

December18(a)2017.min

APPROVED (January 16, 2018)
**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 18, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers John W Nelson, Roger Mischel, Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, and Eric Johnson were present. Connie Kujawa, Tony Nordby, Kyle Schломann, LeRoy Vonasek, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, and Dillon Nelson were also present.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the agenda be approved, as amended with the addition of Amended Rules and Rinke Noonan Drainage Conference. Motion unanimously carried.

Manager Mr. Robert Kovar joined the meeting at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting be approved, as amended. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson that the following bills be paid from the Administrative Funds that payroll checks numbered 6148 through 6159 inclusive for a total of \$14,886.37; that checks numbered 17700 through 17735 inclusive, including the service charge, for a total of \$15,497.12; from the Project funds that checks numbered 2851 through 2863 inclusive, for a total of \$68,416.14; from the RRWMB funds, check number 183 for \$201,353.14; and from the Ditch Funds that checks numbered 3155 through and 3162 inclusive, including the service charge, for a total of \$34,593.43 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Due to the announced early departure of Mr. Roger Mischel, the Chairman stated he wished to address the agenda items under Administrator next.

Administrator Praska stated he contacted TechOne Technologies for a price to set up each Board Manager with a District email address. Administrator Praska reported the cost for 10 email addresses would be \$600.00 per year. He stated the District would only need 7 email addresses, however, the cost would be cheaper if purchased in lots of 10.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that the District staff pursue setting up in-house emails, for each manager, by using an account such as Gmail, Yahoo, or some other email engine. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported an email was received from Heidi Hughes requesting the District staff review the final draft of the kiosk panels for content. He stated the panel data was forwarded to the Two Rivers Watershed District, Red Lake Watershed District and Roseau Watershed District as they initially were interested in having a watershed tourism birding trail which included the kiosks. He also stated that funds were received from the Two Rivers Watershed, Kittson County and Roseau Watershed District to fund a birding trail. Administrator Praska stated the funds were not used and these funds should be returned to agencies. No action was taken.

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A discussion was held concerning the correspondence received from Sheila Hoerner, President of the Agassiz Audubon Society. It was the consensus of the Board, that Administrator Praska and Connie Kujawa schedule a meeting with Ms. Hoerner to discuss coding of the Agassiz Audubon Society expenses and report back to the Board.

Mr. Roger Mischel left the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported the Rental Agreement, with Johnson Family Farms, on the March Impoundment properties has been prepared and is ready for signature.

Administrator Praska stated the Notice of Hearing of the Petition of Loren Zutz, Deborah Zutz and Ronnie Zutz to remove properties from the benefited area of Judicial Ditch #25-1 will be held on January 18, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., at the District office. He also stated the Notice of Hearing is being published in the respective county newspapers and the Notice will be mailed to all owners, within the benefited areas, this week.

Mr. Roger Mischel rejoined the meeting at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported the District had a verbal agreement with Farley Township and Northland Township to cost share in the graveling costs of the road in the vicinity of the Judicial Ditch #75 sloughing repair. He stated he sent bills to Farley Township and Northland Township for the costs of 1 ½" of gravel to surface the road, however, Northland Township has stated the gravel that was used was unacceptable and they will incur additional graveling costs to bring the road back into a workable shape. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the gravel laid by the District, which did not meet specs, would be an expense to the Judicial Ditch #75 system as part of the project expense.

Mr. Roger Mischel left the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported the Board of Water and Soil Resources will make their determination on December 20, 2017, if the Clean Water Grant applications the District applied for on Judicial Ditch #75, Polk County Ditch #175 and State Ditch #3 will receive funding.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson that Chairman Nelson be authorized to sign the final payment, in the amount of \$21,316.00, with Gowan Construction, on the Watershed Ditch #7 Improvement project. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, announced a meeting of the Newfolden/Middle River Project Team has been scheduled for January 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., at the Newfolden Community Center.

A discussion was held concerning how to classify the Riparian Aid/Buffer funding received from the Counties. Connie Kujawa stated the funds have been deposited in the District Ditch Account, however, expenses were paid from the Administrative Project Funds. She stated funds will be transferred from the Ditch Account to reimburse the Administrative Project fund for the expenses incurred.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, reported the Agreement between the MSTRWD and Houston Engineering, for the Oslo Access Phase 2 study expired on December 1, 2017.

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Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the Chairman be authorized to execute the Agreement with Houston Engineering, to extend the termination date to June 18, 2018, on the Oslo Access Phase 2 study. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby announced the Oslo Access Steering Committee has scheduled a meeting for December 20, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., at the Oslo Community Center.

Administrator Praska reported he has discussed the request of the City of Newfalden to clean deadfall and dams from the river, within the City of Newfalden, with the Marshall County Highway Engineer and he was informed the County will not participate with the clean out. Administrator Praska stated he relayed this information to Tammy Hansen, Newfalden City Administration, and recommended the City of Newfalden check into utilizing the Sentence to Serve program. The Board stated they may be willing to cost share, with the City of Newfalden, if they utilize the Sentence to Serve, to clean the river within the City of Newfalden.

Rolland Miller joined the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.

A short discussion was held concerning the Hearing on the District's Amended Rules scheduled for 1:30 p.m., today, at the Bremer Bank in Warren, Minnesota.

It was announced the Red River Watershed Board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., at the Sand Hill Watershed District, in Fertile, Minnesota.

Administrator Praska reported representatives from the Red River Watershed Management Board met with the Marshall County Commissioners on December 7, 2017, and presented the history of the Red Board along with the benefits received by the Districts who are members of the Red Board.

A letter prepared by Gerald Von Korff, attorney with Rinke-Noonan, on behalf of the District, to Thomas Burton, Attorney for Zutz/Stengrim, was distributed.

Correspondence from Rinke-Noonan regarding a Drainage and Water Conference scheduled for February 15, 2018 was distributed.

A motion was made by Mr. Eric Johnson to pursue every avenue possible to address the claims made by Zutz/Stengrim and to schedule a meeting with Zutz/Stengrim to discuss what they are asking for, and that Zutz/Stengrim provide the questions they want answered prior to the meeting being scheduled. Motion died for lack of a second.

The following meetings were announced:

- January 2, 2018 - Regular Meeting, 8:30 a.m., District Office
- January 16, 2018-Regular Meeting, 8:30 a.m., District Office
- January 18, 2018-Buffer Rule/Ordinance Hearing, 9:00 a.m., Bremer Bank
- January 18, 2018 – JD #25-1 Petition Hearing, 1:30 p.m., District Office
- January 23-25, 2018 - RRB Land & Water Conference, Winnipeg

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

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Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Robert Kovar
Treasurer