

**Minutes of the  
Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District  
Advisory Meeting  
Bremer Bank Warren, Minnesota  
November 21, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by the District's Administrator Nick Drees. Introductions of the Board Members and staff present were made.

Sharon Bring motioned to appoint Julian Stusynski as Chairman of the Meeting. Steve Donarski second/motion carried.

Sharon Bring motioned to appoint Terry Potucek as recording secretary Larry Rud second/motion carried. Nick Drees said that staff member Danny Omdahl would be taking notes for the meeting.

Julian Stusynski asked if any participants wished to make any additions to the Agenda. Upon hearing no additions Don Diedrich motioned to approve the Agenda, Dean Danielski second/motion carried.

Guests Danni Halvorson from Viking is the Monitoring Coordinator for the International Water Institute based in Fargo, North Dakota; Gary Kotts teacher at Stephen Argyle Central School, his students Marni Peterson, Kaitlin Sundby, Courtney Kotts; Kevin Johnson teacher at Warren Alvarado Oslo School were introduced.

Danni Halvorson explained the Citizen Monitoring Education Program and that River Watch, which is a group of volunteers, is part of the Program. The students and instructors presented their power point slides and explained the functions of River Watch.

They partake in standard operating procedures education before going into the field to conduct water quality sampling. While in the field water transparency and turbidity measurements are taken. Water samples are collected and transported to a laboratory for further quality testing. The MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) uses the data to track river or ditch water quality.

During the winter months they measure snow depth, moisture content and frost depths. The data collected is transmitted to the National Weather Bureau for spring runoff flood predictions.

Nick Drees discussed the District's history, including 2002 boundary changes and reviewed the 2011 District works. The 2011 Overall Plan Update was completed. The District has approximately 340 miles of legal ditches to maintain. Spraying of cattails, mowing and were performed. Upon request sediment removal was done in some ditch systems. The District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRSC) worked together to construct 6 farmstead ring dikes. 151 permit applications have been received thus far.

A new floodwater impoundment called the Brandt Angus Coulee is planned for construction in 2012. It will be located in the S2 of section 18 and section 19 Brandt Township. All of the permits required for construction have been acquired. The NRCS has offered to participate with the project. Funds are planned to be provided to restore, protect and enhance wetlands thru the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

In 2011 the District Board developed a Public Access Policy designed to provide recreational opportunities for the public. There are 6 properties open for various forms of activities.

There were questions directed towards Nick Drees. Julian Stusynski asked if the existing impoundments are successful and if more are planned using the same types of design. Nick explained that they indeed hold water during flooding conditions and that the MPCA believes that water quality has improved. More impoundments will be built if funding continues to be available. Using LIDAR (light detection and ranging) future project's size and location will be able to be better pinpointed.

There was a discussion of tiling permits issued by the District. There has been a considerable amount of tiling permits issued in 2011 compared to 2010. Nick Drees stated the Red River Retention Authority and the Red River Water Management Board are in the process of developing rules for tiling and studying what flood control benefits could be derived from tiling.

Dean Danielski asked if changes have been seen in water table fluctuation due to tiled lands and is there potential for problems thereof. Nick Drees said that no fluctuations or problems have been reported.

Eugene Mattson said that a potential problem downstream of tiled lands is that it keeps culverts more full of water.

Gary Toren brought up the amount of deadfall in the Snake River in the Alvarado area. Nick Drees said that the District can provide assistance by contacting the Sentence to Serve group.

It was agreed by consensus that the 2012 Advisory Board meeting will take place at the same time next year.

Motion by Don Diedrich to adjourn, second by Gary Toren, carried.

Terry Potucek, Secretary  
MSTRWD Advisory Committee