

March17(a)2014.min

APPROVED (as corrected April 7, 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. MARCH 17, 2014

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

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

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that the minutes of the March 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. David Bakke that the following bills be paid: from the Administrative Funds that payroll checks numbered 5615 through 5625 inclusive for a total of \$13,155.12; that checks numbered 16101 through 16129 inclusive for a total of \$26,867.56; from the Project funds that checks numbered 2350 through 2357 inclusive, for a total of \$49,690.49; and from the Ditch Funds that checks numbered 2708 through 2710 inclusive, for a total of \$2,856.50 be paid. Motion unanimously carried.

Peter Erickson joined the meeting at approximately 4:12 p.m.

Peter Erickson reported that he met with the adjacent landowners in regards to his permit application (14-002) and that the adjacent landowners have signed the permit application.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

- 1) Permit (14-002) to Peter Erickson to install 426 acres drain tile; 3/8" coefficient, 100' spacing, to a pumped outlet with (2) 10 HP VFD pumps (2,780 GPM), North half of Section 6 and the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Viking Strip Township, with no pumping during freezing or flooding conditions; the outlet be visibly marked; that sediment from the north Highway #1 ditch be removed prior to the tile pumps operating; and contingent upon the determination of the Appeal of the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1. (Motion by Mr. Alvin Nybladh, seconded Mr. David Bakke);

Peter Erickson left the meeting at approximately 4:18 p.m.

- 2) Permit (14-003) to BNSF Railroad to remove a 28" timber railroad bridge and replace with (2) lines of 36" steel casing pipe, Southeast Quarter of Section 21, Tamarac Township. (Motion Alvin Nybladh, seconded Mr. Ben Kleinwachter).

Joan Spence from the Natural Resource Conservation Service joined the meeting at approximately 4:17 p.m.

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Communications from the Northwest Regional Library and from the West Polk SWCD supporting the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Birding Trail were distributed.

Nate Dalager joined the meeting at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Danny Omdahl reported that a data practice request has been received from Park Rapids, Minnesota with the response to be forwarded to PO Box 155, Warren, Minnesota.

Heidi Hughes reported on the following activities:

1. That she has sent letters to the local School Districts informing them of various studies they might be interested in doing at the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project and at the Agassiz Audubon; and that Marshall County Central in Newfolden is planning to conduct an Environmental Study this spring at Middle River;
2. That she will present a program to the Women's Group in Karlstad, Minnesota, on April 1, 2014;
3. That she will present a program to the Warren MAWAMI Club in April;
4. That the Thief River Falls Moccasin Garden Club will tour the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project in June;
5. That the Kestrel Program at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, received publicity;
6. Quinn Community Leadership Program has invited Heidi to be a SHIP team member;
7. Lowes in Grand Forks-volunteers to help with new building;
8. Photography classes are slated to begin in May;
9. Letter to Editor regarding spring floods appeared in the March 15, 2014 edition of the Grand Forks Herald;
10. That she is doing publicity work for the RRWMB;
11. That she will be giving a presentation on the Power of Facebook.

Danny Omdahl reported that the Informational Meeting on the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #14 was held March 6, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the Newfolden Community Center. He stated the Viewers would like to meet with a few individual landowners, prior to the Hearing, to address their questions. It was the consensus of the Board that the Viewers could meet with the individual landowners as requested.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the Hearing on the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #14 be scheduled for April 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., at the Newfolden Community Center. Motion unanimously carried.

The following bids for the rental of lands owned by the District were publically received and opened on March 17, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the District office:

MARCH IMPOUNDMENT (Two Years)	
Bidder	Total Bid
John Copp	45,011.00
Cole Goodwin	26,460.00
DJR Farms, Inc	59,400.00

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PL-566 (Off Channel Storage Site) (Four Years)	
Bidder	Total Bid
Audrey Cieklinski	1,836.00
Travis Nelson	13,440.00

PL-566 (Diversion Ditch) (Three Years)	
Bidder	Total Bid
Stroble Farms	9,630.00
Travis Nelson	13,645.00

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that the District accept the land rental bids of DJR Farms, Inc of \$59,400.00 for the March Impoundment lands; Travis Nelson of \$13,440.00 for the Off Channel Storage Site lands; and Travis Nelson for \$13,645.00 for the Diversion Ditch lands. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that the Chairman be authorized to execute the amended Memorandum of Understanding and Fee-for-Services Agreement with the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Agassiz Audubon Sanctuary. Motion unanimously carried.

Nick Drees reported that a meeting was held with the NRCS to discuss options to enhance the WRAP lands in Como Township. He stated Houston Engineering is in the process of designing a preliminary design.

It was announced that the Red River Watershed Board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2014, at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter that the Administrator position, be given to Danny Omdahl, and that his salary be set at \$58,000.00 per year, effective April 1, 2014; and that the Heidi Hughes be designated the Education/Outreach Coordinator with a salary of \$41,000 per year, effective February 3, 2014. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Alvin Nybladh, seconded by Mr. Tom Neibauer that Nick Drees be the Project Coordinator/Administrative Coordinator for the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, effective May 1, 2014, and that the Phased Retirement Option be granted for another year, with a six month review, and that the salary and benefits remain the same as last year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Ben Kleinwachter, seconded by M. Alvin Nybladh that the District advertise for equipment rental for the 2014 construction season. Motion unanimously carried.

The Personnel Policy will be available for review at the next regular meeting of the Board of Managers.

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Nick Drees reported that a meeting with the BTAG group has been scheduled for March 21, 2014.

Nick Drees reported that there is nothing to report regarding the Open Meeting Lawsuit #1 on the Zutz Attorney Fees; and that the agreement in the Appeal of the Redetermination of Benefits of Judicial Ditch #25-1 has not been signed by the parties who appealed.

Nick Drees reported that the cleaning of the outlet of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project (South Branch of the Snake River) has been completed.

The next regular meetings are scheduled for April 7, 2014 and April 21, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., at the District office.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Connie Kujawa
Recording Secretary

David Bakke
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer