The meeting was called to order by President Roger Hille. Managers John W Nelson, David Bakke, Doug Sorenson, Roger Hille, Alvin Nybladh and Ben Kleinwachter were present. Manager Marvin Hedlund was not present. Nick Drees, Danny Omdahl, Connie Kujawa, Ron Sorvig, Heidi Hughes, Tony Nordby, Rolland Miller, Randy Knott, LeRoy Vonasek and Loren Zutz were also present.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the agenda be accepted, as amended to remove #14 (2a) Closed Session and to add #12(a) Budget Discussion. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the minutes of the July 15, 2013 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Wallace Diedrich joined the meeting at approximately 4:07 p.m.

Loren Zutz inquired whether the District has statutory authority to regulate tiling practices and questioned tiling practices that are currently within the area under appeal in the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

1. Permit (13-061) Alan Pietruszewski to remove a 18” culvert and field crossing in the East US Hwy #75 ditch and replace North of curve on 80 line, NW4, Sec 10, Middle River Township, contingent upon MN DOT policy. (Motion John W Nelson, seconded Alvin Nybladh)

2. Permit (13-063) Bill Sczepanski to install a field crossing with 24” culvert, North Marshall Cty Road Ditch #110, middle of South side of SW4, Sec 32, Wanger Township.

Loren Zutz left the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m.

3. Permit (13-064) Lyle Silbernagel to replace a 18” and 24” culvert; clean East township road ditch along the NW4 SW4, Sec 14 and the N2 NW4, Sec 23, Lincoln Township. (Motion Ben Kleinwachter, seconded Doug Sorenson)

4. Permit (13-065) Damon Stroble to repair a crossing on ½ mile line and relay an 18” CSP; clean East township road ditch to a 24” CSP, draining into JD #25-2; and extend the 24” CSP to 60’, W2, Sec 1, Angus Township, with the permit to detail where the cleaning ends. (Motion John W Nelson, seconded Ben Kleinwachter)

5. Permit (13-067) Kimberly Haugen to install a crossing with a 18” or 24” culvert, East line of SE4, Sec 35, New Main Township. (Motion David Bakke, seconded John W Nelson)

Jeff Poe and Brian Murphy joined the meeting at approximately 4:31 p.m.
6. Permit (13-055) WJS Nelson to install 240 ac drain tile; ¼" coefficient, 50’ spacing, 10 HP VFD (1500 GPM) pump; with a 8” PVC and trap thru JD #1 spoil, bordering the Red River, Sec 18 and 19, Higdem Township. (Motion John W Nelson, seconded Doug Sorenson)

Jeff Poe and Brian Murphy left the meeting at approximately 4:55 p.m.

7. Permit (13-069) Donald Strickler to remove sediment and add fill in township road ditch; regrade a 18” field crossing culvert from 2” – 4”; SW4, SE4 36, Angus Township. (Motion Ben Kleinwachter, seconded John W Nelson)

The following permit was unanimously tabled until adjacent landowners are contacted:

8. Permit (13-062) Jon Hapka to install 155 ac drain tile; ¼” coefficient, 7.5 VFD (1100 GPM) pump, SW4, Sec 24, Warrenton Township. (Motion John W Nelson, seconded Ben Kleinwachter)

The following permit was approved:

9. Permit (13-068) Brian Nelson to install 70 ac drain tile in S2 SW4, Sec 21; install 140 ac drain tile in NW4, Sec 28; 3/8” coefficient; 60’ spacing and to connect both with 12” pipe under Cty Road #100 to connect to (2) 5 HP VFD pumps located on North line of SW4, Sec 28, Oak Park Township. (Motion Alvin Nybladh, seconded David Bakke, with John W Nelson abstaining)

Scott Peters joined the meeting at approximately 4:58 p.m., but did not stay.

A letter from Don Buckhout commending the District on their 2012 Annual Report was presented.

Ron Adrian reported that an approximate estimation to reslope the Vega township road slope (Judicial Ditch #20) could be $10,000 per mile, assuming the road is moved by 10’ with side slopes of 4:1.

Nick Drees reported:

1. Judicial Ditch #14 Redetermination of Benefits- the Viewers have apparently completed their field work and are in the process of determining ownership on some of the parcels. Houston Engineering has completed the survey to determine grass strip damages.

2. Judicial Ditch #16-no work on the crossing, in the E2 NW of Section 35 of Vega Township, is anticipated until after harvest.

3. Judicial Ditch #1-bid documents are ready to advertise for the resloping and cost estimates to replace some trees and move a bin are being solicited.

3. Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project-the MPCA is requesting information regarding the cleaning of the outlet (South Branch of the Snake River); the Corps of Engineers comment period has expired; and the determination of how may acres, along the coulee needed for right of way.
Heidi Hughes reported that she has received a grant from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs from the University of Minnesota, for a student researcher, to research the US Highway 75 birding trail and for the preliminary design of the Visitor Center at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project, in the amount $7,200.00 and that a matching grant is needed, in the amount of $1,500.00 to execute the grant.

Motion by Mr. Doug Sorenson, seconded by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter that the District authorize Heidi Hughes to proceed with the execution of the grant with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and that the District provide matching funds in the amount of $1,500.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Heidi Hughes reported that the second part of the proposal is a grant for approximately $49,000.00, which also requires matching funds in the amount of $13,000.00. She stated she has prepared a proposal for funding to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

Motion by Mr. Doug Sorenson, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that the District approve phase 2 of the project grant application collaborating with the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, which requires a 1/3 local match. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that Heidi Hughes be authorized to pursue a grant in the amount of $50,000.00 with the Minnesota DNR Legacy Program with the District being the applicant, to remove trees in the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees informed the Board what the lieu of taxes on the Brandt/Angus Project amount was per acre and if the Board wanted to revisit the decision to make the payment in lieu of taxes payment. The Board took no action.

Nick Drees reported:

1. that the MN Department of Dam Safety reviewed the District’s impoundment sites and a few minor deficiencies were noted.
2. Tamarac Project Work Team- met in Stephen, Minnesota on August 1, 2013; and toured the Stephen dam and the Tamarac Rivers, West of Stephen.
3. Angus Oslo #4 - Brandt Township is requesting the District gravel 1 mile of roadway; and the slope is unstable in the NE of Section 9. Consensus of the Board is to fix the stability issue.
4. Marshall County Appointments-no appointments were made at their last meeting.
5. Snake River WRAP- MPCA will hire the firm requested by the District.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Doug Sorenson to recommend to the MPCA the hiring of RESPEC for the Snake River WRAP project. Motion unanimously carried.
A discussion was held concerning the recommendation of Brady-Martz to earmark funds for future major purchases. This item will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

Nick Drees reported:

1. that a meeting with two Polk County Commissioners, Brian Opsahl of Brady-Martz, a Board of Soil and Water Resources representative, and others was held to explain how QuickBooks and ditch funds are recorded. The commissioners expressed satisfaction with the process.
2. That maps of legal drainage ditches, under the jurisdiction of the District, have been prepared and quotes for spraying are being solicited;
3. That the District is still waiting for the new computer systems to arrive;
4. The City of Oslo/Red River Study—the Northwest Regional Development Commission is looking for someone to take the lead in the modeling of the Red River to provide access to Oslo during flooding events.

Legal:
1. Loren Zutz has been granted a second extension by the District Court in the Open Meeting lawsuit against the District, regarding his compensation for legal fees
2. Judicial Ditch #25-1 Redetermination of Benefits Appeal—council is working towards mediation.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2013, at 4:00 p.m., at the District office.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:17 p.m.