

**APPROVED (March 2, 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. February 18, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bill Petersen. Managers Bill Petersen, David Bakke, Robert Kovar and Brad Blawat were present. Managers John W Nelson and Roger Mischel were not present. Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Connie Kujawa, Gunnar Bowman, and Jeremy Misselhorn were also present.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include: Judicial Ditch #1 and AO #1 CRP. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the minutes of the February 3, 2020 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar the following bills be paid: from the Administrative Funds; payroll checks #6441-6451 inclusive for a total of \$17,818.78; checks #18523-18552 inclusive, including the service charge and ACH withdrawal, for a total of \$28,447.35; from the Project Funds: checks numbered 3088-3091 inclusive for a total of \$20,217.54; from the RRWMB Funds: check # 197 for a total of \$23,638.52; and from Ditch Funds: checks numbered 3347-3351 inclusive, including the service charge, for a total \$215,879.84. Motion unanimously carried.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

1. (Permit 20-009) to Ralph Larson Farms to lower an existing 36" RCP centerline culvert, under CSAH #23, draining Southerly into Watershed Ditch #5 (Sta 346+59); W2 SW4, Section 11, Northland Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. David Bakke).
2. (Permit 20-011) to Jim Potucek to install 135 acres drain tile; 5 hp (635 GPM) VFD pump; 1/4" drainage coefficient; 80' tile spacing; outletting to Melgard Coulee, NE4, Section 16, McCrea Township. Conditions: An operating plan is received stating pumping will cease during flooding or freezing conditions and/or when the water level in the Melgard Coulee reaches or exceeds an elevation of 974.66' NAVD at CSAH #34; 20" above the bottom of the 73" x 43" RCPA culverts; outlet pipe must have geotechnical fabric laid; rip-rapped and visibly marked and no structures may be located within road or ditch right of way. (Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. David Bakke).

The following permit was unanimously tabled pending the landowner in Section 10 of Comstock Township is notified and he has no objections to the installation of the drain tile:

3. (Permit 20-010) to Jim Potucek to install 76 acres drain tile; 1/4" drainage coefficient; 100' spacing; outletting to an existing lift station, E2 SW4, Section 3, Comstock Township. (Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded Mr. David Bakke).

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Jeremy Misselhorn left the meeting at approximately 8:57 a.m.

Technician Omdahl reported Olson Construction, TRF has removed spoil vegetation to promote freezing of the spoil for stability. Olson will continue to remove sediment from Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, in Section 30 of New Solum Township. He stated the work will continue to the South and will cease at CSAH #2. Manager David Bakke, suggested that this spring the staff survey Branch B at the intersection with the Main in the NE4 section 7 New Solum Twp. If sediment is present, it should be removed to ensure the designed split in westerly and northerly flows.

Mike Larson joined the meeting at approximately 8:58 a.m.

Mike Larson, Larson Helicopters, informed the Board of the various chemicals he uses to spray cattails. He stated the chemical, Polaris, is working well and is proving that an area sprayed will not need to be sprayed for another 3 years. Mike suggested splitting the District into 3 regions, that could be on a 3-year spray rotation schedule. He also requested the Board consider allowing him to spray areas that have not been identified by District staff, to alleviate excess costs and time. The Board agreed that a plan be developed.

Mike Larson left the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Tony Nordby, Engineer, presented a preliminary plan to repair the reoccurring sloughing at the outlet of Judicial Ditch #1. He reported the plan design would be to change the South bank to a 6:1 slope; include a 20' bench with a 4% slope and continue with a 5:1 slope to the top of the bank. The Board inquired if additional Right-of-Way would be required. Tony reported it appears approximately 1 acre would be needed. Tony informed the Board the preliminary estimate for the repair appears to be approximately \$100,000.00.

It was the consensus of the Board that Tony Nordby proceed with a plan design, cost estimate and determine the right-of-way for the slough repair on Judicial Ditch #1, in section 17 of Higdem Township.

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 9:53 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported the Newfolden Project's Easement Purchase Option and Pre-Construction Agreements, with the 4 landowners in Section 33 and 27 of New Maine Township, are ready. He stated he plans to begin scheduling meetings with the landowners next week to review the agreements with them.

Administrator Praska announced the Judicial Ditch #19 RCPP Project Team meeting scheduled for February 12, 2020 was cancelled due to inclement weather, and has been re-scheduled for February 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., at the Strandquist Community Center.

Administrator Praska reported he met with the Border Township Associative Group (BTAG), in regard to the Oslo Access project on February 11, 2020. He stated Rob Sip, Red River Watershed Administrator, and Andrew Graham, Red River Coordinator, MN DNR, were also present. He reported BTAG has broke the project down into 3 phases, with bridge replacement as phase 1. He stated they have inquired for funding assistance through the Red River Watershed Management Board and would like the DNR to include the Oslo Access project on

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the Flood Hazard Mitigation list. Rob Sip, informed the BTAG group the Red Board cannot fund a project unless it is a project of the District. The Board had a discussion on the criteria needed to be considered a project. After discussion, Administrator Praska informed the Board the BTAG group has requested to be added to March 16, 2020 board meeting.

Administrator Praska reported he submitted the responses to the action items laid out in the District's 10 year plan to the Board of Soil and Water Resources as part of the PRAP Review. He stated Dale Krystosek, BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Coordinator, will be attending the March 2, 2020 board meeting, to present the Draft PRAP Review to the Board.

Technician Omdahl reported he attended a seminar at the UMC of Crookston on various CRP Programs administered by the USDA. He stated the USDA has Pollinator CRP that consists of installing forbs on 10% of a parcel to be enrolled into CRP. He stated the CRP contract on a 40 acre parcel, on the Angus Oslo #1 site has expired, and there is approximately a 9 acre parcel at the Agassiz Audubon property, in Section 24, of Brislet Township, that is not enrolled in a government program. These parcels may qualify for this program and the parcel in Brislet would enhance the already established pollinator garden on the property.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. David Bakke, that Administrator Praska contact Rodney Larson and the Agassiz Audubon to discuss enrolling the above mentioned parcels in a USDA CRP program, and should the cost of the pollinator seed exceed the cost of the CRP seed, the District will pay the difference in cost for the pollinator seed. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported there are 3 bills that are being presented at the Legislative Briefing that MAWD is not supporting. These are: WD Developer bill which seeks to take certain authorities from watershed districts; a bill requiring county commissioners to sit on watershed district boards rather than appoint members; and a bill from Rice Creek WD requiring a certain percentage of levied funds remain in the county. He stated MAWD is supporting a bill to increase the Watershed General Fund Levy and is seeking \$75 million in State-wide bonding.

The following meetings were announced:

March 2, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office  
March 16, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office  
March 10-11, 2020-March Conference-Moorhead, MN  
March 18-19, 2020-Legislative Breakfast-St. Paul

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:13 a.m.

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Connie Kujawa  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer