

APPROVED (January 21, 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. January 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers John W Nelson, Bill Petersen, David Bakke, Brad Blawat, Roger Mischel and Robert Kovar were present. Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Jim Duckstad, Connie Kujawa, Dale Krystosek, Dillon Nelson, Matt Fischer, and Jeff Brouse were also present.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include Newfolden Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to approve payment of payroll checks numbered 6435-6439, for a total of \$8,213.77 and check number 18492 for a total of \$2,756.42 from the Administrative Funds. Motion unanimously carried.

Jeff Brouse addressed the Board to request the District continue cleaning Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, in Section 30 of New Solum Township and inquired why the spoil has not been leveled from the previous cleaning. Administrator Praska reported, two years ago, the District cleaned a portion of Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, and removed the beaver dams but approximately 1 ½ miles remain to be cleaned. He stated the spoil was not leveled due to unfavorable conditions. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board, that Administrator Praska contact two or three contractors to get a cost estimate to level the spoil and to clean the remaining portion of Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, in Section 30 of New Solum Township.

Matt Fischer, BWSR Conservationist and Dale Krystosek, BWSR PRAP Coordinator, reviewed the process and timeline for performing a Level 2 PRAP review. Dale Krystosek stated they anticipate the Level II PRAP report to be completed by March 2020. Administrator Praska reported he will be meeting with Matt Fischer and Dale Krystosek, immediately after the board meeting, to begin the PRAP review.

Tony Nordby stated the District Technicians, Tyler Larson and Kyle Schlomann, surveyed the portion of Judicial Ditch #1, in Section 17 of Higdem Township, that has sloughed. He inquired if he should proceed with a plan to repair the slough. It was the consensus of the Board that Engineer, Tony Nordby, review the survey and draft a plan or provide options to repair the slough.

Administrator Praska reported the Marshall County SWCD will provide cost share assistance, up to \$22,060.20 or 75% of applicable construction costs, on 3 side water inlet culverts on State Ditch #3. He stated a 36" and 30" CSP, on section line 4/3 of Bloomer Township would be replaced with one 48" CSP and an 18" CSP in the SE4 SW4 of Section 34, Parker Township would be repaired. He stated the total approximate cost to perform the works is estimated to be \$39,286.32.

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Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that Chairman John W Nelson be authorized to execute the Cost Share Agreement with the Marshall County SWCD, for funding assistance on the side inlet culverts on State Ditch #3, in the amount of \$22,060.20 or 75% of the applicable construction costs. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby reported a meeting with the MN DNR, to discuss Flood Damage Reduction Strategies, of the Nelson Slough is scheduled for January 7, 2019. He gave a brief overview of the previous meetings that have been held with the DNR. Administrator Praska stated that at some point, a Memorandum of Understanding with the DNR should be addressed.

Tony Nordby inquired if the District wished to proceed with the Swift Coulee/CD #3 Project. He reported at the last project team meeting, the landowners expressed they are not interested in retention but would like to see the coulee cleaned in sections 2 and 3 of Warrenton Township. The Board directed Tony to continue with modeling of possible set back levees and culvert sizing and to discuss channel restoration options with DNR.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, presented a framed drone image of the Brandt/Angus Coulee impoundment project to the Board.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, gave a report on the progress of the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project and a plan forward in the development of a funding package. He stated HDR Engineering is at a transition point between preliminary engineering and final design of the preferred alternative and they are in the process of updating landowners regarding the status of the project. He sought Board approval to submit Step 2 to the RRWMB and obtain a cost estimate for a legal survey. The Board directed HDR to continue landowner discussions.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that Mr. Bill Petersen, Mr. John W Nelson and Administrator Praska be appointed to meet and discuss purchase options with the landowners in Section 27 and Section 33 of New Maine Township. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, be authorized to Submit Step 2 to the Red River Watershed Management Board for the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project. Motion unanimously carried.

The 2019 Year Ending Financial Statements were distributed and reviewed.

Administrator Praska reported the Internal Revenue Service has set the 2020 mileage rate at .575 cents, as the reimbursable amount while conducting works of the District.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that the depositories of the District be the Bremer Bank of Warren, Frandsen Bank of Warren, American Federal of Warren and others, as determined by the Treasurer of the Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the Warren Sheaf and the Middle River Honker be designated the official newspapers of the District; and that official publications may be made in any or all of the following newspapers as required by statute: Warren Sheaf, Stephen Messenger, Middle River Honker, Crookston Times, The Exponent, Thief River Times, Kittson County Enterprise and the Roseau Times. Motion unanimously carried.

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Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that the District retain the legal services of Brink Lawyers, as the legal counsel for the District; and that other legal counsel may be retained as determined by the Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that Houston Engineering, be the designated Engineering firm for the District. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported the first meeting of the Minnesota Viewers Association is scheduled for January 9, 2020, and dues for 2020 are \$200.00.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that dues to the Minnesota Viewers Association, in the amount of \$200.00, for the 2020 year, be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Roger Mischel gave a brief recap on the Red River Watershed Management Board meeting held December 17, 2019.

Mr. John W Nelson and Mr. David Bakke stated they will be attending the 37th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference, on January 14-16, 2020, in Fargo, North Dakota.

The following meetings were announced:

January 21, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office
February 3, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:33 a.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Roger Mischel
Secretary