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**APPROVED** (October 21, 2019)  
**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. October 7, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President John W Nelson. Managers John W Nelson, Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, David Bakke, Brad Blawat and Roger Mischel were present. Tony Nordby, Joel Praska, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Gunnar Bowman, Jim Duckstad, Rolland Miller, Mike Enright, Nate Dalager, Connie Kujawa, Dean Danielski, Rachel Miller, Chuck Steer, Jeff Steer, Eric Johnson, Jared Sands, Brent Strickler, Dustin Holmstrom, Steve Kovar, Duane Kovar, Curtis Thureen and Nathan Wesolowski were also present.

Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar that the agenda be approved, as amended, to include New Solum Township. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that the minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting be approved, as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke that Project Fund Check #3053, to the Marshall County Auditor, in the amount of \$8,150.12, be executed. Motion unanimously carried.

Chuck and Jeff Steer discussed the drainage issue in Section 17 of Brandt Township. They inquired if the inlet ditch to the Brandt/Angus Impoundment could be deepened and widened and if a new ditch could be constructed on the South half of Section 17 to allow waters into the Brandt/Angus Impoundment. Chuck and Jeff stated the landowners are willing to furnish easements for a new ditch. They also questioned when the new culvert at the inlet, in the NE corner of the Brandt/Angus Impoundment, would be installed. Administrator Praska reported it is doubtful the installation of the new culvert at the inlet would be done this year due to the wet conditions. After discussion, the Board directed the District staff and Houston Engineering to survey the South half of Section 17 of Brandt Township and have a discussion with Brad Owens to get his opinion on the construction a new ditch.

Jeff Steer and Chuck Steer left the meeting at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Technician Omdahl joined the meeting at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Curtis Thureen, Duane Kovar, Nathan Wesolowski and Steve Kovar representing Northland Township discussed the elevation of the bridge at section corner 32-33 of Sandsville Township and sections 5-4 of Northland Township, on Judicial Ditch #75. They stated the bridge is approximately 4' lower than the upstream and downstream bridges and is restricting the flow causing water to break out of the Judicial Ditch #75 system. Tony Nordby stated he believes Judicial Ditch #75 was designed for a 5 year frequency and it would need to be determined if the ditch is working as it was designed. It was the consensus of the Board that Houston Engineering review the hydraulics and hydrology of Judicial Ditch #75 and perform survey work, as needed, and report the findings back to the Board.

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Curtis Thureen and Others left the meeting at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Jared Sands discussed the condition of (4) 36" x 48' CSP field entrance culverts, at the intersection of MN Trunk Highway #220 and Judicial Ditch #1. Technician Omdahl stated the field entrance culverts are rusted thru and are in State Highway #220 Right-of-Way. He said he contacted the MN DOT last spring, and they are not ready or are unable to repair or replace the culverts. Administrator Praska reported he contacted MN DOT, prior to the September rain event, to discuss this matter again, but he has not received a response. Rachel Miller, MN DOT Representative, stated she will take this issue back to her department and will provide a response in regard to the four field entrance culverts.

Administrator Praska reported the District has attempted to remove a beaver dam plugging a culvert on Judicial Ditch #15, Branch A, Section 19/30 of New Solum Township. He stated it is also plugged with sand and that attempts to bore it open have been unsuccessful. He stated Olson Construction TRF has installed a temporary pipe for drainage. Dustin Holmstrom, New Solum Township, inquired if the District would provide cost share funding for a new pipe and the Township would cover the costs for the installation and materials.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to expend Judicial Ditch #15 funds and purchase a culvert of the same size, to be installed at section 19/30 of New Solum Township, with the District staff setting the grade and elevation of the culvert. Motion unanimously carried.

The following permits were unanimously approved:

1. Permit (19-092) Ryan Eggen to install 226 acres drain tile; 10 HP (1598 GPM) pump; 3/8" coefficient; 40' & 50' spacing; outletting thru 180<sup>th</sup> St NW into CSAH #22 ditch; W2, Section 28, Higdem Township. *This permit is contingent upon the Board approving the Petition to add Lands to the benefited area of JD #1.* (Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded by Mr. David Bakke).
2. Permit (19-093) Chris Urbaniak to install a new field crossing with a 24" x 90' culvert; West side of 380<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, NE corner NE4, Section 29, Tamarac Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. Bill Petersen).
3. Permit (19-094) Chris Urbaniak to widen an existing crossing with a 24" CSP by 30'; East side of 380<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; SE4 NE4, Section 29, Tamarac Township. (Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded Mr. Robert Kovar).
4. Permit (19-095) Troy Osowski to widen an existing field crossing with an 18" CSP by ~ 30'; West side of 360<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; SE4 NE4, Section 10, Tamarac Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. David Bakke).
5. Permit (19-096) Troy Osowski to widen an existing field crossing with an 18" CSP by ~ 30'; East side of 360<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; SW4 NW4, Section 11, Tamarac Township. (Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded Mr. Brad Blawat).
6. Permit (19-097) Troy Osowski to widen an existing field crossing with a 30" CSP by ~ 30'; East side of 320<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; NW4, Section 9, Wanger Township. (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. David Bakke).

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7. Permit (19-098) MN DOT to replace centerline and entrance culverts along US Highway #59 from Canal Street in Newfolden going North to 370<sup>th</sup> St NW; section line 18/19, New Maine Township. (Motion Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded Mr. Roger Mischel).
8. Permit (19-100) MN DOT to replace bridge #9546, 131" span x 86" rise SPPA with a 12' x 6' box culvert; US Highway #59 crosses CD #23; Section 19, New Maine Township. (Motion by Mr. Roger Mischel, seconded Mr. David Bakke).
9. Permit (19-102) Pat Osowski to install a 18" CSP culvert thru existing field crossing; West side of 320<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, SE corner of SE4, Section 5, Wanger Township. *This permit is contingent upon the District staff reviewing the installation.* (Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded Mr. Brad Blawat).

The following permit was Administratively approved and reviewed:

10. Permit (19-101) Pat Osowski to remove and replace an 18" field crossing culvert, West side of 320<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; NE SE, Section 5, Wanger Township.

A discussion was held with Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering and Rachel Miller, MN DOT Hydraulics Engineer, regarding the permit request (19-099) of the MN DOT to replace bridge #9544 (2) 10' x 10' box culverts with a new bridge (1) 16' x 10' box culvert in between (2) 10' x 10' box culverts, in the vicinity where US Highway #59 crosses the Middle River in Newfolden. The discussion focused on the proposed Newfolden Project and the potential downstream effects the additional box culvert could have if the Newfolden Project is not constructed. After a lengthy discussion, a Motion was made by Mr. Bill Petersen and seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to table MN DOT Permit (19-099) until HDR Engineering, MN DOT and the District's legal counsel work out the correct verbiage for the permit. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported a Petition from Ryan Eggen to Add Lands to the Benefited area of Judicial Ditch #1 has been received and it was forwarded to the District's legal counsel for review. He stated Attorney Hane determined the Petition meets the requirements of MN Statute.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Bill Petersen to accept the Petition of Ryan Eggen to Add Lands to the Benefited area of Judicial Ditch #1. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. David Bakke, seconded by Mr. Roger Mischel the Hearing on the Petition of Ryan Eggen to Add Lands to the Benefited area of Judicial Ditch #1, be scheduled for 10:00 a.m., November 4, 2019, at the District office and Notice be given as required by MN Statute. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Praska reported a Petition from the Newfolden Co-op Elevator to Add Lands to the Benefited area of Judicial Ditch #21 has been received and it was forwarded to the District's legal counsel for review. He stated Attorney Hane determined the Petition meets the requirements of MN Statute.

Motion by Mr. Bill Petersen, seconded by Mr. David Bakke the Hearing on the Petition of Newfolden Co-op Elevator to Add Lands to the Benefited area of Judicial Ditch #21, be

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scheduled for 11:00 a.m., November 4, 2019, at the District office and Notice be given as required by MN Statute. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby reported he contacted the Marshall County SWCD to see if they have cost share funding available to assist with side inlet repairs on State Ditch #3 and to repair the sloughing in the NE NW of Bloomer Township. He stated the Marshall County SWCD is requesting a design and cost estimate for the repairs so they can make a determination on the amount of funding assistance available. He stated if there are SWCD funds available to repair the sloughing the District could apply for Clean Water Grant Funds next year.

Administrator Praska gave an update on the water levels in the Impoundments since the September 21<sup>st</sup> rain event. He stated the Staff is continuing to monitor the levels and will begin drawdown once it is determined there will be no adverse downstream effects.

Tony Nordby reported a meeting was held on September 19, 2019 with the Minnesota DNR to discuss the operating plan of the Nelson Slough and potential improvements that would benefit both the Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resource Enhancement efforts and the condition and capacity of Judicial Ditch #19 both upstream and downstream of the East Park Impoundment. He stated he received feedback from John Williams, MN DNR NW Regional Wildlife Manager and discussions will continue in order to move forward.

Tony Nordby reported he submitted a "Draft" Concurrence Point #3 to the Army Corps of Engineers on the Swift Coulee/CD #3 project and is waiting for the Corps comments.

Administrator Praska reported Mike Boelter, in Section 23 of Northland Township, has expressed concerns of a landowner running a tile pump East of his yard. Administrator Praska stated he met with Mike, along with Manager Kovar, at the farmyard, to access the situation and Mike stated he would like to see the road ditch running North/South along his yard cleaned to help aid water flow to the North into Watershed Ditch #6. Administrator Praska stated he informed Mike the North/South ditch is not a legal ditch and suggested he contact Polk County. Meanwhile, the landowner shut off his tile pump and removed a field entrance culvert North of Mike's yard to help alleviate the water in his yard.

Manager Mr. John W Nelson announced he would be departing and turned the meeting over to Vice President Mr. Bill Petersen. Manager Nelson left the meeting at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Administrator Praska stated Peter Kostrzewski would like to see the culvert size increased under County Road #29, in section 32/31 of East Park Township, on Judicial Ditch #19. Administrator Praska stated this is not a legal ditch of the District, however, if the landowners petitioned for an Improvement to the Ditch, they would be submitting the petition to the District. He also reported, Manager Mr. Bill Petersen, met with some concerned citizens in regard to the condition of the ditch in Section 21 of Lincoln Township and they expressed they would like to see an Improvement to the Ditch. The Board took no action on this matter as it was informational.

Administrator Praska reported the District received phone calls from several people in regard to landowners running tile pumps on lands that had been harvested. A discussion was held on how to enforce drain tile pumping rules during flooding and rain events. After discussion, it was decided to address this subject at the 2019 Advisory Committee meeting.

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Administrator Praska announced the 2019 Advisory Committee will be held on November 18, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., at the Bremer Bank, in Warren, Minnesota. The 2019 Advisory Committee member listing was reviewed.

Correspondence from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts concerning the 2019 Annual Meeting and Trade Show was distributed.

The following meetings were announced:

October 21, 2019-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office  
November 4, 2019-Regular Meeting-8:30 a.m., District Office

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.

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Connie Kujawa  
Recording Secretary

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Roger Mischel  
Secretary