

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 Fifth Avenue East

Ada, MN 56510

Ph: 218-784-5501

SPECIAL MEETING

Permits & Additional Agenda Items from Regular Meeting

October 20, 2008

Approved Minutes

1. A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Monday October 20, 2008. Managers in attendance include Diane Ista, Bob Wright, Warren Seykora, Mike Christensen, Don Vellenga, Joe Spaeth and Dave Vipond. Absent: None. In addition the following persons were in attendance: Administrator Dalen, Attorney Elroy Hanson, Loretta Johnson, Bonnie Ewert, Duane Erickson, Curtis Borchert, Peter Borchert, Brian Dwight, Brent Kappes, Raymond Hanson, Paul Wannarka, Marijo Vik, Bruce Tufte and Engineer Jerry Bents via teleconference.
2. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.
3. Personnel Committee. Manager Vipond presented a recommendation from the Personnel Committee regarding the salary increase for Administrator Dalen. Considerable discussion was held. Manager Vipond made a motion that was seconded by Manager Spaeth to adopt Administrator Dalen's salary proposal as presented by the Personnel Committee with the addition of a contract that outlines the Administrator's areas of responsibility, needed improvements and expectations of the Board of Managers. Carried. Manager Ista opposed. A copy of the proposal is on file at the District office.
4. DNR Meeting/Board Direction. Managers discussed issues that they would like to bring forward at the upcoming meeting with DNR Commissioner Holsten at 1:00 p.m. on October 30, at Brainerd. Administrator Dalen commented that this is a very important meeting and how the Managers handle it will be how the District moves forward. Consensus of Managers was for Administrator Dalen to assemble a paper listing the bullet points that they would like to address with Commissioner Holsten, and also provide the list to the DNR Commissioner prior to the meeting. The list would include the following: a copy of the District letter sent to DNR dated October 27, 2008; ask for an answer to the question that was raised in the letter regarding mitigation requirements; discussion on the District's need to pursue reevaluation of the Wild Rice River and ask DNR to support the reevaluation; ask DNR to respect the District's position on reducing flooding and the District will respect the environment; discuss the District's need to continue to pursue projects on the mainstem; ask why was Lazarus Creek Project was permitted. A motion was made by Manager Vipond and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing a meeting with Commissioner Holsten and staff at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday October 30, 2008, at Brainerd. Carried. Members of the Reevaluation of the WRR Committee will also be invited. Administrator Dalen will set up transportation. Discussion followed regarding the District's ability to hold meetings outside the geographical area of the Watershed District. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Vellenga authorizing staff to set up the following: 1). Make an effort to bring Commissioner Holsten and staff to conference center in Mahnomen; 2). Appoint three Managers to attend conference in Brainerd, if Commissioner is unable to change location to Mahnomen; 3). Use the facility of IATV for the entire board. Manager Wright suggested that Managers Vipond, Christensen and Seykora attend and as Manager Christensen had a prior commitment, Manager Ista volunteered. Carried.

5. Bus Tour Middle River/Snake River/Red Lake Watershed Districts. Consensus of the Managers was to wait until spring for the tour due to the late harvest.
6. Engineer Bents joined meeting via teleconference.
7. Upper Reaches Project. Engineer Bents discussed the two options for repair of the levee in Section 3 of Mary Township. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright to hold the construction until spring and give time to pursue the setback levee repairs. Carried. Attorney Hanson commented that this would also allow the District time to review policy on levee repairs.
8. Customer Connects/BWSR Assessment. Administrator Dalen distributed information from Customer Connections and Julie Klocker of BWSR and introduced Bonnie Ewert of Customer Connections. Ewert gave a brief synopsis of herself and her business. Ewert explained the process that she would use in the 360 survey as a personal development tool. Timing being key, she stated that Phase 1 would be to provide survey to Board and staff by November 1, expecting to be returned by Thanksgiving. Phase 2, providing survey to stakeholders, landowners by December 1, with a return time by January 1, 2009. Phase 3 would be interviews with Managers and staff and a report to the board at the regular March meeting. Assuming the board accepts the proposal she requested a \$1,750 down payment immediately; January 1, 2009, payment of \$1,750 and final payment of \$1,750 plus mileage at the March summary meeting. Brian Dwight discussed opportunities for BWSR to work with Ms. Ewert, if agreeable and acceptable to her, to which she agreed. Dwight stated that BWSR was also concerned about stepping on the toes of the private sector. Considerable discussion was held by Managers and staff with questions and concerns raised regarding spending for the private sector and not waiting until BWSR could provide the services. Dwight and Paul Wannarka also recommended requesting funding assistance from BWSR and/or the RRWMB. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wright to approve the proposal of Customer Connections and also for staff to pursue outside funding. Carried. Managers Ista and Vellenga opposed.
9. Mahnomen Drainage Project. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Vipond to award the contract to the low bidder of Nanic Construction in the amount of \$68,338.48 with the stipulations that an MPCA permit is validated and right of way documents are executed. Carried. A motion was made by Manager Vellenga and seconded by Manager Christensen to execute the land options for the Mahnomen Flood Control Project. Carried.
10. Eugene Vik Violation/Permit Section 35/36 Hegne Township. Curtis Borchert, Bruce Tufte, Duane Erickson met with Managers to discuss the violation of Eugene Vik. Borchert stated that the NRCS cannot assist with the solution to the flooding in this area due to the size of the watershed, but requested additional time to seek assistance from another program, i.e. WRP. Chairman Seykora stated that Roger Kurpius contacted him over the weekend stating that he wanted the violation corrected this fall. Concern was raised regarding Kurpius stating at the October 8, 2008, meeting that he agreed to table the complaint until spring. Consensus of Managers was to table any action until the November 3, 2008, special meeting, giving staff time to contact Kurpius.
11. Joseph E. Kuechle Complaint, Section 4, Wild Rice Township. A motion was made by Manager Vellenga and seconded by Manager Vipond to table the complaint giving engineering time to obtain additional information. Carried.

12. Farmstead Ring Dike/George Kane. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Ista to award the project to the low bidder, D & J Excavating, in the amount of \$25,729 with the conditions that a conditional use permit is obtained from Clay County, an indemnification and hold harmless agreement is signed by Kane agreeing to hold harmless the District and Houston Engineering of any responsibility as a result of bank failure/sloughing from the construction of the dike and a MPCA Stormwater Permit is validated. Carried.

13. Wild Rice River TMDL. Engineer Bents distributed correspondence sent to Michael Vavricka, MPCA, regarding the request by the District to do a spatial sediment yield model in conjunction with a more sophisticated channel morphology model.

14. Norman County Ditch #37 Repair. Engineer Bents recommended a meeting with landowners on Ditch #37 to explain the results of the survey prior to making a decision on the repair.

15. Special Meeting Date. A motion was made by Manager Christensen and seconded by Manager Ista to schedule a special meeting for Monday November 3, 2008, for the purpose of addressing the Norman County Ditch #37 repair, Vik complaint and any additional permits. Carried.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

16. A motion was made by Manager Vipond and seconded by Manager Vellenga to approve the following permit applications. Carried.

- Doug Spaeth, Section 15, Chief Township. Permit Application #10-20-08-1, to install two water and sediment basins for a SWCD erosion control project.
- Richard Visser, Section 3, Lake Ida Township. Permit Application #10-20-08-2, to remove a field approach with a 24" CMP and construct a new approach with a 24" CMP approximately ½ mile north of the current location.
- Robert Brandt, Section 5, Lake Ida Township. Permit Application #10-20-08-3, to remove a field approach with an 18" CMP and construct a new approach with an 18" CMP approximately ¼ mile west of the current location, with the condition that the applicant obtains approval from the adjacent landowner if work is required on the adjacent property.
- John Storsved, Section 20, Hendrum Township. Permit Application #10-20-08-4, to remove driveway and construct a new driveway with the same size culvert 340' west of the existing location.
- Conrad Wiger, Section 20/29 of Ulen Township. Permit Application #10-20-08-5, to fill soil around an existing culvert in an abandoned township road, with the condition that the fill is no more than three feet above the existing roadway grade and that the landowner is responsible for the appropriate erosion protection measures.

17. Dwight Heitman, Section 13, Winchester Township. A motion was made by Manager Vellenga and seconded by Manager Vipond to approve Permit Application #10-20-08-6 of Dwight Heitman to install a field crossing with a 24" culvert in Section 13 of Winchester Township with the condition that a review is done by Houston Engineering staff to approve the work. Carried. If questions arise, the permit will be brought forward at the November 3, 2008, special meeting.

18. WRWD Committees. A listing of committee members was distributed to the board for review. Consensus of Managers was to table action until the next board meeting.

19. There being no further business to come before the Board of Managers a motion was made by Manager Vipond and seconded by Manager Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
20. Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Don Vellenga, Secretary