

December16(a)2019.min

APPROVED (as corrected Jan 6, 2020)
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT
HELD AT 453 NORTH MCKINLEY STREET, WARREN, MN
8:30 A.M. December 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers John W Nelson, Bill Petersen, David Bakke, Brad Blawat and Roger Mischel were present. Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Jim Duckstad, Connie Kujawa, Gunnar Bowman and Peter Kostrzewski were also present. Manager Robert Kovar joined the meeting at approximately 8:32 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include Guests. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar the following bills be paid: from the Administrative Funds; payroll checks #6416-6429 inclusive for a total of \$23,100.66; checks #18457-18490 inclusive, including the service charge and ACH withdrawal, for a total of \$24174.65; from the Project Funds: checks numbered 3074-3082 inclusive for a total of \$55,037.29; from the RRWMB Funds: check #195 for a total of \$260,035.88 and from Ditch Funds: checks numbered 3329-3333 inclusive, including the service charge, for a total \$5,570.65. Motion unanimously carried.

Keith Weston joined the meeting at approximately 8:52 a.m.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

1. (Permit 19-112) to Peter Kostrzewski to remove an East/West 30" centerline culvert and install a 36" culvert, CR #29, same location, Section line 31/32 of East Park Township, provided the County and Watershed District set the elevation and Peter receives permission from the County. (Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded Mr. Brad Blawat).
2. (Permit 19-113) to Erwin Stobbe to raise the North spoil bank of Judicial Ditch #25-2, with the spoil elevation to remain 1' below the township road; Section 36, Helgeland Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. David Bakke).

Sheila Hoerner joined the meeting at approximately 8:58 a.m.

Peter Kostrzewski left the meeting at approximately 9:12 a.m.

Keith Weston, Executive Director of the Red River Retention Authority, gave a brief report on the District's RCPP projects and the current status of each, according to the NRCS. He asked if the MSTRWD has performed any cultural resource review of the two RCPP projects. Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, stated that Phase 1a Literature Searches have been performed

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for both sub-watersheds and no red flags were determined. Keith stated if a full watershed plan is submitted to the NRCS, with a benefit/cost ratio less than 1:1, would need approval from the NRCS Chief. If the project is granted approval, federal funding would likely become available where 100% of the design and construction would be funded through the NRCS. Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, reported that Points 2 and 3 on the JD #14 RCPP Project have been submitted and the Project Team is currently working on addressing alternatives and finalizing the alternative screening documents. On the JD #19 RCPP Project, he reported, several meetings have been held with the DNR to discuss the improved Flood Damage Reduction Strategies for the Nelson Slough. He stated a gauge has been installed by the DNR to monitor water levels, and it confirms that Nelson Slough has been operating above the normal pool elevation identified in the existing operation and maintenance plan. He stated another meeting with the DNR is scheduled for January 7, 2020. Tony also reported the JD #19 Project Team is working on developing an alternative screening documents.

Keith Weston left the meeting at approximately 9:53 a.m.

Sheila Hoerner, President of the Agassiz Audubon Board, gave an update on the 2019 activities of the Audubon. She stated the Audubon will be submitting a check to the District, in January, in the amount of \$24,103.00 for maintenance of the CRP lands and expenses related to the occupancy of the house, by Heidi Hughes.

Administrator Praska stated the License to Use and Occupy with the Agassiz Audubon on the District's property, located at 27453 190th St NW, Warren, will expire on December 31, 2019.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen the Chairman be authorized to execute the License to Use and Occupy with the Agassiz Audubon, for one year, with the license to expire December 31, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Sheila Hoerner left the meeting at approximately 10:02 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported the slough on Judicial Ditch #1, in Section 17, of Higdem Township, that was repaired earlier this year, has sloughed again. District staff said the slough is longer than before. The Board directed Houston Engineering, to review options to repair the slough in the Spring.

Administrator Praska reported he has been informed by Lunke's Inc, that they will not be able to remove the sediment from the 24" culvert, in the NW4 NW4, of Section 4, Bloomer Township this year. Technician Omdahl showed pictures of a sediment block on the North end of the 30" and 24" township road culverts in Section 4 of Bloomer Township. It was the consensus of the Board that Technician Omdahl check with some contractors to determine if the sediment block can still be removed this year.

Administrator Praska reported the Marshall County Soil & Water Conservation District is discussing offering funds for repairs on State Ditch #3. A 36" and 30" CSP, on section line 4/3 Bloomer Township, at approximate station 306+41, with (1) 48" CSP. These culverts drain northerly into SD #3. The other location for repair is at approximate station 278+32, in the SE4 SW4 of Section 34, Parker Township, where 10' of an 18" CSP drains north into SD #3 broke off. Both locations will need to be addressed in 2020.

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Tony Nordby reported a Project Team meeting on the Swift Coulee/CD #3 project, was held December 10, 2019. He stated alternatives were reviewed and a preferred alternative meeting the purpose and need of the project was presented to the project team. The preferred alternative included channel restoration of the Swift Coulee in combination with a retention site. Three options for possible retention locations were presented. He stated the landowners would like to see the channel restoration move forward but are opposed to an impoundment site. Tony and the Board had a discussion on a possible alternative of channel restoration that would include set back levies with culvert sizing, upstream of County Ditch #3, to try offset potential impacts downstream.

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Administrator Praska inquired if the Board would reassign the Land Rental Agreement on the March Properties to Tony Johnson. It was the consensus of the Board to reassign the rental agreement to Tony Johnson if the original agreement is not in the Johnson Family Farms of Warren Incorporated name.

Managers Mr. Bill Petersen and Mr. Roger Mischel, Personnel Committee members, stated they met with the District employees on December 2, 2019 to discuss employee compensation and benefits for the year 2020. Manager Petersen reported the Committee is recommending Praska, Schlomann, and Larson be given a 2% increase in salary and Kujawa and Omdahl a 4% salary increase and the District cover the additional cost in premiums for the employee's health care coverage.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the District contribute \$630.00 per employee/per month towards an employee's single health insurance policy and \$1,080.00 towards a family health insurance policy. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that Praska, Schlomann, Larson, Kujawa and Omdahl be granted a 2% plus .25¢/hour salary increase, effective January 1, 2020. Motion carried, with Mr. Brad Blawat voting against.

The following monthly gross salaries will be effective January 1, 2020:

Praska	\$5,694.82
Kujawa	\$5,124.46
Omdahl	\$4,512.60
Larson	\$3,812.05
Schlomann	\$3,812.05

Chairman Nelson announced he had to leave and turned the meeting over to Manager Petersen. Mr. John W Nelson left the meeting at approximately 11:54 a.m., Mr. Bill Petersen presided over the meeting.

A brief report was given by the Managers who attended the Annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, held December 4-7th, in Alexandria, Minnesota.

It was announced the Red River Watershed Management Board will meet on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at the RRWMB office, in Ada, Minnesota.

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Technician Omdahl stated the Board should review the Operating and Maintenance Plans on the District Impoundments. Administrator Praska stated this matter will be added to a future agenda.

The following meetings were announced:

January 6, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office
January 21, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Roger Mischel
Secretary