The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, John W Nelson and Robert Kovar were present. Manager Roger Mischel was not present. Connie Kujawa, Tony Nordby, Kyle Schloemann, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Danny Omdahl, Jim Duckstad, Todd Maruska and Dean Danielski were also present.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include Administrative Fund check #18252, in the amount of $212.70. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Nate Dalager joined the meeting at approximately 8:34 a.m.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar the following bill be paid: from the Administrative Fund: payroll checks numbered 6330-6340 inclusive for a total of $15,309.38, checks numbered 18225-18252 inclusive, including the EFT payment, service charge, and ACH withdrawal, for a total of $13,058.53; from the Project Funds: checks numbered 3001-3009 inclusive for a total of $82,948.94; and from Ditch Funds: checks numbered 3276-3278 inclusive, and including the service charge, for a total $28,781.22. Motion unanimously carried.

Todd Maruska reported the floodwater leaving Judicial Ditch #75, Branch 1, overtops CSAH #23 and damages the field crossing in the SE SW section 11 Tabor Township, approximately 1/2 mile West of CSAH #20. He stated he contacted Polk County to see if they would pay for the costs to repair the crossing and he was informed they do not take responsibility for the crossing. Mr. Maruska inquired if the Watershed District is responsible due to the crossing being part of the spoilbank. After discussion, the Board directed Administrator Praska to discuss this matter with the Polk County Commissioners and directed Tony Nordby to assess the situation and report back to the Board.

Jared Sands, Jordan Johnson and Justin Johnson joined the meeting at approximately 8:49 a.m.

Technician Omdahl reported that last week water overtopped the spoil of Watershed Ditch #5, in the vicinity of 150th Street NW, in section 9 and overflowed 150th flowing North into section 4 of Esther Township. He believed the flow has caused damage to the driveway approach to the Josh Coddington residence in section 9. Technician Omdahl stated the approach to the property is the responsibility of Watershed Ditch #5, however the driveway onto the property is not.
Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the District expend Watershed Ditch #5 maintenance funds to repair the crossing in Section 9 of Esther Township. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby reported that he and Administrator Praska met with the West Polk County SWCD to discuss funding of seven side inlet pipes on the Repair of Polk County Ditch #43. He reported there are three individuals who would need to sign a contract with the SWCD in order for the District to receive 75% funding on the inlet pipes. He also stated there is one landowner whose CRP contract will need to be amended with the FSA and the NRCS to help fund five side inlet culverts that aren’t eligible for funding with the West Polk County SWCD. Tony Nordby also reported the Plans and Specifications for the Repair of Polk County Ditch #43 are ready for the District to solicit quotes. Administrator Praska stated he anticipates sending out the Plans and Specifications for the Repair of Polk County Ditch #43, this week, to various contractors.

Neil Johnson and Eric Johnson joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported Breidenbach Excavating has begun to move equipment to the construction site, for the Repair of Polk County Ditch #175, and once the floodwater recedes Pribula Engineering will begin staking Polk County Ditch #175. He also reported bonding for the Repair is being finalized with Polk County.

Administrator Praska reported the District staff met with Jared Sands to view the flooding situation at the intersection of Minnesota Trunk Highway #220 and Judicial Ditch #1. The staff agreed that ice jams were the contributing factor to the flooding. Jared Sands, Neil Johnson and Eric Johnson stated the arch culvert under Minnesota Trunk Highway #220 appears to restrict the flow and the culvert doesn’t open up. They suggested the District breakup the ice to alleviate the ice jams. Dean Danielski gave a brief history of why the Minnesota Department of Transportation removed the bridge and replaced it with an arch culvert. A discussion was held about the possibility of raising the spoil and road to maximize the opening of the arch culvert under Minnesota Trunk Highway #220. The Board directed Tony Nordby to check into the possibility of raising the spoil in the vicinity of the arch culvert.

Tony Nordby reported the Red River Retention Authority is requesting to extend and amend the Memorandum of Understanding with the NRCS on RCPP projects, to change the expiration date from May 20, 2020 to May 20, 2021. He stated the District’s RCPP Projects are set to expire September 2019 and suggested the District submit a letter to the NRCS requesting an extension to May 20, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that Chairman Nelson be authorized to execute a request to the NRCS for an extension on the Judicial Ditch #14 RCPP and Judicial Ditch #19 RCPP projects, to May 20, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Neil, Eric, Justin and Jordan Johnson left the meeting at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Rolland Miller joined the meeting at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Todd Maruska left the meeting at approximately 9:55 a.m.
Administrator Praska reported the District submitted a letter to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on December 4, 2018, requesting the development of a Joint Powers Agreement to establish a new operation and maintenance plan for the Nelson Slough Impoundment site. He stated the District received a response from the MN DNR on April 4, 2019 stating they are not interested in revising or changing the operation and maintenance plan.

Mr. Bill Petersen stated the discussion regarding a salary adjustment for Technician Schloemann was deferred from the last meeting to this meeting. He said the Personnel Committee met on March 27, 2019 to discuss the two year salary adjustment of Technician Schloemann and the Personnel Committee is recommending a 15% salary adjustment, effective May 1, 2019.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that Technician Schloemann be granted a 15% salary increase, effective May 1, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, reported the Project Team Meeting held on April 8, 2019, for the Newfolden/Middle River Project was well attended and the Hearing on the Preliminary Engineers Report is scheduled for May 6, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., at the District office.

Tony Nordby reported a Project Team meeting was held on March 27, 2019 on the Swift Coulee/CD #3 project and comments regarding the Concurrence Point #2 were due April 11, 2019. He stated the comments received were reviewed and Concurrence Point #2 has been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers. Tony also distributed a proposed budget and timeline for moving forward with the Swift Coulee Project.

Manager, Mr. Brad Blawat left the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

A discussion was held concerning the lack of landowner participation for the Swift Coulee/CD #3 Project Team Meetings. Administrator Praska was directed to contact the landowners to determine if there is still interest in the Project.

Administrator Praska reported the Staff monitored the Angus Oslo #4 bypass ditch, in the SW4 of Section 10 of Brandt Township. He stated the water reached the top of the spoil, however, once the ditch opened, to the North and west into Judicial Ditch #25-2, the water receded and the risk of water overtopping the spoil was alleviated. He also reported the gates at all the District Impoundments are closed.

Administrator Praska informed the Board, that Argyle Building Center is putting together a rough cost estimate, for the proposed District garage. He inquired if the Board would grant him permission to advertise for quotes. It was the consensus of the Board, that Administrator Praska be authorized to advertise for quotes on the proposed garage and verify with the Warren Fire Department their desire to purchase the District’s present shop.

Administrator Praska reported he received three calls from concerned citizens regarding individuals pumping tile water. He stated he contacted the respective landowners in Brislet Township, Tabor Township and Numedal Township to shut off their tiling pumps.

Administrator Praska announced Brady-Martz and Associates will be performing the 2018 Audit of the District financial records on May 22-23, 2019.
Administrator Praska reported he and Manager Nelson are scheduled to meet with the Marshall County Commissioners on April 16, 2019, at 12:30 p.m., at the Marshall County Courthouse and the Red River Watershed Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., April 16, 2019, at the Red Lake Watershed District, in Thief River Falls.

Administrator Praska gave an update on the current flood stages at East Grand Forks, Oslo, Alvarado, Warren and Drayton.

The following meetings were announced:

May 6, 2019-8:30 a.m.-Regular Meeting, District Office
May 20, 2019-8:30 a.m.-Regular Meeting, District Office

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Roger Mischel
Secretary