The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, John W Nelson and Roger Mischel were present. Manager Robert Kovar was not present. Connie Kujawa, Tony Nordby, Kyle Schlomann, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Rolland Miller, Jeremy Misselhorn, Dillon Nelson, Jim Duckstad and Danny Omdahl were also present.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the agenda be approved, as amended to include RCPP #14 and RCPP #19. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that the minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

1. Permit (19-004) to Neil Johnson to install 270 acres drain tile; 10 hp (1269 GPM) VFD pump; ¼” coefficient; 30’ spacing; outletting into North township road ditch, in the south half of Section 23, Warrenton Township. (Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded Mr. Brad Blawat).

Kyle Schlomann reported Neil Johnson has amended his permit request (19-005) to install drain tile only in the North half of Section 5 of Boxville Township, and to exclude the approximately 30 acres in the Southwest quarter of Section 5, since the 30 acres are not in the benefited area of County Ditch #41.

2. Permit (19-005) to Neil Johnson to install 270 acres drain tile; 10 hp (1269 GPM) VFD pump; ¼” coefficient; 44’ spacing outletting into MCD #41, NE4 and NW4, Section 5, Boxville Township. (Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded Mr. Roger Mischel).

The following permit was administratively approved and reviewed:

3. Permit (19-006) to Enbridge Energy to install (2) driveway approaches to CSAH #2 with (2) 30” RCP culverts, SE4, Section 28, Viking Township.

Jeremy Misselhorn left the meeting at approximately 8:42 a.m.

Manager Mr. John W Nelson and Administrator Praska left the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m. Vice President, Mr. Bill Petersen, presided over the meeting.

Tony Nordby reported a meeting held in the District office with landowners from Sections 8 and 9 of Angus Township. Discussed was the options to repair the Main and Lateral of County Ditch #43. He stated it was the consensus of the landowners that they would like to proceed with repairing the Main and the Lateral. Tony also reported that he and Administrator Praska will meet with the West Polk County SWCD to discuss funding options and that quotes for the repair will be solicited in April, with the bids to be opened at the May 6th meeting of the Board.
Technician Omdahl reported Luann Marek contacted the office regarding the ring dike constructed around her property, 6.5 miles south of Warren, on CSAH #20. He stated that Staff checked the elevation of her dike and in some areas the dike had settled and appeared to be low. Technician Omdahl stated he relayed the findings to Ms. Marek and she hired Zavoral Construction to raise the dike so it is consistently level and a few inches higher than CSAH #20.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, presented the Preliminary Engineers Report on the Newfolden/Middle River project and stated a Project Team meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., at the Newfolden Community Center and requested the Board schedule the hearing on the Preliminary Engineers Report for May 6, 2019.

Alex Wardwell, Audubon Minnesota, joined the meeting at approximately 9:09 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the Board accept the Preliminary Engineers’ Report for the Newfolden/Middle River Project and said report be submitted to the DNR and BWSR for comments and the hearing on the Newfolden/Middle River Preliminary Engineers Report be scheduled for May 6, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Alex Wardwell, with MN Audubon, inquired if the District would maintain a water elevation of 912.65 feet, within the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project again this year, to aid in drowning out the cattails. She also stated that some of the remaining funding, with the Audubon Minnesota, will be used to spray the remaining cattails.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the District retain stored water, within the augmentation pool, at a level of 912.65 feet, if possible, and the District staff monitor the water level and weather to determine if the water needs to be released sooner so the capacity of the impoundment is not jeopardized for retention purposes. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson left the meeting at approximately 9:36 a.m.

Tony Nordby reported a Swift Coulee Project Team meeting was held on March 27, 2019 and landowner representation was very poor. He stated he reviewed the Draft Concurrence Point #2 with those in attendance and comments on the report are due by April 11, 2019. He stated the comments, if any, will be reviewed and if feasible, will be included in the Draft Concurrence Point #2 before the report is submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, for their review.

The plans for the potential District garage were reviewed. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Technician Omdahl be directed to check on hooking up water inside the garage and to get an estimate on the cost of the garage, as proposed.

Tony Nordby reported, at the Red River Watershed Management Board Joint Conference held at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Moorhead, Minnesota, the Red River Retention Commission met and are requesting the Memorandum of Understanding with the NRCS on the RCPP Projects be extended. He stated the Districts RCPP Projects are set to expire September 2019 and if the extension is granted the expiration date would be extended to September 2020. He stated he will keep the Board updated on this matter.
A discussion was held concerning the Judicial Ditch #19 RCPP project. After discussion, the Board requested Tony Nordby and Administrator Praska schedule a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources, in Bemidji, Minnesota to discuss their operation of the Nelson Slough.

The 2019 Equipment Rental rates were distributed.

A discussion was held regarding pumping flood water from farmland into ditches within the District. Technician Omdahl stated, last year a landowner contacted a Board Manager and was told he could not pump, while another landowner received permission from a different Manager. He stated the Amended Rules of the District states pumping in emergency situations is permitted. Manager, Mr. Bill Petersen, stated all pumping requests should be directed to the District staff.

Alex Wardwell left the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Manager, Mr. Bill Petersen reported that he, Manager Mr. Roger Mischel, Administrator Praska and Technician Schlomann met on March 27, 2019, to discuss a possible salary adjustment for Technician Schlomann. He stated the Personnel Committee are recommending a 15% salary adjustment, effective May 1, 2019 for Technician Schlomann. After discussion, this matter was deferred to the next regular meeting agenda.

Manager, Mr. Bill Petersen, gave a brief recap of the Red River Watershed Management Board Conference, held in Moorhead, Minnesota, on March 20 and March 21, 2019.

Technician Omdahl stated the District’s Rules and Regulations, prior to 2018, did include irrigation. However, the current Rules do not address irrigation of lands. He stated Administrator Praska inquired with other Watershed Districts to see if they require permits for irrigation or if this topic is included in their Rules, and of those he contacted, none of them require the landowner to get a Watershed permit nor do they have language in their Rules regarding irrigation since the landowner must obtain an irrigation permit from the DNR. The Board decided the DNR is more capable of addressing Irrigation permits and the District will not require a landowner to file a permit request with the District.

Technician Omdahl reported that a contractor has removed snow from the inlet structures at the Brandt Angus Coulee, Angus Oslo #4 Impoundments and the North Inlet ditch of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project.

The following meetings were announced:
  April 8, 2019-5:30 p.m.-Newfolden/Middle River Project, Newfolden
  April 15, 2019-8:30 a.m.-Regular Meeting, District Office
  May 6, 2019-8:30 a.m.-Regular Meeting, District Office

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.