

February18(a)2014.min

**APPROVED** (as corrected March 3, 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. FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

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

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

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that the minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Alvin Nybladh, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson to approve payment of the following checks: from the Administrative Funds: that payroll checks numbered 5612-5614 inclusive for a total of \$3,114.72; and checks numbered 16067 through 16100, inclusive, and the service charge for a total of \$16,095.73; from Project funds that check numbered 2342 through 2349 inclusive for a total of \$1,026,811.67; from the RRWMB funds that check #161 for a total of \$1,167.51; and from Ditch funds checks numbered 2702 thru 2707 inclusive for a total of \$19,974.50 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that permit (14-001) be issued to the City of Argyle to install storm, sewer and associated structure; place rip rap at culvert outfalls, install control structure, tree removal, replace trash racks on culverts and rebuild roadway surfaces, all within the existing City of Right of Way, City of Argyle, Sec 15, Middle River Township, contingent upon all permits are received from other agencies. Motion unanimously carried.

Correspondence from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts concerning the Legislative Reception and an invitation from the Red River Basin Commission to attend a Dinner in Manitoba, was distributed.

Mr. Ben Kleinwachter joined the meeting at approximately 4:13 p.m.

Nick Drees reported that the District has received two data practice requests from Loren Zutz.

Jeff Hane joined the meeting at approximately 4:18 p.m.

Heidi Hughes reported on the following activities:

1. That she is working on the birding trail and a meeting is planned with the King of Trails Scenic Byway committee in the spring;
2. That letters of support for the Birding Trail have been received from the International Water Institute, Northwest Regional Library and the Northwest Regional Development Commission;

## UNAPPROVED

3. That the University of Minnesota-Crookston students cut down some trees over the weekend and a prescribed burn will be conducted in the spring at the Agassiz Audubon;
4. That she contacted the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Horticulture students to design a pollinator garden along the ridge of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project;
5. That she will be meeting with Deb Kiel and Others to discuss the birding trail and the Visitor Center at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project, in the next few weeks;
6. That photo seminars and binocular classes are being held at local libraries;
7. That she will be working with WDAZ TV and Lowe's to put together an outdoor segment on wildlife and nature;
8. That she will be doing public relation work for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Randy Knott joined the meeting at approximately 4:28 p.m.

Randy Knott of HDR Engineering presented the Wetland Vegetation Monitoring Report for the Brandt/Angus Project.

Nick Drees reported:

1. Judicial Ditch #14 Redetermination of Benefits Draft - Property Owner Reports have been prepared for the Informational meeting tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2014;
2. Judicial Ditch #20-a letter from Vega Township was reviewed regarding the sloughing areas on Branch B in the Northeast Quarter of Section 12 of Vega Township.

Heidi Hughes left the meeting at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that the District repair the sloughing areas on Branch B of Judicial Ditch #20, with geogrid material, provided Vega Township sign the road, as stated in the letter. Motion unanimously carried.

Rolland Miller addressed a sediment matter on MSTRWD property concerning the abandoned County Ditch #7, in Section 14 of Sandsville Township. The Board gave permission to Rolland Miller to remove the sediment from the abandoned County Ditch #7.

Nick Drees inquired if the District would like to continue the resloping of Judicial Ditch #1, East of Trunk Highway #220, on the additional miles that have not been resloped.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. John W Nelson that the District staff survey Judicial Ditch #1, East of Trunk Highway #220. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees reported that the accelerated grant for the Tamarac Rivers Watershed Project was for engineering purposes and those funds have been expended. He stated that he would be attending the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting in Thief River Falls on February 19, 2014, and would seek additional funding.

## UNAPPROVED

Houston Engineering completed the requested study of Nelson Slough and that he would be attending the FDRWD Meeting in Thief River Falls, seeking funding for the study thru an "Accelerated Grant Application".

Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, who attended the Red River Watershed Management Board, reported that the Regional Conservation Partnership Report, included in the new Farm Bill, was explained by Collin Peterson.

The Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources map of proposed boundaries for the One Watershed One Plan were distributed. Nick Drees was directed to write a letter stating the District is not in favor of the proposed boundary and that the District's legal boundary should be used.

LeRoy Vonasek and Rolland Miller reported that they attended a meeting with a couple of Polk County Commissioners to address lines of communications and to address the Redistribution of Managers issue. They stated another meeting is being planned.

Jeff Hane discussed the requirements and criteria of the Family Medical Leave Act. Jeff Hane was directed to write a District policy regarding employee leave time.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the District post the opening of the Administrator Position of the District, internally at the District office, for 10 days. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Roger Hille and Mr. David Bakke will review the job description of Heidi Hughes to determine her salary.

Motion by Mr. John W Nelson, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the Minnesota Association of Watershed District Annual Dues for 2014, in the amount of \$2,566.00 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees gave a report on the Red River/Oslo roadway access meeting that was held.

LeRoy Vonasek left the meeting at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Tom Neibauer left the meeting at approximately 6:27 p.m.

Jeff Hane reported:

1. That we are awaiting word from the Court of Appeals in regards to the Jim Stengrim Open Meeting Lawsuit;
2. That the mediated agreement is in the process of being drafted regarding the appeal of the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1;
3. That the Attorney in the Open Meeting Lawsuit of Loren Zutz, has sent an amended report and that the Law Firm of Rinke Noonan will handle this matter for the District;
4. That we are waiting for the amendments to the Agassiz Audubon Society agreement to be completed.

**UNAPPROVED**

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Alvin Nybladh that the 2013 Pay Equity Report be submitted, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The next regular meetings are scheduled for March 3, 2014 and March 17, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., at the District office.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

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Connie Kujawa  
Recording Secretary

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David Bakke  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer