

April21(a)2014.min

APPROVED (May 5, 2014)
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
MIDDLE- SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT
HELD AT 453 NORTH MCKINLEY STREET, WARREN, MN
4:00 P.M. APRIL 21, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Hille. Managers Roger Hille, Marvin Hedlund, Alvin Nybladh, Tom Neibauer, David Bakke, Ben Kleinwachter and John W Nelson were present. Nick Drees, Connie Kujawa, Heidi Hughes, Tony Nordby, Rolland Miller, Ron Sorvig, Danny Omdahl, Roger Mathsen, Todd Dvorak, Loren Zutz, Jill Hall, Jeff Monroe and Randy Knott were also present.

By unanimous consent, the agenda was approved, as presented.

Motion by Mr. Marvin Hedlund, seconded by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter that the minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting, be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Alvin Nybladh, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that the following bills be paid: from the Administrative Funds that payroll checks numbered 5626 through 5639 inclusive for a total of \$15,544.42; that checks numbered 16130 through 16167 inclusive, including the service charge and safe deposit box rent for a total of \$35,547.66; from the Project funds that checks numbered 2358 through 2363 inclusive, for a total of \$102,560.76; and from the Ditch Funds that checks numbered 2711 through 2715 inclusive, for a total of \$14,112.44 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Dean Danielski joined the meeting at approximately 4:18 p.m.

Loren Zutz placed a recorder on the Board table and stated his opinion on the District's policy regarding audio recording and stated he has permission from the landowner and the township to remove the sediment from the township road ditch in section 13 of Helgeland Township.

Jill Hall stated that she wishes to Petition her property in section 24 of New Solum Township out of the benefitted area of Judicial Ditch #15. She stated that the property is included in the new benefitted area of Judicial Ditch #14. The Board informed Ms. Hall that the District has received her Petition and they will assist her with the proceedings to remove the properties from Judicial Ditch #15 after the final hearing is held on the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #14.

Loren Zutz removed the recorder and left the meeting at approximately 4:47 p.m.; Jeff Monroe left the meeting at approximately 4:47 p.m.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

- 1) Permit (14-004) to Marshall County Highway Department to renew permit (11-028) to replace culverts as part of a grade widening project and aggregate shouldering of Marshall CSAH #6, beginning at Florian, Minnesota and going East for approximately 14.1 miles, in Wanger, Wright and West Valley Township. (Motion by Mr. Marvin Hedlund, seconded Mr. Alvin Nybladh);

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- 2) Permit (14-006) to Farley Township to raise the township road on the South side, up to one foot higher than the Polk County #35 road ditch spoil, Section 27, Farley Township. (Motion by Mr. Marvin Hedlund, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson).

The following permit was approved:

- 3) Permit (14-005) to Marshall County Highway Department to remove a bridge and build a road; install (4) lines of 88" span RCPA, Section 6, Tamarac Township, contingent upon affected landowners are aware of the project. (Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Marvin Hedlund, John W Nelson, opposed).

Roger Mathsen and Todd Dvorak, Sandsville Township Supervisors, stated that it appears the road in some areas is lower than the spoilbank along Judicial Ditch #75 in Sandsville Townships and requested the District raise the road. Dean Danielski, Farley Township Chairman, stated that there are locations in Farley that are the same. They were informed that the District staff will check the road elevations beginning one mile West of Minnesota Trunk Highway #220, and this matter will be addressed after the survey is completed.

Loren Zutz and Jeff Monroe re-joined the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Correspondence from Brink, Sobolik, Severson, Malm and Albrecht to the Vogel Law Firm regarding the Pribula matter was distributed.

Todd Dvorak and Roger Mathsen left the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Ron Sorvig left the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Heidi Hughes distributed the Outreach and Education Coordinator Report (attached) and reported on the following:

- 1) the draft 2013 Annual Report of the District has been completed;
- 2) she attended the RRWMB meeting and gave a presentation on the power of facebook;
- 3) she is working on the May issue of the News and Views for the RRWMB;
- 4) the prairie beach ridge burn planned at the Agassiz Audubon by the US Fish and Wildlife Service will take place as soon as weather permits;
- 5) she presented a program on the Birding Trail at Ladies Night in Karlstad, Minnesota;
- 6) she will be conducting a tour for the Grand Cities Bird Club, at the District impoundments, this weekend;
- 7) the photography sessions are set to begin at the libraries;
- 8) she has identified a contractor to develop a pollinator design and plan and a demonstration "ag production" pollinator project at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project;

Nick Drees distributed and reviewed the Project Coordinator Report (attached) with the Board.

Mr. John W Nelson and Nick Drees were directed to discuss with the District Attorney, the extension of the rental agreement, for an additional year, on the Agassiz Valley

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Water Resource Management Project properties. Nick Drees stated that he is checking with the MN DNR and the MMB for clarification.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the District sign the contract with RESPEC Consulting and Services for the Snake River WRAP project, upon approval by the District legal counsel. Motion unanimously carried.

It was announced that the Tamarac Project Work Team meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., in Newfolden, Minnesota.

Danny Omdahl reported that some landowners in the vicinity of Polk County Ditch #175 North, 1 ½ miles West of MN Trunk Highway #220, are requesting the centerline pipe that drains into #175 South be lowered. It was the consensus of the Board that no action would be taken on this matter, until the Board receives an Improvement Petition from the landowners.

Dean Danielski left the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Roger Hille left the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Danny Omdahl stated that the Personnel policy is in the final stages of completion and will be available at the next regular meeting; requested authorization to hire two summer interns from the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC); announced that the 2014 Equipment rental proposals will be publically opened May 5, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.; and reported that spring runoff created a slight amount of localized flooding.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the Administrator be authorized to hire two summer interns, from the UMC, for the 2014 construction season. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees stated that it appears that the Appeal on the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1 has been finalized with the appellants signing the settlement agreement and the judge signed the order.

The next regular meetings are scheduled for May 5, 2014 and May 19, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., at the District office.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:44 p.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Marvin Hedlund
Secretary

Outreach and Education Coordinator's Report - April 21, 2014

Publicity - News writing & Photography

UMC volunteer story
Crx Times
Uplinked photos and copy on MSTRWD facebook pages
Editing the MSTRWD Annual Report

Meetings -

Red River Watershed Management Board - April 15
Quinn Community Leadership Team - outdoor rec. opportunities - birding trail
Mailing for Tamarac Subwatershed PW Meeting in Strandquist April 24 10am

JD 14 Hearing

Newfolden - Community Room May 28 @ 7pm
Mailing meeting notice to property owners

Education -

Birding Trail Project -
Weekly teleconferences w/designers; review/edits of draft report;
May site visit w/ Center for Changing Landscapes;
discussions w/landscape architect Carmen Simonet - to create proposal for
Agassiz Valley pollinator garden design and plant list, ag demonstrations;
Ladies Night in Karlstad - Birding Trail April 15
Federated Women's Club - Northwest Region Presentation - 04/12 in Warren
Attended briefing on "M files" computer document storage
Presented Program at Crookston Library 08 April

Grants -

- Partners for Fish and Wildlife (US-FWS) prairie beach ridge burn on the south side of 190th Street (Agassiz Audubon) before 15 May - weather permitting
- discussions w/ Rob Sip (MN Dept Ag) and Nicole Bernd (West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District) regarding possible funding for pollinator demo project

Project Coordinator Report

April 21, 2014

RRWMB –

- 1) Red River Basin Tour – Roseau WD – June 4 & 5
- 2) MAWD – Summer Tour – Stillwater – June
- 3) Administrators meeting May 2nd Fargo
 - a. Tiling Policy
 - b. Rules and Regulations
 - c. Project Acceleration (Chuck Fritz)
- 4) Project Work Team – Reimbursement – June 30th Deadline
- 5) Lessard Sams – Project Application – June 12th Deadline
- 6) RRRRA – Farm Bill Implementation
- 7) Department of Agriculture – Water Monitoring – Phosphorous
- 8) Discussion on individual District ability to reduce Project Levy

Land Rental –

- 1) Brandt/Angus – Land prep for native seed establishment. NRCS allowing (1) year (2014). I have requested (2) years. There is reluctance from St. Paul to approve, but I am still pursuing.
- 2) Agassiz Valley – Still working with DNR and MMB on what the rules are. There appears to be the following options –
 - a. Do nothing. Summer Fallow and seed to native grasses.
 - b. Put into Hayland.
 - c. Hire someone to farm (Farm Manager). March 15 was deadline for MST to obtain crop insurance. A Farm Manager can still obtain insurance.
 - d. Give State of Minnesota money back for the two parcels rented in 2013, to remove restrictions. Property was purchased on a 75% State, 25% local match. Property costs were between \$750 - \$900 per acre. The amount returned would split with Red Board on a 67% - 33% ratio. Jerry is checking into this.

Oslo Access –

- 1) Ron Harnack reports that the grant for \$85,000 to do the “Model” (Phase 1) will be in the Senate Bonding Bill (Sen LeRoy Stumpf). MNDOT will be matching the grant 50%. MSTRWD will administer grant and coordinate between stakeholders

- 2) Met in Crookston April 8th with “technical committee” to discuss Phase #2 (Floodway) and discuss Phase #1 model. ND Water Commission will be asked to provide funds to assist in Phase #2 model.

WRAPS –

- 1) Grand Marais Watershed – Myron Jesme, RLWD, is requesting an agreed change in boundary for their 1Watershed1Plan Application to BWSR. Watershed need to agree on boundaries or BWSR will determine.
- 2) Snake River Watershed – RESPEC Consulting & Services has provided a contract for our approval. MPCA has agreed in principle to RESPEC’s Workplan and Budget. I have not received MPCA’s agreement as yet.
- 3) Tamarac River Watershed – Nothing new to report since change in Houston’s Lead individual’s retirement and Mark Deutschman replacement.

Project Work Team –

- 1) Tamarac River Watershed – April 18th Meeting with DNR to discuss their “Opportunities and Constraints” report.
- 2) PWT meeting scheduled for April 24th Strandquist 10:00 A.M.

Projects –

- 1) Agassiz Valley –
 - a. Cleanout – (“Restoration”) – Seems to have survived the runoff with little to zero ill effects. The flow appears to have performed as thought.
 - b. Landowner Agreement – Landowner has signed.
- 2) Impoundments – All closed and receiving runoff.