

March16(a)2020.min

APPROVED (April 6, 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. March 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers Bill Petersen, David Bakke, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Roger Mischel and John W Nelson were present. Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Connie Kujawa, Gunnar Bowman, and Ken Johnson were also present.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include: Permit (20-008) and Check #18579. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting be approved, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby joined the meeting at approximately 8:37 a.m.

The financial report was reviewed and filed for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar the following bills be paid: from the Administrative Funds; payroll checks #6452-6461 inclusive for a total of \$16,433.54; checks #18553-18578 inclusive, including the service charge and ACH withdrawal, for a total of \$19,132.69; from the Project Funds: checks numbered 3092-3097 inclusive for a total of \$46,335.76; and from Ditch Funds: check number 3352 and the service charge, for a total \$6,906.25. Motion unanimously carried.

The following permits were unanimously tabled:

1. (Permit 20-014) Tony Vansickle-to install 150 acres drain tile; ¼" coefficient; 40' spacing; 10 hp (705 GPM) VFD pump; NW4, Section 35, Middle River Township. The permit was tabled as no new information was presented and the applicant apparently has not had a conversation with the downstream landowner regarding cleaning and maintaining the coulee to serve as an outlet. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel).
2. (Permit 20-020) Tony Vansickle- to install 180 acres drain tile; ¼" & 3/8" coefficient; 40' & 80' spacing; 15 hp (1,278 GPM) VFD pump; 8" outlet pipe into existing centerline culvert under CR #160; E2 NW4, & NE4, Section 11, Warrenton Township. The Permit was tabled because: 1) lands are not in the benefited area of CD #3 and a petition to add lands to the benefited area will need to be submitted to Marshall County; 2) the East U.S. Highway #75 ditch be cleaned or regraded, as necessary, for an adequate outlet; 3) the centerline culvert through the County Road #106 approach to Highway #75 be lowered, as necessary, so that the proposed drain tile may outlet on the South side of County Road #106. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. Bill Petersen).

Nate Dalager joined the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m.

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Craig Jones joined the meeting at approximately 8:59 a.m.

Ken Johnson left the meeting at approximately 8:59 a.m.

The following permit was Administratively approved and reviewed:

3. (Permit 20-018) to Cynthia Kilen to install a field crossing with an 18" culvert; South side of 190th St NE, NE4, Section 21, Norden Township.

The following permit was unanimously approved:

4. (Permit 20-019) to Chad Anvinson to install 160 acres drain tile; ¼" coefficient; 50' spacing; 5.0 hp (752 GPM) VFD pump; NE4, Section 26, Higdem Township. NOTE: This permit supersedes any permit previously issued. (Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar).

The following permit was unanimously denied until a new permit application is submitted by the applicant for consideration by the Board:

5. (Permit 20-008) Derek Peterson to install 146 acres drain tile; ¼" coefficient; 40' & 80' spacings; 5 hp (686 GPM) VFD pump; outlet to North ditch of CR #67; SE4, Section 20, Brislet Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. David Bakke).

Tony Nordby reported the legal survey of the section lines in section 17 and 20 of Higdem Township has been completed and the lines are comparable to the survey performed on Judicial Ditch #1, in 1992. He stated approximately 1 acre of Right of Way will be needed to repair the south slope's slough occurring near the outlet end of Judicial Ditch #1. He stated he is working with the District Administrator on drawing up the additional right-of-way documents and the plans are being finalized. Administrator Praska reported he will be contacting the landowners adjacent to the proposed repair to discuss the additional right of way needed. He stated the Board agreed to offer \$4,500.00 per acre for the right-of way. He also stated stakes will be set before the spring seeding begins.

Technician Omdahl reported Olson Construction TRF Inc, is making progress in removing the sediment on Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, in Section 30 of New Solum Township, and the works should be completed sometime this week, weather permitting. He stated the ditch is being cleaned to a 0.03% grade; 2:1 side slopes, with a 4 foot wide bottom.

James Bergman and George Wosick joined the meeting at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported that he, Managers Petersen and Nelson, and Dillon Nelson of HDR Engineering met with Gerald and Barry Nelson to discuss the proposed Newfolden/Middle River project and the purchase option being offered for their properties in section 33 of New Maine Township. Administrator Praska stated Gerald and Barry Nelson are requesting to view the proposed elevations in the NW4 of Section 33, New Maine Township, to determine if there is adequate drainage. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, informed the Board they are working on the design and the elevations and they will be presented at the next regular board meeting. Administrator Praska reported that he had a discussion with David Lokstad and Mr. Lokstad is on board with the proposed purchase option.

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He also reported he sent the documents to Tod Strange for review. Mr. Strange responded and said he is reviewing the documents and will be discussing the proposed works and option with his nephews and he will contact the District with a response.

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 9:31 a.m.

Members of the Border Township Associative Group (BTAG), distributed a breakdown of costs for the three proposed phases of the Oslo Access project. They stated they are looking for support and for assistance in completing the Minnesota DNR FDR application. A discussion was held concerning funding options and requirements of funding through the Red River Watershed Management Board. Tony Nordby stated Houston Engineering will aid BTAG in completing the FDR application.

BTAG members James Bergman, George Wosick and Craig Jones left the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Administrator Praska reported Moses Valley Road Maintenance has opened the access roads to the Angus Oslo #4, Brandt/Angus and Agassiz Valley Water Resource Impoundments to enable Lunke's Inc to remove snow from the inlet structures, if needed.

Tony Nordby stated that he and Administrator Praska met with Cynthia Anderson and Jake Anderson to discuss the proposed Swift Coulee Project, in sections 3 and 4 of McCrea Township. He reported they were open to ideas and a meeting is scheduled with Tracy Anderson this afternoon. He also reported he is waiting for a response on the channel restoration model submitted to the MN DNR.

Manager Mr. Brad Blawat left the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Technician Larson reported on the snow moisture content. He stated last week, samples were taken within the District and in comparison to last year, the North appears to be similar in water content while the South is wetter. He stated the results are posted on the District's website.

Administrator Praska stated the renter of the 70 acres of District property, in the SW4 of Section 12, Brislet Township has inquired if he could pasture the property. Administrator Praska informed the Board the property was advertised for rent as hayland. It was the consensus of the Board, that Administrator Praska inform the renter if he is interested in using the property for pasture, the District would need to re-advertise the property for rent.

The Board reviewed the draft letter addressing the District's comments to the four recommendations identified in the BWSR PRAP Level II review of the District.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the Administrator submit the comments, regarding the recommendations identified in the PRAP Level II Review, to the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported the District has checks that remain uncashed and according to Minnesota Statute they should be classified as unclaimed property and turned over to the Minnesota Department of Commerce. He stated Connie has been in contact with Attorney Jeff Hane and he has provided advise on how to proceed.

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The Board directed Connie to proceed, as advised by the District Attorney, and send certified letters to the individuals who have unclaimed property.

Administrator Praska reported the 2020 Pay Equity report has been submitted to the Minnesota Management and Budget and we are waiting for a response of compliance.

Administrator Praska reported the 2020 Equipment Rental Proposals were publicly received and opened on March 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., at the District office. He stated the proposals are being compiled and will be available at the next meeting.

A brief recap of the RRWMB/FDRWG conference on March 10th and 11th, 2020, at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Moorhead, Minnesota was given by the District Managers who attended.

Administrator Praska reported the 2020 MAWD Legislative Event scheduled for March 18-19, 2020, in St. Paul has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus.

Manager Mr. Brad Blawat re-joined the meeting at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Manager, Roger Mischel, updated the Board on the "Water Quality" funding that will be awarded by the Red River Watershed Management Board for the first time, this year.

Administrator Praska reported the District has received the recorded Quit Claim Deed on the properties in section 14 and 15 of Sandville Township.

Administrator Praska reported he received a request for documents, in regard to the dispute in Section 6 of Tabor Township, from Matthew Dearth of the Vogel Law Firm. He stated the requested documents were forwarded to Mr. Dearth.

Administrator Praska reported the West Polk SWCD Envirothon is scheduled for May 6, 2020, at the Rydell Refuge in Erskine, Minnesota.

The following meetings were announced:

April 6, 2020-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office
April 20, 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 12:12 p.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

Roger Mischel
Secretary