510
Wenck	Invoicing check – General	\$11.70	101
Wenck	Gary Ellis Wetland Restoration	\$3,562.80	101

Manager McKigney made a typographical correction. **Manager Ritter made a motion to approve the consent agenda excluding the Rinke Noonan payment in the appropriations. The motion was seconded by Manager Barber. The motion passed with all in favor.**

4. **Open Discussion from the Public** – President Carlson asked if there was any public comment. There was support for the district along with discussion on the building, sediments ponds and overruns on a ditch cleanout project. President Carlson closed the public comment portion of the meeting.
5. **Reports – Action Items, Reports, and Project Updates** – *Administrator Scott Henderson and staff*
 - a. **Projects and Programs**
 - i. **JD 2 Sediment Pond**
 1. **Operation and Maintenance Manual** – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, went over the JD 2 Sediment Pond Project Operation and Maintenance Plan and got suggestions from the board on clarifications that were needed. **Manager Ritter made a motion to approve the JD 2 Sediment Pond Project Operation and Maintenance Plan with the changes discussed. The motion was seconded by Manager Becker.** After some discussion, it was decided to wait to approve the Manual. **Manager Wolf made a motion to table the decision. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 2. **Modeled Scenarios** – Administrator Henderson explained a report done by RESPEC describing the different scenarios necessary to achieve a 1,000 lb. reduction of Phosphorus and the costs associated. The scenarios showed that the Sediment Ponds are a cost effective way to remove large amounts of sediment.
 - ii. **Capital Projects Operation and Maintenance Policy** – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, read a memo to the board regarding what point at which an informational meeting would be held for Capital Improvement Projects. The suggested amount to hold an informational meeting was an average assessment greater than \$300 and/or the average annual assessment per parcel is greater than \$30. Manager Wolf felt that amount was too high and would like to see it between \$10 and \$15. The Water Quality/Projects committee will be discussing this at their upcoming meeting.
 - iii. **Partnership Commitment–North Brown’s Gully Feasibility Study** – Boser read a memo stating that the District is working with the Stearns SWCD on a feasibility study to solve a gully issue near North Brown’s Lake. The Watershed District has grant funds to use on the project that must be spent before the grant ends on December 31, 2020. The SWCD will contract directly with the consultant and share all information with the Watershed District.

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- iv. ROCORI School District Letter of Intent – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, informed the board that he has been working with Design Tree, who was hired by the ROCORI school District, to design the parking lot improvements for the south parking lot at the high school. The base bid to reconstruct the parking lot does not trigger a stormwater permit, however, there could be cost share dollars available if the school is willing to implement stormwater management practices into the design. If the District were to decide to expand the parking lot, a stormwater permit and management practices would be required.
 - v. Sauk River Chain of Lakes Site Specific Standard – Administrator Henderson informed the board that the Sauk River Chain of Lakes has an approved TMDL.
 - vi. Rinke Noonan Invoices – Administrator Henderson and Manager Wolf reviewed invoices with the board that didn't make it to the office in time to be included in the board packet. **Manager Bautch made a motion to approve payment of the Rinke Noonan Invoices. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - vii. WRAPS Cycle II Public Hearing – 6:30 – President recessed the public meeting and opened the public hearing for the WRAPS Cycle II. Attorney Kolb read and explained the Order of the Board Establishing Project. President Carlson opened the public comment portion of the hearing. It was asked if this grant would cost the taxpayers money. Kolb stated that at present, it would not. President Carlson close the public comment portion of the hearing. Attorney Kolb informed the board that staff's recommendation was that they project was conducive to public health, promotes the general welfare and in compliance to the Districts Comprehensive Plan. **Manager Becker made a motion to approve the Order of the Board Establishing Project for the Sauk River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Cycle II, project #355. The motion was seconded by Manager Ladwig. The motion passed with all in favor.** President Carlson closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting.
- b. Administration
- i. District Office-Bonding – Shannon Sweeney, David Drown Associates, Inc., provided a draft of the award resolution to the board and stated that the District received an interest rate of 2.1105% for 17 years with an approximate payment of \$133,000 per year. If the board chooses to accept the bond, the closing would be March 3, 2020. **Manager Becker made a motion to approve the bonding. The motion was seconded by Manager Ritter. The motion passed with majority in favor, Managers Wolf and Bautch against.**
 - ii. League of Minnesota Cities Annual Insurance Waiver – Administrator Henderson and Attorney Kolb explained the liability coverage waiver form from the League of Minnesota Cities. Kolb stated that the District has waived the monetary tort liability of Minn. Stat. 466.04 to let the League of Minnesota Cities liability coverage take effect. **Manager Barber made a motion to waive the statutory tort claims limit. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. The motion passed with all in favor.**

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- iii. MAWD Legislative Day-Participation and thoughts – Administrator Henderson informed the board that the MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol will be held March 18-19. Henderson asked for board members to attend.
 - iv. Drone Use Information – Jon Roeschlein did some research on the costs or renting a drone versus owning one. There was discussion of doing a one-year trial of leasing the drone to see how the numbers of hours works out with the potential to purchase one for the District at a later date. Manager Wolf was not in favor of this idea and felt it would be a beneficial tool that the District should purchase. **Manager Becker made a motion to amend the personal use policy and work with Jon’s drone for 1 year, and then relook at the District purchasing its own drone. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch.** Manager Wolf asked the board to set a maximum amount to spend on testing the drone out for that first year. If the District would purchase its own drone, the maximum price spent would be the purchase price. After further discussion between the Board, **President Carlson called the vote, and the motion failed. Manager Klatt made a motion to purchase the Mavic 2 Pro for staff use. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. The motion passed with majority in favor, President Carlson against.**
 - v. Advisory Committee – Administrator Henderson explained the need for the District to create a new Advisory Committee. Henderson explained the job of the committee and stated that 2 informational meetings will be held. The first meeting will be in Sauk Centre and the second meeting will be in St. Cloud. Henderson asked the board to let him know what they would like to see from an advisory committee.
- c. Committee
 - i. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Carlson, Becker, McKigney – Meeting Thursday, February 20th at 4:30.
 - ii. Education/Outreach – Managers Carlson, Bautch, Wolf. Meeting Tuesday, February 25th at 2:45.
 - iii. Rules Committee – Managers Ladwig, Klatt, Wolf.
6. **Items for Upcoming Meetings**
- a. Resolution for LMCIT Insurance
 - b. Capital Improvement Policy
 - c. JD 2 Operation and Maintenance Plan
7. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
- a. Regular Board Meetings
 - 1. Tuesday, March 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting
 - 2. Tuesday, April 21, 2019 – Regular Meeting
 - b. Other Meetings and Events
 - 1. Wednesday-Thursday, March 18-19, 2020 MAWD Legislative Day at the Capitol The DoubleTree, St. Paul MN

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8. **Recess Regular Board Meeting – Manager Ritter made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
MINUTES**

1. **The Drainage Authority meeting was called to order by President Carlson at 7:50 p.m.**
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item – President Carlson asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. There were none. Manager Wolf made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Becker. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Open Discussion from the Public – President Carlson asked if there was any public comment. The board was asked to use microphones so that the public can hear better.**
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Drainage Policy**
 - i. **Update Discussion – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch & Permit Manager, spoke to the board about individual landowners removing trees along the public drainage systems without prior permission from the drainage authority and landowners doing their own spraying of the ditch. Roeschlein discussed his concerns and gave his recommendation of policy language to be adopted and added to the Drainage Policy. The language would read “No Contractor of Private Landowner shall commence with any maintenance work, (mechanical, chemical, or otherwise) within the buffer areas or the ditch proper of any legal drainage system, except mowing/haying, without written approval from the SRWDA or its authorized representative.” Manager Ritter made a motion to adopt the language recommended by Roeschlein into the Drainage Policy. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - b. **Stearns CD 26**
 - i. **Fleischacker Invoice – Roeschlein presented the statement from Benedict Fleischacker asking for reimbursement for tree removal and buffer spraying for wild pickle. Fleischacker stated that if he doesn’t get paid for the removal, he will just push all of it back into the ditch. Manager Wolf asked Mr. Fleischacker if he understands that if he is paid, that it will be assessed back to him and his neighbors. Manager Becker feels like the District should verify. Roeschlein will go out with Mr. Fleischacker and do a site visit. Manager Becker made a motion to table discussion until after a site visit is done. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**
 - c. **Pope Stearns JD 1, Pope CD 6 and CD 11**
 - i. **Summary of meeting with permitting partners – Jon Roeschlein and Administrator Henderson met with engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, and**

BWSR permitting group to discuss the methodology of determining the lateral effects on wetlands of the lowering of the culver under CSAH 33. Roeschlein stated that the District may only need to mitigate .46 acres of wetland since they're not located adjacent to an agricultural area. Another issue of concern is that there is not a clear project owner of the Krantz Lake Project. The District may need to establish the dike as a project and develop a funding source to provide maintenance funds as the dike is in need of repairs. It was clear from the permitting agencies that this is something that should be done prior to applying for the wetland permits in order to assure that the culvert lowering will not affect Krantz Lake. **Manager McKigney made a motion to mitigate the wetland acres based on the engineer's model. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. The motion passed with all in favor.**

d. Ditch and Permit Manager Report

5. Items for Upcoming Meetings

6. Upcoming meetings to be announced

7. Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – **Manager Wolf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Ritter. The motion passed with all in favor.**

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