

APPROVED (June 15, 2020)
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE
MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT
HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL
DUE TO STATE WIDE "STAY-AT-HOME" COVID-19 ORDER
8:30 A.M. June 1, 2020

Chairman, Mr. John W Nelson, called for a roll call of Managers. Managers Bill Petersen, David Bakke, Brad Blawat, Roger Mischel, John W Nelson and Robert Kovar acknowledged their presence. Others attending the conference call were: Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Connie Kujawa, Dillon Nelson, and Danny Omdahl. Chairman Nelson stated a quorum of the Board is participating and called the meeting to order.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel that the agenda be approved, as presented. Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, and by unanimous vote the agenda was approved. Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Kovar and Bakke voted yea, with no nay votes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke the minutes of the May 18, 2020 meeting be approved as presented. Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, and by unanimous vote the minutes of the May 18, 2020 Board meeting minutes were approved, as presented. Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Kovar and Bakke voted yea, with no nay votes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar the following permit be tabled, to allow Loren McCullough time to address the Board:

1. Permit (20-036) Tom Kleinwachter to level and replace an existing 24" centerline culvert under 410th St NW, section line 28/33 Lincoln Township.

Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, and by unanimous vote the Board Tabled Permit (20-036). Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Bakke and Kovar voted yea, with no nay votes.

The following permits were Administratively approved and reviewed:

2. Permit (20-037) Jack Beito to replace an 18" centerline culvert with a 18" culvert, same elevation, under 445th St NE, outletting to JD #19, Branch D; NE4, Section 10, Como Township.
3. Permit (20-038) Jack Beito to replace an 18" centerline culvert with an 18" culvert, same elevation, under 170th Ave NE, outletting to JD #19, Branch C; NW4, Section 20, Como Township.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to table the following permit to allow the District Staff to determine if a 15" culvert, in the same vicinity can be moved:

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4. Permit (20-039) to Ed Honek to install an 18" CSP side inlet culvert with a flap gate to drain water North into Watershed Ditch #5, Station 390+00; NE4, Section 4, Northland Township.

Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes and by unanimous vote, Permit (20-039) was tabled. Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Bakke and Kovar voted yea, with no nays.

Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, joined the conference call at 9:00 a.m.

Jerry Pribula reported the Repair of Polk County Ditch #175 has been completed and a final pay request will be submitted, for Board consideration, at the next board meeting. He stated the contract was awarded to Breidenbach Construction at \$642,933.25 and the estimated final cost of the project is approximately \$643,710.02. He stated additional rip rap was installed contributing to the additional cost. He also stated due to the wet conditions, the bottom of the ditch remains to be seeded. Jerry stated once the ditch is dry, he will personally seed the ditch bottom. Technician Omdahl reported he met with Engineer Jerry Pribula to conduct an inspection of the project. Technician Omdahl stated the project looks good and conforms to the project plan. He stated Jerry Pribula plans to install rubber mats at the side inlet culverts.

Jerry Pribula left the call at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported billing statements have been sent to Mark Judovsky and Mike Rosendahl for the costs associated with the survey of the line ditch in Section 6 of Tabor Township.

Administrator Praska reported the sluff that occurred in Section 1 of Northland Township has settled near the Judicial Ditch #75 ditch bottom, in Section 4 of Northland Township. He stated he has had conversations with Engineer Tony Nordby on how to address the sluff. Tony Nordby, suggested installing a rock structure where the sluff occurred. Administrator Praska stated the Red River Watershed Management Board has Clean Water funds that could possibly be utilized to cover the costs. Engineer Nordby also stated that funding through the Red River Water Management Board Competitive Grant fund could also be a possibility.

A discussion was held on the funding options with the Red River Watershed Management Board to also address the sluffing issues on State Ditch #3 and Judicial Ditch #1.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen that Administrator Praska and Engineer Nordby be given permission to seek funding with the Red River Watershed Management Board to address the sluffing on Judicial Ditch #75, Judicial Ditch #1 and State Ditch #3. Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Bakke and Kovar voted yea, with no nays. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported the plugged 24" culvert and the 36" culvert, in section 24 of Bloomer Township, has been flushed open by the Argyle Fire Department. He also stated he informed Jeff Beaudry the work has been completed.

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Engineer Nordby reported the revised plan to repair the sluff on the South slope of Judicial Ditch #1, in section 20 of Higdem Township will eliminate the placement of dirt on the Nelson drain tile. Administrator Praska stated he has examined the revised plan with Steve Nelson and Steve agrees with it. Administrator Praska stated he forwarded the agreement to Steve Nelson for signature. Engineer Nordby reported he has the Plans and Specifications ready and stated since the estimated cost is under \$100,000.00 quotes can be entertained.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that Administrator Praska be authorized to solicit quotes for the sluff repair on Judicial Ditch #1, in Section 20 of Higdem Township once the signed documents are received from Steve Nelson. Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, Managers Nelson, Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Bakke and Kovar voted yea, with no nays. Motion unanimously carried.

Technician Omdahl reported there are erosion issues on the 2019 Repair of Polk County Ditch #43, West of Highway #75 to its westerly and southerly extents. Engineer Nordby responded there is a combination of problems along the ditch and a few options to consider would be reshaping and reseeding, laying blankets and/or installing rock structures. The Board directed the Engineer and Technician Omdahl to review the area and report back with recommendations to address the erosion issues.

A discussion was held regarding the erosion occurring to the farmland owned by Lloyd & Brian Kasprick, along Polk County Ditch #43 Lateral 1, in Section 16, of Angus Township. Technician Omdahl presented a report outlining the issues and possible solutions. He stated there are high knolls along the South spoil that could be leveled and that dirt could be placed to fill the low areas on the south spoil, however the ditch is designed to allow floodwater to overtop the South spoil and the Kaspricks understand that. No action was taken.

Administrator Praska reported an 18" flapgate was reported to be damaged in Section 16 of Angus Township. The Board directed staff to have the 18" flapgate replaced.

Dillon Nelson, HDR Engineering, reported he reviewed the history and Step 2 submittal of the Newfolden Project with the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. He stated the Technical Advisory Committee is reviewing the Step 2 submittal and funding request and will bring it to the Red River Watershed Management Board at their June 16, 2020 meeting. Dillon also reported there may be some additional State funding available.

Administrator Praska reported he forwarded the Easements and Agreements, for the property in Section 33 of New Maine Township, to the Bret Strange Estate, for the Newfolden Project for signature and once they are signed, he'll proceed with meeting with David Lokstad and Gerald and Barry Nelson. The Board stated, to keep the project moving forward, Administrator Praska is to schedule meetings with David Lokstad and Gerald and Barry Nelson as soon as possible.

Administrator Praska reported the Oslo Access Border Township Associative Group (BTAG) is requesting to meet with the Board to discuss entering into a Joint Powers Agreement. He stated BTAG is also going to ask the Grand Forks County Water Board and the Walsh County Water Board to also enter into the Joint Powers Agreement. The reasoning for the Joint Powers Agreement is before BTAG can submit an application for Minnesota Flood Damage Reduction funding they need to identify an LGU who will be the potential lead for their proposed project.

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Administrator Praska informed the Board he had a conversation with Pat Lynch, MNDNR, to discuss the proposed grant application of BTAG. Pat Lynch stated that before a grant application can be submitted a Joint Powers Agreement must be implemented naming the official applicant (LGU). Mr. Lynch also stated there are no available funds remaining for 2020.

Engineer, Tony Nordby, reported on the JD #19 RCPP project. He stated, Terracon should complete the soil borings at Nelson Slough, this week; wetland delineation will be completed this summer and modeling is progressing. He also reported the DNR removed cattails from the Nelson Slough outlet structure and that the outlet gate was operated to draw the water level down to the proper summer pool elevation.

Administrator Praska reported a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting was held via conference call. He stated the Memorandum of Agreement has been executed by Marshall County, Polk County, West Polk SWCD and Marshall SWCD and the Grant Agreement will be submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Administrator Praska reported the State is requesting agencies reduce funding by \$17 million due to the negative impact COVID-19 is having on budgets. The State is requesting approximately \$9 million be cut from BWSR. This cut would impact Watershed-based funding, projects and practices, 1W1P and Buffer Compliance activities. Administrators within the Red River Watershed Management Board have discussed the State's budget cuts and have relayed their concerns to Lisa Frenette, Red River Watershed Management Board Legislative Liaison.

The 2019 Draft Annual Report was distributed for review.

Administrator Praska reported that the Chairman of Northland Township contacted him in response to the Board's decision regarding Permit (20-034). The township official stated that the District overstepped its jurisdictional authority when it overruled the Township's policy that all newly installed culverts within Northland Township must have a minimum diameter of 24 inches. Administrator Praska stated that he is working with legal counsel to draft a response to the township official's statements. It was the opinion of the Board that the matter regarding jurisdictional authority should be handled by the District's Attorney.

Administrator Praska reported that a landowner in Section 18 Numedal Township complained to him that an 18" culvert appears to be 1.2' higher than ditch bottom. Administrator Praska advised the landowner to submit a permit application to lower the pipe in question. The landowner refused and stated that it is the District's responsibility to correct the issue. It was the opinion of the Board that no action should be taken until a permit application has been filed with the District Office.

Technician Omdahl reported that the water level at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project was approximately at 910.75' as of the start of the Board Meeting. It was also reported that the outlet gate was closed from 20" down to 1" to begin the low flow augmentation summer flow as stated in the operating plan.

The following meetings were announced:

June 15, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office or electronic means
July 6, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office or electronic means

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Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen the meeting be adjourned. Chairman Nelson called for a roll call of votes, and by unanimous vote the Board approved the adjournment. Managers Petersen, Mischel, Blawat, Kovar and Bakke voted yea, with no nay votes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Roger Mischel
Secretary