

April7(a)2014.min

APPROVED (as corrected April 21, 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 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Hille. Managers David Bakke, Roger Hille, John W Nelson, Ben Kleinwachter, Marvin Hedlund, Tom Neibauer and Alvin Nybladh were present. Nick Drees, Connie Kujawa, Heidi Hughes, Tony Nordby, Rolland Miller, Danny Omdahl, LeRoy Vonasek, Ron Sorvig and Don Diedrich were also present.

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

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting, be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Communications were distributed from Tami Norgard of the Vogel Law Firm regarding the ring dike of Ernest Pribula; and from Jim Stengrim to Jeff Hane, the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, and the Board of Soil and Water Resources regarding the response to his correspondence dated February 20, 2014.

It was announced that two data practice requests have been received from PO Box 155, Warren, Minnesota requesting documentation in regards to the Agassiz Audubon Society Management Services agreement and the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project outlet easement with Arlyn Stroble.

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

- 1) That a grant has been received for a \$750 solar webcam that will be installed on a kestrel box located at Crookston, Minnesota;
- 2) That Lowe's will make their funding decision by next week regarding construction of the field office at the pole building, on the ridge of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project;
- 3) A landscape designer will submit a proposal for a pollinator garden at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project;
- 4) That she presented two programs at the Gardening Saturday Event (NDSU) held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, on April 5, 2014;
- 5) And that she is meeting with Red River Watershed Management Board to draft a work plan for Red Board publicity.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the Public Hearing on the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #14, be changed from April 21, 2014, as stated in the March 17, 2014 minutes, to May 28, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at the Newfolden Community Center, in Newfolden, Minnesota, due to a scheduling conflict with the Viewers. Motion unanimously carried.

The Chairman and Secretary signed the Contract with the Viewers in the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #14.

Danny Omdahl reported:

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1. That Houston Engineering's proposal for monitoring the mitigation site of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project would be approximately \$27,733.00 for 5 years. After discussion, the Board declined to sign the proposal, however, Houston Engineering will provide the yearly report on an hourly basis and the District staff will monitor the wells and staff gauges.

Nick Drees reported that conversations have taken place with a few landowners regarding the Nelson Slough and invitations have been extended to them to attend the next Tamarac Project Work Team meeting, scheduled for April 24, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., in Strandquist, Minnesota; and that Houston Engineering is preparing estimates to enhance water storage on the WRP lands in Como Township.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that the Chairman of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District be authorized to execute the Services Delineation List with the Agassiz Audubon Society. Motion unanimously carried.

Danny Omdahl reported:

1. That the Easement with Arlyn Stroble for the properties on the South Branch of the Snake River (outlet of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project) has been signed and is being mailed to the District office;
2. That the Warranty Deed conveying the properties in the West half of Section 24; the South half of the Northeast Quarter of section 24; and the northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 24, of Brislet Township to the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District has been executed by the President of the Agassiz Audubon Society, Inc.;

Mr. John W Nelson and Mr. Marvin Hedlund gave a brief report on the meeting they attended and on the progress of Project 60.

Nick Drees discussed the options to farm the lands on the Brandt/Angus and Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project. After discussion, Nick Drees was directed to contact CHS to discuss weed control and to farm the lands for the District.

Jeff Hane joined the meeting on speaker phone and discussed personnel issues and reported on the following:

- 1) Zutz/Elseth vs Nelson/Stroble appeal- Plaintiffs have appealed Judge Marben's summary judgment;
- 2) Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1 appeal-it appears that the settlement agreement has been signed by all of the appellants;
- 3) That the open meeting lawsuit #1 appeal for Attorney Fees by Loren Zutz has been appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Connie Kujawa left the meeting at approximately 5:47 p.m.

A discussion was held concerning hiring two interns from the University of Minnesota-Crookston, for the summer months. Heidi Hughes was directed to contact them and discuss work functions.

A discussion was held concerning the Phased Retirement Option with Nick Drees.

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Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the Chairman be authorized to execute the Phase Retirement Option with Nick Drees, provided the District's contribution to health insurance be changed from \$900.00 to \$925.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Ben Kleinwachter left the meeting at approximately 6:07 p.m.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that Danny Omdahl be designated the responsible authority for the management of the data practices of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and Connie Kujawa be designated the designee. Motion unanimously carried.

The Personnel Policy was reviewed. By consensus of the Board, the Administrator position, in the future, will be a salaried position with compensation of overtime to be at the discretion of the Chairman.

Nick Drees will meet with the Technical Group in Crookston on April 8, 2014 concerning access in and out of Oslo. It was announced that the next Border Townships Association Group (BTAG) meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2014.

It was announced that Brady-Martz and Associates will at the District office on April 23 and April 24, 2014, to begin the 2013 Audit of the District finances.

The next regular meetings are scheduled for April 21, 2014 and May 5, 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 6:30 p.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Marvin Hedlund
Secretary

Danny Omdahl
Recording Secretary