

February 20(a)2018.min

APPROVED (as corrected March 12, 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. February 20, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers John W Nelson, Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, David Bakke and Robert Kovar were present. Managers Eric Johnson and Roger Mischel were not present. Connie Kujawa, Tony Nordby, Kyle Schlomann, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Dillon Nelson, and Danny Omdahl were also present.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the agenda be approved, as amended with the addition of correspondence received from the MN Department of Natural Resources. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Nelson informed the Board that Administrative Check #17809, to the Ken Nelson Agency, in the amount of \$2,593.08 is not included in the treasurer's report, due to the bill not being received in time to be added to the report.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the following bills be paid from the Administrative Funds: payroll checks numbered 6172 through 6176 and checks numbered 6182-6183, for a total of \$7,800.44; checks numbered 17774 through 17809, including the service charge, for a total of \$38,879.04; from the Project funds, checks numbered 2871-2881 inclusive, for a total of \$56,218.00; from the RRWMB funds, check number 185 for a total of \$3,143.04; and Ditch Fund checks numbered 3177 through 3183, including the service charge, for a total of \$10,433.66 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported he contacted H2Overviewers to check on their progress in determining the redetermination and determination of Benefits on Polk County Ditch #175. He stated he was informed they are progressing on schedule and are currently in the process of classifying the properties.

Chairman Nelson reported he attended the Oslo/Access steering committee meeting held February 13, 2018 at the Houston Engineering office, in Grand Forks. He stated Houston Engineering was instructed to see what results would be gained by increasing the flow under the Highway on the North Dakota side and these results will be reviewed at the next meeting of the steering committee, with the date to be determined.

Tony Nordby stated the NRCS requested clarification on a few items to the Review Point #2 report he submitted on the JD #14 RCPP project. He stated the items have been addressed and Review Point #2 has been resubmitted and he also submitted Review Point #3. He also reported he is submitted Review Point #2 and is working on Review Point #3 for the JD #19 RCPP project.

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Tony Nordby reported the existing modeling on the Swift Coulee is approximately 80% complete and he is proposing to request Project Acceleration Grant Funds from the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group at their May 2018 meeting.

Administrator Praska reported the Minnesota Audubon has solicited bids for the mowing of invasive cattails within the Agassiz Valley Water Management Area. He stated the Minnesota Audubon is proposing to use a bombardier and a mower to cut the cattails, at an approximate cost of \$49,500.00, with the works to be completed before March 15, 2018.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, requested to be added to the next meeting agenda, to present the Alternative Analysis on the Newfalden/Middle River project. The Board directed Administrator Praska to add Dillon Nelson to the next meeting agenda.

Administrator Praska reported a data practice request has been received and the requested documentation has been furnished.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the Chairman be authorized to execute the Use and Occupy for Real Property, on the District property located at 27453 190th St NW, Warren, MN, with the license to expire December 31, 2018. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported one bid has been received for the rental of the District hayland, within the PL-566 Off Channel Storage Site. The Board publicly opened the bid.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the bid of Ryan Fenning, for a three year term, in the amount of \$6,390.00, be accepted for the rental of the hayland within the PL-566 Off Channel Storage Site, in the SE4 of Section 15, Comstock Township. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported he contacted the District's IT person to see if it is possible to determine where the phantom emails, some managers are receiving, are originating. The District's IT person, informed Administrator Praska, it is not possible to locate the origin of the emails, but, stressed the Managers be cautious in opening any email they determine to be suspicious.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the District purchase a smartphone, for Technician Kyle Schlomann, to use while conducting works for the District. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported the Warren Volunteer Fire Department is looking to expand in the near future and they have inquired if the District would consider selling the lots, that the District shop occupies, to them for the expansion. Administrator Praska stated, according to the Fire Chief, either the Fire Department will need to add onto their existing building or they would need to build a new building outside the City of Warren limits. After discussion, Administrator Praska was directed to contact the City of Warren, to see if the District could build a new garage on the District property, South of the District office and to seek quotes for a 40' x 60' garage and to keep the Fire Department apprised of the Board's actions.

Administrator Praska reported the advertised and scheduled recessed hearing on the Amended Rules of the District will be held on March 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., at the

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District office and the District staff is currently working on the 2017 Annual Report. He also stated his 6 month probationary period is soon over and inquired if the Personnel Committee would be performing a performance review. It was the consensus of the Board for the Personnel Committee to schedule a performance review of Administrator Praska.

Connie Kujawa inquired if any other Managers, other than Mischel, Nelson and Petersen were planning to attend the Legislative Breakfast. There being no other Managers attending, Connie was directed to cancel the remaining room reservations. She also reported the Red River Watershed Management Board and Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting is scheduled for March 21-22, 2018 at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Moorhead, Minnesota.

A report from the National Weather Service was presented by District Technician, Danny Omdahl. He reported the National Weather Service has determined there doesn't appear to be a risk of major flooding this Spring.

Danny Omdahl informed the Board on the gopher problems affecting the ditch systems within the District. He stated he has been contacted by individuals who are interested in poisoning gophers and leveling the gopher mounds on the ditch systems and impoundment areas. The Board stated they would like to know the cost, and that a trial run be done to determine if leveling the mounds is effective and directed Administrator Praska to contact the individuals.

The following meetings were announced:

- March 5, 2018-Regular Meeting, 8:30 a.m., District Office
- March 7-8, 2018-Legislative Breakfast, St. Paul
- March 19, 2018-Regular Meeting, 8:30 a.m., District Office
- March 19, 2018-Amended Rules Hearing, 11:00 a.m., District Office

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

David Bakke
Secretary