

Watershed District Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
 Via teleconference, 6:00 p.m.

Managers Present:	Dennis Ritter, Gary Barber, Larry Ladwig, Lee Bautch, Emily Wolf, Donavon McKigney, Bill Becker, Scott Klatt, Paul Hartmann
Staff Present:	Scott Henderson, Administrator; John Kolb, Attorney; Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager; Jon Roeschlein, Ditch & Permit Coordinator
Guests Present:	
Manager's Absent:	

1. **Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance** – The meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda items** – President Becker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda. There were none. **Manager Barber made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager McKigney. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Financial Reports/Meeting Minutes**
 1. Checks for August
 2. Receipt Book
 3. Revenue Guideline
 4. Cash Balances
 5. Expenditure Report
 6. August 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 7. Permit Status

Manager Ritter made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Klatt. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all in favor.
4. **Reports – Action Items, Reports and Project Updates** – *Administrator Henderson and staff*
 - a. **Projects and Programs**
 - i. JD 2 Sedimentation Pond – Outlet Repair Schedule – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, gave the board a schedule of what was happening with the JD 2 Sedimentation Pond outlet repair. Proposals were sent out to approximately 10 contractors and a pre-bid meeting will be held onsite on September 24th. No board action is needed at this time.
 - ii. 1W1P Update – Sarah Jo Boser, Water Resource Manager, informed the board that over 600 comments were received for the internal review of the draft 1W1P. Once the edits are made, the Plan will be out for public comment.

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- iii. WRAPS/TMDL contract – Boser informed the board that RESPEC, who the District is in a contract with, has gone through staffing changes and the primary project manager who was working on the WRAP/TMDL contract has moved on. Staff requested the qualifications of the new staff that will be put in the lead role and have followed up with some of the references. RESPEC has assured that they have the expertise and experience needed to complete the work successfully.
 - iv. Big Birch Lake Association Collaboration – Boser notified the board that the Big Birch Lake Association reached out to her regarding the development of a comprehensive management plan. They have asked the watershed to partner with them in applying for grants and navigating the grant tracking, management, and project development. Staff will research funding opportunities to assist the lake association in moving forward. Boser stated that this project aligns well with the 1W1P.
- b. Permits
- i. Permit Exception-Stearns County State Aid Highway 71 – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented a permit application from Stearns County to reconstruct CSAH 71 through the Chain of Lakes. Due to the topography of the area and the lack of surface area for stormwater storage, an exemption from the District rules was requested. The proposed treatment on the new stretch of road provides adequate treatment for NPDES requirements but falls short of SRWD requirements, however, there is no treatment of the road currently so the upcoming reconstruction will be an improvement. Administrator Henderson requested the board follow the Ruling on Exceptions to the Administrative Rules worksheet. **President Becker asked “Do special conditions apply to the applicant’s property that do not apply generally to other property within the district?” Roll call vote was taken: Barber aye, Bautch aye, Hartman nay, Klatt nay, Ladwig aye, McKigney aye, Ritter aye, Wolf nay, Becker aye. President Becker then asked “Is there undue hardship to the applicant, as distinguished from mere inconvenience, if the strict letter of the rules is carried out?” Roll call vote was taken: Barber aye, Bautch aye, Hartman nay, Klatt nay, Ladwig aye, McKigney aye, Ritter aye, Wolf nay, Becker aye. President Becker then asked “Will the proposed activity for which the exception is sought not adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare; or not create extraordinary public expense; and will not adversely affect water quality, water control, or drainage in the District?” Roll call vote was taken: Barber aye, Bautch aye, Hartman nay, Klatt nay, Ladwig aye, McKigney aye, Ritter aye, Wolf nay, Becker aye. President Becker then asked “Is the intent of the District’s rules met?” Roll call vote was taken: Barber aye, Bautch aye, Hartman nay, Klatt nay, Ladwig aye, McKigney aye, Ritter aye, Wolf nay, Becker aye. Exception was granted with a 6-3 vote on each question.**
- c. Administration
- i. Building Update – Administrator Henderson gave the board a schedule of what’s being finished up at the new building. He stated that the final occupancy inspection is scheduled for September 25th.

- d. Committee
 - i. Citizen Advisory Committee – meeting postponed to October.
 - ii. Water Quality/Projects – Managers Hartmann, Becker, McKigney – No comments
 - iii. Education/Outreach – Managers Ritter, Bautch, Wolf – No comments
 - iv. Rules – Managers Klatt, Ladwig, Wolf – No comments
 - v. Budget – Managers Barber, Becker, McKigney – No comments
5. **Items for Upcoming Meetings**
 - a. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Public Hearing
6. **Upcoming Meetings to be Announced**
 - a. Regular Board Meetings
 1. Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – Regular Meeting
 2. Tuesday, November 17, 2020 – Regular Meeting
 - b. Other Meetings and Events
 1. None at this time
7. **Adjourn Regular Board Meeting – Manager Ritter made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Bautch. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all in favor.**

**Regular Drainage Authority Meeting
MINUTES**

1. **The Drainage Authority meeting was called to order by President Becker at 6:52 p.m.**
2. **Additions/corrections to the agenda item** – President Becker asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda. There were none. **Manager Barber made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all in favor.**
3. **Reports**
 - a. Stearns CD 17 and CD 24 Redetermination of Benefits
 - i. Schedule and Memo – Jon Roeschlein, Ditch and Permit Manager, presented a tentative schedule for the Redetermination of Benefits processes on CD 17 and 24. The schedule was devised to avoid hearings and meetings during the harvest season to accommodate ag producers.
 - b. Ditch and Permit Manager
 - i. Monthly Report – Written report.
4. **Items for Upcoming Meetings**
 - a. Hearing for Redetermination for Stearns CD 17 and 24

5. **Upcoming meetings to be announced**
 - a. Other Meetings

6. **Adjournment of Drainage Authority Meeting – President Ritter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Manager Wolf. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all in favor.**

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