The meeting was called to order by President Doug Sorenson. Managers Alvin Nybladh, John W Nelson, Doug Sorenson, David Bakke, Marvin Hedlund, Roger Hille and Ben Kleinwachter were present. Nick Drees, Connie Kujawa, Danny Omdahl, Ron Adrian, Wallace Diedrich, Paul Aakre and Darlene Olson were also present.

Wallace Diedrich taped the meeting with 2 recorders.

Motion by Mr. Alvin Nybladh, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that Connie Kujawa be appointed the recording secretary for purposes of keeping the minutes of the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees requested the following items be added to the agenda; to agenda item 13 Projects (#6) Project 60 and to item 17 Administrators Report (#6) USGS Gage in Oslo, Minnesota.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Marvin Hedlund that the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of Project 60 and USGS Gage in Oslo, Minnesota, added. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Roger Hille that the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting be approved as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the following bills be paid from the Administrative funds: that payroll checks numbered 4982 through 4992 inclusive for a total of $14,285.42; and checks numbered 14474 14501, including the service charge for a total of $24,501.80; from the Project funds that checks numbered 1817 through 1818 for a total of $4,581.00; and from the Ditch Funds that checks numbered 2397 through 2398 for a total of $900.00 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Darlene Olson addressed the Board during the open forum session of the meeting. She stated that the irrigation wells of Jon Hapka are draining her well and inquired as to what can be done to remedy the situation.
Nick Drees informed Darlene Olson that he would contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding this issue.

Motion by Mr. Roger Hille, seconded by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter that the following permit be issued:

1. Permit (10-002) to Marshall County Highway Department to modify inslopes and backslopes, clean ditch bottoms and replace culverts with minor flow line changes of less than 0.1' on Marshall CSAH #30 from section line 22/27 West Valley Township to section line 21/28 New Maine Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

PJ and Lein Schiller joined the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Marvin Hedlund that the following permit be issued:

2. Permit (10-003) to Kongsvinger Church to move the east ring dike approximately 80' to the east and to raise Polk County State Aid Highway #22 approximately 4", in the NW4 NW4 of section 2 of Esther Township, with the stipulation the District will need to approve any resloping of Judicial Ditch #75 and set the height.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the following permit be issued:

3. Permit (10-004) to the Minnesota Department of Transportation to bituminous mill and overlay and replace culverts, on Minnesota Trunk Highway #220 from East Grand Forks to Alvarado.

Motion unanimously carried.

PJ and Lein Schiller discussed the letter they received from the District requesting that the driveway going into the bin site in the SW4 of section 6 of Middle River Township be lowered. They stated they raised the driveway due to the fact that the dike 2 miles to the west, on County Ditch #13, stops the flow of water and their farmstead would be inundated with water leaving the Middle River.

It was the consensus of the Board that PJ and Lein Schiller contact Gary Gruhot about diking the Middle River in the SE4 of section 6 to prevent water from leaving the river.
Lein and PJ Schiller left the meeting at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Darlene Olson left the meeting at approximately 5:20 p.m.

Paul Aakre presented a slide presentation on the ditch that was constructed in the NE4 NW4 of section 36 of Helgeland Township, by him and Floberg.

A discussion was held and Paul Aakre agreed to apply for a permit to install a trap on the upstream end of the culvert in the ditch located in the NE4 NW4 of section 36 of Helgeland Township.

Paul Aakre left the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Richard McGregor who had requested to address the board, was not present.

Danny Omdahl briefed the Board on situation on section line 1 of McCrea Township and section line 6 of Comstock Township.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the District Administrator reiterate to Mr. McGregor that the road, on section line 1 of McCrea Township and section line 6 of Comstock Township, should be restored to its previous state.

Correspondence concerning a Stormwater Seminar scheduled for April 1, 2010 in Minneapolis and a Drainage Seminar scheduled for April 28, 2010 in Mankato and the Horizons newsletter from the Pembina Trail RC & D was distributed.

Data Practice Requests from PO Box 467, Park Rapids, MN; from PO Box 131, Warren, MN; and from Jim Stengrim/Jeff Monroe were distributed.

Nick Drees reported that Olson Construction TRF, Inc, has brushed along Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, and that he hopes to be able to get some elevations and survey work done this summer.

A discussion was held concerning the improvement proposed by the landowners to clean County Ditch #175. Jeff Hane stated that the legal proceedings for a ditch improvement are outlined by statute, and the landowners would need to submit a petition to the District for an improvement to County Ditch #175 before any works could be done. Nick Drees was instructed to inform the landowners the procedures that need to be followed as outlined by statute.

Nick Drees reported the District submitted payment in the amount of $3000.00, to Esther Township, for the rip rap work on section line 9/10 of Watershed Ditch #5. He stated he received a letter from Esther Township requesting the District submit an additional $813.33 for the rip rap work.
APPROVED (April 19, 2010)

It was the consensus of the Board that Nick Drees be directed to forward a letter to Esther Township informing them that the Board agreed to pay 1/3 of the costs, up to $3000.00, and that no additional funding would be provided for the work done on Watershed Ditch #5.

Nick Drees reported that the Flood Damage Reduction Committee met on March 4, 2010 regarding the District’s Overall Plan; that a meeting of the Grass Committee for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project is scheduled for March 24, 2010; that the District has forwarded the signed Grant Agreement to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and that a Project Work Team meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2010, for the Brandt/Angus Project.

Nick Drees stated that the lands for the Public Law 566 project, in Comstock Township, are being taxed the same as adjacent landowners, and that it is the Board’s discretion as to if they want the status of the lands changed to tax-exempt.

It was the consensus of the Board to address the issue of land taxes of the PL-566 project at the next regular meeting of the Board scheduled for April 19, 2010.

Nick Drees distributed a list of property owners participating in the Ring Dike EQIP program.

Nick Drees reported that a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers attended the Project 60 meeting, and that the Corp will be looking at the Proposed project and funding the study on the project.

Nick Drees reported that the Red River Watershed Management Board meeting will be held on March 17, 2010, at the Northland Inn, in Crookston, MN in conjunction with the Annual River Watch Forum.

Jeff Hane stated that he has not heard anything from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals or the Minnesota State Supreme Court regarding the Managers/Staff lawsuit; that he is waiting word from the Minnesota State Supreme Court on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Breech of the Settlement Agreement (Stengrim lawsuit); that the Drewes case is closed; and that a Motion for Summary Judgment in the alleged open meeting lawsuit filed by Jim Stengrim is scheduled to be heard next month.

Jeff Hane reported on the changes he made to the Engagement Contract submitted to the District by HDR Engineering.
Nick Drees was directed to forward the Engagement Contract to HDR Engineering, for approval, with the changes made.

Jeff Hane presented some suggestions as to how the District could possibly reduce their legal expenses during Board meetings.

Nick Drees and Jeff Hane were directed to make arrangements to discuss this further.

Nick Drees provided a brief report on the Minnesota Association of Watershed District’s Annual Meeting held March 3-March 6, 2010.

Connie Kujawa reported on the procedure required for the Board Managers to be listed as signatories on the District Funds at Frandsen Bank of Warren, MN.

Nick Drees distributed the revised 2009 Ditch Fund Balance Sheet.

Nick Drees reported that he has informed James Johnson of possible funding for bank stabilization works through the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Nick Drees reported that the District received a letter from the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding installing a living snow fence or requesting permission to install a snow fence on the PL-566 project to alleviate snow problems on Minnesota Trunk Highway #1.

Nick Drees was directed to request a plan for the living snow fence from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and present the plan at a later meeting of the Board.

Nick Drees stated he has been contacted by an individual from the Warren Sheaf inquiring if the District is interested in publishing the minutes of the board meetings, at an approximate cost of $75.00 to $100.00 per publication. It was the consensus of the Board, not to publish the minutes. They stated the agenda’s and minutes are available on the District’s website and that the website address could be added to the published notices announcing the scheduled board meetings.

Nick Drees stated he is in the process of contacting other companies who provide copy retrieval services.

Nick Drees reported that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has notified the District that they will not be providing cost sharing with the USGS on the stream gage located at Oslo, Minnesota.
Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Marvin Hedlund that the District pay the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources share of the USGS staff gage located at Oslo, Minnesota, and that the District submit a request to the Red River Watershed Management Board for possible cost sharing of the gage. Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman, Mr. Doug Sorenson, announced that the next permit/regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2010, at 4:00 p.m., at the District Office and the regular meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2010, at 4:00 p.m., at the District office.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Roger Hille that the meeting be adjourned. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m.