

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 5TH AVENUE EAST
ADA MN 56510
218-784-55010

Special Meeting
Twin Valley Dam/Permits
November 27, 2007
APPROVED MINUTES

1. A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at the District office. The following members were in attendance: Warren Seykora, Bob Wright, Mike Christensen, Dave Vipond, Diane Ista. Absent: Jim Wagner and Joe Spaeth. In addition the following people were in attendance: Administrator Dalen, Attorney Hanson, Loretta Johnson, Tim Halle and Engineer LeDoux. Others in attendance included members of a committee working on the Twin Valley Dam and county commissioners from area counties.

Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Curt Jacobson gave some background information regarding the Twin Valley Dam. Engineer Jeff LeDoux gave a PowerPoint presentation on the History of the Twin Valley Dam and its features and operations. The question was asked, "Where do we go from here?" Suggestions included creating a team, setting rules and creating a timeline. The business strategy would include the following: 1) vision; 2) mission; 3) goals; 4) strategies; 5) action items.

Questions raised were who is going to pay local cost share? Are landowners willing to embrace the options? Engineer LeDoux stated that the local costs would hopefully be shared between the RRWMB and possibly the State of Minnesota. Curt Jacobson stated that politicians are ready to assist like they never have been before, including senators and representatives from the State of Minnesota and North Dakota. Richard Ista felt this project would benefit the entire Red River Basin.

After considerable discussion a motion was made by Manager Vipond and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing the committee on the Heiberg Dam report to the board as a regular agenda item at monthly meetings. Carried.

2. Water Management District (WMD). Administrator Dalen discussed the WMD as a funding mechanism within the District for projects and stated he recently met with Clay County Commissioners who requested that he come back and give an update. Discussion was held regarding what type of projects the funding would be used for. Manager Vipond stated that he felt the Norman County Board of Commissioners needs to support this initiative or other counties will not support this. Steve Bommersbach disagreed. Lee Ann Hall stated that as leaders of our county she feels this is a tool that could be used. Wally Eid stated that he did not agree with the ideas or the concepts and felt that Mahnomen County is not getting any projects or returns on the funding that is currently being assessed by the Watershed District.

Manager Wright suggested that the questions raised by the county commissioners be reviewed and drawn into a draft ordinance that includes the concerns of the commissioners and public and made available for evaluation. After discussion, members of the public and county commissioners left the meeting.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

3. Paul Borgen, Section 21, Hegne Township. A motion was made by Manager Christensen and seconded by Manager Vipond to approve Permit Application #11-27-01 of Paul Borgen to install a flap gate on an 18” CMP through a field approach in Section 21 of Hegne Township. Carried.
4. Peter Steen, Sections 29/32, Halstad Township. A motion was made by Manager Christensen and seconded by Manager Vipond to approve Permit Application #11-27-04 of Peter Steen to replace two 24” centerline culverts with a 36” culvert in Sections 29/32 of Halstad Township. Carried.
5. Paul Borgen, Section 9, Hegne Township. A motion was made by Manager Vipond and seconded by Manager Ista to table Permit Application #11-27-07-2 of Paul Borgen to lower a 36” CMP in a field approach approximately one foot in Section 9 of Hegne Township and notice landowner in the S 12 Section 9 of Hegne Township. Carried.
6. Robert Brandt, Section 9, Lake Ida Township. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Christensen to deny Permit Application #11-27-07-3 of Robert Brandt to install a 10” drain tile in Section 9 of Lake Ida Township. Carried.
7. Violations. Kelly Gunderson met with Managers regarding a complaint filed by Randy Chisholm against Kelly Gunderson for allegedly installing a block in Section 23 of Strand Township. Gunderson filed a complaint and indicated that Chisholm knowingly and willfully trespassed on his property in Section 23 of Strand Township and dug a ditch on his land. Gunderson stated that he filled the ditch, which had been a grassed waterway, back to its original condition. Gunderson was unaware that the District has no authority over trespassing. Gunderson also indicated that he had now filled the ditch in and packed it, at the direction of the District. (Gunderson asked that it be noted for the record that a previous permit signed by his father, allowing Chisholm to install drain tile, was now null and void.) Administrator Dalen suggested that staff do a check on the area. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing staff to officially notify Gunderson and Chisholm requiring Gunderson to lower the blockage to a point equal in elevation to the pipe inverts on the south side of CR #19 and informing Gunderson that the District has no authority regarding trespassing. Carried.
8. Mark Chisholm Complaint, Sections 12-14, Strand Township. Mark Chisholm filed a complaint against Randy Chisholm for ditching without a permit in Sections 12 and 14 of Strand Township. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing the District notify Randy Chisholm, summarizing the complaint and explain that the District is currently not pursuing this action as a violation, include the District’s rules regarding the permit program and informing him that in the future any deepening and widening of drainage ditches will require a permit from the District. Carried.
9. There being no further business to bring before the Board of Managers, Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Diane Ista, Secretary