REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2004, at the office of the District, located at 11 Fifth Avenue East, Ada, Minnesota.

2. The following members were present: Warren J. Seykora, Robert E. Wright, James Wagner, Sr., Jim Skaurud, Diane Ista, Steve Dalen and Joe Spaeth. The following members were absent: None. In addition, the following persons were present: Attorney Elroy Hanson, Administrator Jerry Bennett and Loretta Johnson, recording secretary.

3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

4. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Skaurud to approve the agenda. Carried.

5. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2004, meeting with the following corrections: On Page No. 9, Paragraph No. 38, Line No 3 the members absent should be changed to read “Diane Ista and Steve Dalen;” on Page No. 13, Paragraph 50, Line One should include “Manager Wright abstained from the discussion on this subject” and on Page No. 20, Paragraph No. 83, Line No. 4 should be changed to read, “there are no increases in the sizes of the culverts currently on site.” Carried.

6. Doug Marcussen reviewed the monthly financial report of the District dated July 31, 2004. Upon a motion by Manager Wright and second by Manager Spaeth, the monthly Financial Report was approved for entry into the record. Carried.

7. Jerry Bents arrived at 9:10 a.m.

8. Proposed 2005 Administrative Budget. Doug Marcussen reviewed the proposed 2005 Administrative Budget for consideration at the budget hearing in September. A motion was made by Manager Ista that the following proposed budget be adopted for consideration at the budget hearing at the Board’s September 8, 2004, regular meeting, at 10:00 a.m. and that pursuant to Chapter 162, laws of 1976, as amended, and under the direction from the Red River Watershed Management Board, it is also proposed to levy .0004836 times the taxable market value of the property in each county that lies within the District for the Red River Watershed Management Fund, one-half of which remains in the Wild Rice Watershed District for construction and maintenance of projects and one half provided to the Red River Watershed Management Board for projects and programs of common benefit to more than one member district.
Manager Wright seconded the motion for the adoption of the 2005 administrative budget and, upon the vote being taken, the same was declared unanimously approved and carried.

9. **Special Levies 2005.** A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing the preparation of the proposed special levies by Accountant Doug Marcussen, Manager Wagner and Administrator Bennett. Carried.

10. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Dalen authorizing staff to prepare a monthly spreadsheet containing the board motions, beginning January 2004. Carried.

11. The bills of the District were reviewed. Upon a motion by Manager Skaurud and second by Manager Dalen, the bills were unanimously approved and ordered paid. Carried. A listing of the bills approved is attached at the end of these minutes.

12. **Beaver Dam Removal Contract.** A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing an amendment to the contract for beaver dam removal with James Wagner, Sr., which will include six additional dams on Clay County Ditch 18, Project No. 20 and Project No. 4, Becker Dams and such other dams as identified on the above projects. Carried.

13. **Annual Report Distribution.** A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Dalen authorizing the distribution of the 2003 Annual Reports. Carried.
14. Pay Requests and Change Orders. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of $540 and Pay Request #3 in the amount of $486 to Geray Dozing for the Jan Self farmstead ring dike. Carried.

A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Skaurud to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of $800 and Pay Request #3 in the amount of $4,300.20 to Geray Dozing for the Deb Ruebke farmstead ring dike. Carried.

Engineer Bents recommended a final walk through on the Self and Ruebke ring dikes and also J.D. #56 repair project. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing on site inspection of the Self, Ruebke and J.D. #56 sites at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 16, 2004, with Managers Skaurud, Wright and Ist and Administrator Bennett and Mike Buerkley. Carried.

A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wright to approve Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of $12,468 to RBR Development, Inc. for the Weber farmstead ring dike. Carried.

Engineer Bents reported that Roger Dyrdahl requested a later start date with his farmstead ring dike, stating that he would prefer to wait until the crops are off. Consensus of Managers was for Engineer Bents to work with Dyrdahl and contractor Geray Dozing to agree on a schedule for construction startup.

15. Anderson Wetland Restoration. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of $3,502.50 and Pay Request #1 in the amount of $3,825 to Visser Trenching for the Anderson Wetland Restoration project. Carried.

Also discussed was monitoring the Anderson Wetland Project and possibly asking Curtis Borchert, Norman County SWCD or Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen County SWCD if Norman County is not interested in performing the monitoring on the project for certification of wetland banking credits. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Skaurud to contact Borchert to determine if he is interested in monitoring and if he is unable to do the monitoring contact Aaron Neubert. Carried.

16. Wild Rice River Feasibility Study (WRRFS). Engineer Bents distributed a spreadsheet which provided a review of historic flood flow records at the USGS gage on the Red River at Fargo, Halstad, and Grand Forks, and the Wild Rice River at Twin Valley and Hendrum with comparisons on a year round basis and also May through November. Manager Wagner asked what percent of the time, based on these calculations, did it appear a diversion could be used. Engineer Bents stated that the comparison calculations used are with existing conditions and the operating plan would change the calculations considerably. Bents stated that additional changes such as setback levees would also change the outcome of the calculations. Managers also discussed the farmland flood storage meeting recently held with landowners in Hegne and Mary Township to determine their interest in placing their property in a future flood storage site. A map of the area, which indicated the property owners of interest, was distributed. Bennett stated that there didn’t appear to be as much interest by landowners as originally anticipated. Managers discussed whether to continue in pursuing the flood storage in Hegne and Mary Townships.
A motion was made by Manager Ist a and seconded by Manager Dalen authorizing the flood storage in Hegne and Mary Townships to be tabled due to limited interest at this time. Landowners are to be notified of this action and that the Board may want to reconsider as a possible storage site at some later date. Carried.

17. A.C. Heiraas Stream Bank Stabilization. A.C. Heiraas and Attorney Zenas Baer met with Managers at 11:00 a.m. Manager Wright abstained from the discussion on this project. Attorney Baer stated that during the recent bridge installation by the Clay County Highway Department, an additional 51 feet of riprap was placed downstream from the bridge on the north riverbank. Attorney Baer distributed an illustration dated July 14, 2004, which was done prior to any riprap being placed on the riverbank. Heiraas questioned if the Clay County Highway Department sought approval from the Watershed District to increase the riprap length on the north bank by 51 feet. Baer stated that the additional riprap placed on the north bank would cause water to deflect to the south bank requiring the need for extra riprap on the south riverbank. Baer stated that the velocity of the water has increased due to the constriction. The water is now directed toward the raw bank. Engineer Bents said that the Watershed District permit would need to be amended if changes are made to the project that were not approved as part of the original application. The Board indicated to Mr. Heiraas that if he wanted to file a complaint the District would investigate to determine if Clay County was in compliance with their permit. Concerning the repairs requested by Heiraas, Administrator Bennett suggested that Heiraas file a written request for the work they are proposed be done in Section 8 of Hagen Township. Attorney Baer stated that this is an unusual situation due to the fact that FEMA was going to fund a portion of the repair project and then using the petition process to extend the repairs requested by his client. Administrator Bennett stated that due to Heiraas' concerns the FEMA work has been delayed in an effort to determine what other repairs are needed before they proceed with the work. The Board has not made a final decision on the repair and needs to decide if what has been requested can be justified under the repair defined by Minnesota statute. Bennett added that there is an additional repair request for the South Branch from landowners in Winchester Township that will require a public hearing since this is a large benefiting are addressing both areas at the same time would be more cost effective. Attorney Baer stated that we are dancing around procedure and after one and one half to tow years of negotiations, he is now being told to file a repair request with the District. Chairman Seykora stated that Attorney Baer and Heiraas have requested many different things and the Board has been trying to address all of their concerns. Administrator Bennett stated that rather than circle around the issue it would be best to put their proposal for what they want in writing so that engineering could make a report to the Board on what maintenance can be done under the repair statute. Attorney Hanson stated that if a request is made and it is found to meet the repair definition, the Board would include this along with the hearing on the Winchester repair. Concerning the work done by Clay County, Manager Ist a felt that Attorney Baer and Heiraas should file a written complaint that in their opinion Clay County has violated the permit. Ist a also suggested that Baer file a written request for the specific repairs they want done on their property. A.C. Heiraas said that he has met with the District numerous times and his request has remained the same and not deviated. Heiraas did not see the need for putting his request in a written form.

Attorney Zenas Baer, A.C. Heiraas and Manager Dalen left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.
PERMIT APPLICATIONS

18. Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Section 2/3 of Gregory Township, Mahnomen County. At 1:00 p.m. landowner Charles Balstad and Larry Hanson, USFWS, met with Managers to discuss a permit application of the USFWS for several wetland restorations in Sections 2 and 3 of Gregory Township. Balstad stated that in reviewing the maps provided by the USFWS, it is not clear to him what is being requested. Balstad requested clarification of the proposed wetland restorations and also raised concerns about possible seepage onto his farmland property from the proposed wetland restorations. Balstad also stated that the USFWS property did not have proper weed, thistle and tree control. Hanson stated that the USFWS completed 404 wetland restorations in 2003 and had not received any complaints from neighboring landowners. Hanson stated that underground clay core dikes are used in the construction to prevent seepage from effecting adjoining properties. Balstad stated that he is not opposed to the restoration if he has the right to use the restored wetlands as mitigation acres for his drainage improvements. Engineer Bents commented that the laws regarding mitigation and damage of wetlands require sequencing that means you must first try to avoid any wetland impacts. Administrator Bennett provided to the Board correspondence from Roger Hemmingsen, Trimont Agency, a neighboring property owner, who had concerns about the uncontrolled weeds on the USFWS property and requested assurance that the water isn't going to become a problem for his farming operation. Administrator Bennett stated that normally the District would have a more detailed restoration plan provided by the applicant. Concerns were also discussed about the wetland restorations that are close to the property lines. Engineer Bents stated that before he could make a recommendation on the permit, he would want to know more about the restorations that are shown to be in close proximity to the Balstad and Hemmingsen properties. Manager Ista felt that she wanted to see a more complete plan of the restorations before making a decision. Hanson stated that there should be a certain amount of trust and with the limited staff of the USFWS, they are wanting to put more of the available dollars into construction than to spend it on administration. Engineer Bents stated that installing the clay core underground dike would be a method to address the underground seepage concerns. Hanson stated that he had no problem with having the clay core be a part of the permit approval. Balstad reiterated the fact that he has concern over the weed control and he felt the USFWS should take responsibility for managing their property. Hanson stated that the Watershed District could not address the weed control problems and that Balstad should be contacting the County weed inspector on this. Administrator Bennett suggested tabling the permit until an onsite meeting could be held with Balstad and Hemmingsen to review the permit and develop a recommendation back to the Board. Engineer Bents stated that engineering could do an onsite visit, look at soils in the area and try to determine possible impacts to adjacent landowners. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing an onsite meeting with landowners, Board members and staff for Thursday, August 19, 2004. Carried. Balstad and Hanson left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

19. Brian Borgen arrived at 2:15 p.m.
20. **WRR Feasibility Study, Setback Levee.** Managers discussed setting a date for an informational meeting with landowners owning property adjacent to the Wild Rice River and located within the proposed setback levees. The purpose of the meetings will be to provide information including the proposed levee alignment. It was discussed to break down the area between County Road #2 and County Road #4 into three separate groups to allow for smaller meeting size. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner to schedule the landowner meetings for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 1; Thursday, September 2 and Friday September 3, 2004, at the Watershed District office. Engineer Bents is authorized to be in attendance. Landowners will be mailed notice for the meeting. Carried.

21. **Upper Reaches Repair Request.** On the request for levee repairs in Section 22, McDonaldsville Township, submitted by Art Gilbertson, Engineer Bents reviewed the survey information with a comparison of the 1996 and 2002 levee profiles against current elevation, Engineer Bents' recommendation was to deny the repair request based on the field surveys that showed that the levee height remains the same. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth to deny the request by Art Gilbertson for levee repair in Section 22, McDonaldsville Township. The Engineer's Report will be provided to Gilbertson to substantiate the calculations. Carried.

22. **Upper Reaches Project.** Brian Borgen discussed with the Board a request for an investigation into alleged unauthorized work on the Upper Reaches levees in Sections 3, 9, and 10 of Mary Township. Consensus of Managers was for district staff to assist Borgen in formulating a formal request. Borgen left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

23. **South Branch Storage Investigation.** Administrator Bennett reported that a Project Team subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2004, at the office of Houston Engineering, Fargo, to discuss the potential alternatives for the With-Project Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling. Engineer Bents provided a description of the alternatives selected by Houston Engineering currently under consideration and reviewed them with the Managers. Bents indicated that the potential simulation alternatives were broken into three different options A, B, and C. It was noted that Option B includes all alternatives under Option A as well as those listed in Option A. Similarly, Option C includes all alternatives under Option C as well as those listed under Options A and B. Engineer Bents stated that the alternatives listed in Option A include setback levees only; Option B includes a minor diversion and a riparian levee setback. Bents stated that as a result of the Managers decision to table the Mary/Hegne off channel storage, Option C Alternatives would not be included. Bents stated that he preferred Option B Alternatives because it entailed the more complete list of alternatives and stated that costs for the modeling of the Option B alternatives would be provided to Managers at the 25th of August meeting.

24. **Heiberg Dam.** Managers were updated on the status of the repairs to Heiberg Dam. Manager Skaurud stated that he contacted Phillip Ellingworth about obtaining an easement or fee title purchase of his parcel of land necessary to be used in the repair of the dam. Ellingworth stated that he was not interested in discussing the sale of his property. Skaurud also reported that he and Chairman Seykora met with the Furuseth Brothers on their parcel and they indicated that they still intend to retain the property for future hydroelectricity from the site. Attorney Hanson reported that Norman County will deed ownership of their parcel to the Watershed District and the City of Twin Valley will provide an easement, but wants to retain ownership. Administrator Bennett reported that the District has received verbal commitments for funding from FEMA, USFWS and the MnDNR.
As discussed previously by the Board, was that the local assessment area was not proposed as a funding source for the construction of this project. Bennett will continue working on putting together a funding package for the project and report back to the Board.

25. Rural Acquisition Program. Engineer Bents distributed correspondence from Angstrom Analytical, Inc., who provided an estimate for the hazardous material inspections including asbestos, pcb’s, fluorescent tubes, mercury switches and cfc containing equipment at approximately $650 per site. The bid documents, including a pre-bid conference and preconstruction meeting would be approximately $6,000. Air quality monitoring, if required, would be at a fixed rate of $62 per hour. As a budgetary number, given the seven homes, Angstrom would charge in the order of $10,550 to complete the inspections and provide project designs, specifications and bid documents. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright to approve a contract with Angstrom Analytical, Inc. for the inspections and preparation of the bid documents. Carried.

Regarding the Kuehn property acquired by the District, Manager Skaurud stated that a horse belonging to Kuehns has not been removed from the property. Attorney Hanson agreed to contact Kuehns about removing the horse from the property.

26. County Road #19 Permit. Administrator Bennett questioned the Managers to determine the extent of the landowners along County Road #19 who will be noticed regarding a permit application by Norman County to remove a culvert in Section 13 of Green Meadow Township. Consensus of Managers was to notify only landowners directly affected by the culvert removal that are located in Section 13 of Green Meadow Township.

Regarding the County Road #19 project, Manager Ista commented that with the larger culverts being installed and wider and deeper ditches, she felt that the water would move at a faster rate. With this in mind Ista felt that a study should be done to determine how much quicker water is going into the Green Meadow Dam. Ista stated that it would be prudent as a Watershed District to conduct a detailed study as to the effects on the dam. Manager Wagner stated that although the road project permit has been approved by the District, he did not want to see water enter the dam more rapidly. Water stated that in the 2002 flood event, water went into the dam much faster than it has previously. Engineer Bents stated that if you are wanting to conduct a detailed evaluation of the drainage area, it would take a considerable amount of survey data and a detailed analysis, at a considerable cost. Manager Skaurud felt that the Board has already had a recommendation from Houston Engineering that the road improvements would not cause any significant negative impacts to the dam.

27. Manager Spaeth left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

28. Information Request. Administrator Bennett distributed an information request from Janis Jensen regarding permit applications approved by the Board of Managers in Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Jensen also submitted a request for an investigation into ditching on the east section line of Section 13, Green Meadow Township. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing an investigation into the request by Jensen to determine if the work done in Section 13 is a violation of the District’s rules. Carried.
29. **Acquisition 2002.** Dick Sundberg reported that Ken Thomas has requested a time extension until September 15, 2004, for the removal of his house from the property. Brian Borge also requested a time extension until September 1, 2004, for the removal of buildings to be moved off his property. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing the time extensions as requested by Thomas and Borge. Carried.

30. **Complaints/Investigations/Violations.** Attorney Hanson reported that in discussions with Matt Seltzer, attorney for CP Rail, they are in the process of working out land issues with Haadland and Stalboergers, although they are continuing with the bridge installation at the present time. Engineer Bents reported that Kenny Visser has not removed the blocks placed in the cuts of an old Burlington Northern Railroad grade in Section 21, McDonaldsville Township, as required by the District as a result of the violation by Visser. Visser also submitted an “after the fact” permit application to leave the blockage placed in the waterways in Section 21, McDonaldsville Township. Engineer Bents stated that in a recent conference call with Kenny Visser, he had indicated that he felt the Paul Larson farmstead ring dike permit application should not have been approved by the District. Bents informed Visser that he could appeal the permit decision if he chose. It was also Visser’s understanding that the Watershed District permit for the ring dike nullified an easement Visser has on the property, which Bents informed him that he would need to pursue any property rights issues separate from the Watershed District. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing Engineer Bents to do a follow-up investigation with Visser to remove the rock blocking the waterways that has not been removed and is still in violation.

31. **Neal Wildlife Investigation.** Manager Wagner reported that he contacted Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited, about a redesign of the project on the Neal WMA to eliminate the need to acquire the adjoining private property. Schneider indicated to Wagner that they needed a minimum of 40 acres of additional land for the project, and suggesting having the District condemn the additional acres needed for the project. Wagner informed Schneider that since this is not a District project they could not use condemnation as a method of acquiring the land.

32. Attorney Hanson left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

33. **Clay County Ditch No. 14.** Managers discussed scheduling a time for an informational landowner meeting for Clay County Ditch No. 14. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Skaurud to schedule the meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2004, at the regular monthly meeting. Carried.

34. Chairman Seykora recessed the meeting at 5:00 p.m. to be reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2004.
35. Chairman Seykora reconvened the meeting at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2004.

36. The following members were present: Diane Ista, Warren J. Seykora, Robert E. Wright, James Wagner, Sr. and Jim Skaurud. The following members were absent: Steve Dalen and Joe Spaeth. In addition, the following persons were present: Attorney Elroy Hanson, Engineer Jerry Bents, Administrator Jerry Bennett and Loretta Johnson, recording secretary.

37. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding a complaint filed by Janis Jensen for alleged work without a permit in Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Carried.

38. Permit Applications. Manager Wagner questioned Attorney Hanson about the Canadian Pacific Railroad permit, in which they had indicated that it may not be necessary for the railroad to obtain a permit from the Watershed District. Hanson stated that the Watershed District is a subdivision of the State of Minnesota, and is subject to federal laws. Under some of the federal preemption laws, the railroad can avoid certain permitting rules, but he does not know if the railroad is exempt from Watershed District rules as this has never been judicially determined and made its way through the court system.

39. Heiberg Dam USFWS Grant Agreement. Administrator Bennett reported that the District receive a grant agreement from the USFWS in the amount of $70,000 to be used in the reconstruction of the Heiberg Dam. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Skaurud to authorize execution of USFWS Grant Agreement Number 301814G082 in the amount of $70,000. Carried.

40. Joe Spaeth arrived at 8:55 a.m.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

41. Kevin Jensen, Randy Green, Wayne Brandt, Mark Chisholm, Horace Ooley, Leon Johnson and Mick Alm met with Managers at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Amendments to the Norman County Highway Department permit applications on County Road No. 19 in Green Meadow Township.

42. Norman County Highway Department, Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Discussion was held regarding the permit application to removal a 36-inch CMP on the north side of CSAH #19. Mark Chisholm stated that prior to 1960 there was a cement bridge at this location and at the regrading of the road in 1960 a 36-inch pipe was installed. Chisholm also felt that the ditches in the road construction have been lowered four and one-half feet. Mick Alm stated that no, it was just like the permit application. Kevin Chisholm stated that the ditches are lower by at least two feet and felt the road project was improving the drainage. Manager Ista felt ditches allow the water to move faster and although there may not be additional water going into the Green meadow Dam, it can get there faster. Ista said that because of the current analysis of the Green Meadow Dam, it is a difficult decision to remove or not remove the culvert prior to the report from Midwest Testing. Attorney Hanson stated that the 30-day time period for appeals on the permit issued to the county has passed and the only question before the Board of Managers at this time is whether or not to remove the 30-inch pipe in question. Mark Chisholm questioned Mick Alm about already removing the culvert when it was his understanding that a permit is necessary prior to doing the work. Alm stated that this is true, but the County went ahead and did the work and if the permit is not granted, the County would reinstall the culvert.
Manager Wagner felt that they did not know of the culvert changes at the time the original permit application was approved. Engineer Bents said that at the public meeting, Mick Alm reviewed all of the culvert changes for each mile of the road project. Wagner felt there is more water going faster into the Green Meadow Dam. Wagner stated that during the flood of 2002 the water ran into the Green Meadow Dam so fast that it washed out the road going into the dam. Horace Ooley requested a show of hands by Board members asking how many knew about the increased culvert sizes on County Road #19. Skaurud said that the permit was approved over a year ago and at that time the Board reviewed the permit and had Houston Engineering look at the proposed culvert changes. A recommendation was made to approve the permit, to ask the Board one year later to recall all of the details is unrealistic. Mick Alm stated that a hydraulic analysis was also provided to the Watershed District for the culvert changes at the time of the original permit. Alm felt he had completed the necessary requirements for the application. Wayne Brandt said that the District should be looking at water retention and holding water back. Dan Ruebbe stated that the Green Meadow Dam is a poster project and questioned why the larger culverts were allowed to endanger the dam. Manager Seykora stated that the engineer’s findings were that the effects from the road project do not provide a significant negative impact to the Green Meadow Dam. Seykora added that the County designed the road project and the Board’s decision was that the road design is reasonable. Manager Ista asked for a show of hands from landowners who would like the culvert removed that was in the county’s amended permit. Leon Johnson and Horace Ooley raised their hands. Ista stated that the only thing the Board of Managers can act on today is either to approve or deny the permit application to remove the 36-inch culvert. Brand and Randy Green also felt if this is the only option they would refer removal. Upon a motion by Manager Skaurud and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-1 of the Norman County Highway Department to removal a 36-inch culvert in Section 13, Green Meadow Township, was approved. Manager Ista opposed. Carried.

43. **Norman County Highway Department, Section 15 and 22, Green Meadow Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Wright, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-2, of the Norman County Highway Department to remove an 18-inch culvert and replace with a dry block in Sections 15 and 22 of Green Meadow Township, was approved. Carried. Manager Wagner abstained.

44. **Norman County Highway Department, Section 24, Green Meadow Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Ista and second by Manager Wagner, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-3 of the Norman County Highway Department to install a 36-inch culvert for a field crossing in Section 24, Green Meadow Township, was approved. Carried.

45. **Norman County Highway Department, Section 19, Strand Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Skaurud and second by Manager Wagner, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-4 of the Norman County Highway Department to install a 36-inch culvert for a field crossing in Section 19, Strand Township, was approved. Carried.

46. **Francis Chisholm, Trust, Section 13, Green Meadow Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Wright, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-5 of the Francis Chisholm Trust, to add fill to their front yard and driveway in Section 13, Green Meadow Township was approved. Carried.

47. Landowners left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

48. Neal Pederson David Neumann, Dale Pazdernik and Duane Pazdernik arrived at 9:30 a.m.
49. **Canadian Pacific Railroad, Section 23, Pembina Township, Mahnomen County.** Administrator Bennett reported that the permit application of Canadian Pacific Railroad to install a 48-inch culvert in Section 23 of Pembina Township, Mahnomen County, was tabled to give landowners notification. David Neumann, who lives downstream from the permit submitted by C.P. Railroad, said that in discussion with the roadmaster of the railroad, Pazderniks requested the larger culvert, which has already been installed by C.P. Rail. Neumann felt that the 48-inch culvert has also been installed at a lower elevation to allow additional water to run onto his property. Manager Seykora commented that he would not feel comfortable acting on the permit application until engineering conducted a field review and can provide some recommendations. Dick Sundberg noted that the invert elevation of the new culvert proposed in the permit is to stay the same and he wasn’t aware that it is deeper. A motion was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Skaurud to table the permit and authorize Houston Engineering to conduct a site visit. Engineer Bents will contact Canadian Pacific Railroad and request a hydraulic study to justify the increase in culvert sizing. Landowners will be notified by mail when the District will place the permit application on the agenda. Carried. Neal Pederson left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

50. **Scherping/Pazdernik Violation.** Dale Pazdernik informed the Board that they have removed the pipe that has been installed without a watershed permit. Dick Sundberg stated that he had talked to Scherpings and they still are not satisfied that the ditch has been restored by Pazderniks to its previous condition and are not willing to drop the complaint at this time. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing Engineer Bents to do a site review of the area and provide the details back to the Board of Managers. Carried. David Neumann, Dale Pazdernik and Duane Pazdernik left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

51. **A.C. Heiraas Repair.** Manager Wright abstained from the discussion. Administrator Bennett reported that Attorney Zenas Baer on behalf of A.C. Heiraas filed a repair petition on Project No. 9, South Branch in Section 8 of Hagen Township. Heiraas has also requested the District to investigate the additional rock placed at the bridge installation by Clay County. Engineer Bents stated that the north bank portion of the Heiraas repair request would constitute an improvement, but the south bank could be considered for repair. Manager Ista asked if the District needed to provide additional cost estimates to do the work, or determine how much funding they would be willing to invest in the repair and provide this information to A.C. Heiraas. Bents asked if the Board wanted clarification from Heiraas about including the north bank repairs, which Bents believes is an improvement. Bents felt that this issue should be addressed prior to doing an engineer’s report on the repair request. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing Engineer Bents to provide correspondence to Attorney Zenas Baer, notifying him that the requested north bank repair is being considered an improvement and to request that they modify their repair request to remove from the request the work on the north bank. Carried.

52. **Heiberg Dam.** Attorney Hanson reported that he has sent notification to the private property owners on the Heiberg Dam project area, regarding the sale of their property to the District for the project. Hanson stated that he has not received a reply to date.
PERMIT APPLICATIONS

53. Kenneth Visser, Section 21, McDonaldsville Township. Managers discussed the permit application by Kenneth Visser to partially fill three large cuts in the old Burlington Northern Railroad grade with rock to reduce erosion and water flow. Engineer Bents stated that this is the same place where Visser has the violation, which he was informed and agreed to a restoration, however, now he has requested an after the fact permit to allow him to leave the blockage in place. Upon a motion by Manager Skaurud and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 8-25-04-6, of Kenneth Visser to partially fill three cuts in Section 21, McDonaldsville Township, was denied. Managers Ista and Wagner opposed. Carried.

Managers further discussed the violation by Visser and the fact that the restoration has not been completed. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner, authorizing Manager Ista to contact Kenneth Visser regarding the violation and inform him that he has until Tuesday, September 7, 2004, to restore it as agreed. Carried.

54. Complaints/Investigations/Violations. Regarding the Keith Danks violation, Administrator Bennett reported that Danks said he is in the process of putting together a restoration plan for the violation that should be provided to the Watershed District within a week. Attorney Hanson reported that he sent Duane Erickson a certified letter to recover the costs associated with his violation. Erickson did not accept the letter. A motion was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Skaurud authorizing Attorney Hanson to proceed with the appropriate legal action to collect the District costs associated with the violation. Carried. Chairman Seykora reported that Signe Aune has not returned to the area and suggested that no action be taken until after the crop is off.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

55. Lloyd Jirava, Section 4, Spring Creek Township, Becker County. Chairman Seykora abstained from the discussion. Managers discussed the after the fact permit received from Lloyd Jirava as a result of a complaint filed by Jerry Matter requesting an investigation into work done by Jirava without a watershed district permit. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve the permit application of Lloyd Jirava for the ditch construction and a ditch block to preserve the historic flow split located in Section 4, Spring Creek Township, Becker County. The permit was approved subject to the following special conditions: The side slopes of the ditch must be constructed with a 3:1 slope; the ditch is to be seeded with a permanent vegetative cover; Spring Creek Township approval is required. Carried. Jirava will be notified that he is responsible for the costs associated with correcting the violation and final inspection of the work identified in the after the fact permit.

56. Attorney Hanson left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

57. Chairman Seykora abstained from the discussion. Administrator Bennett provided photos of the area that Lloyd Jirava has filed a complaint against Jerry Matter for work without a Watershed District permit in Section 33 of Popple Grove Township, Becker County. Jirava is contending that a seepage ditch constructed by Matter is causing seepage onto his property. Bennett stated that in an onsite meeting with Jerry Matter, he agreed to work with the District to resolve the complaint. Photos also showed where vertical cuts were made along the township road.
A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing Dick Sundberg to notify Jerry Matter that he is in violation of the Watershed District’s rules on the new ditch construction and that he has until September 8, 2004, to provide a restoration plan to correct the violation. Carried.

Regarding the complaint filed by Paul Larson against Kenneth Visser, Engineer Bents reported that Visser is under the impression that he also had an easement for an access across the Larson property that is blocked by the ring dike construction. Visser also feels that the ring dike constructed by Larson has blocked his drainage. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing Engineer Bents to investigate and correspond with Visser, providing him with his options in regard to these issues. Carried.

58. Upper Reaches Levee Violation. Engineer Bents reported that Ziegler Construction completed the restoration work in Section 35, Mary Township. A motion was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing Dick Sundberg to notify William Tommerdahl of the costs due the District as a result of the work done without Watershed District approval. Carried.

59. Regarding the Pederson Brothers violation for work done in Sections 7 and 8 of Gregory Township, Mahnomen, County, Dick Sundberg reported that at an on site meeting with Manager Spaeth, Pedersons and the USFWS, was held that resulted in an agreement on the level of the new ditch construction and that the current outlet in Section will be abandoned. Pedersons have now decided to not agree with the request by USFWS to abandon the ditch; therefore the USFWS will not agree to sign off on the complaint. Another meeting with Pedersons is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 31, 2004.

60. Chairman Seykora left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

61. Vice Chairman Wright became the acting Chairman.

62. Janis Jensen Complaint, Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Engineer Bents reported on the investigation into the complaint filed by Janis Jensen for ditch cleaning in Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Bents also provided photos of the area. Bents stated that he had spoken with Keith Chisholm, who admitted that he had done the work on behalf of Jerry Chisholm. He stated that although he didn’t deepen the ditch, he did make it wider. Jerry Chisholm did not agree that the ditch is deeper or wider. Bents stated that based on his conversations with Chisholms, he felt that the work performed required a Watershed District permit and that a restoration plan should be provided or alternatively an after the fact permit should be filed with the District. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing notification to the Francis Chisholm Trust that a violation is determined on the property and that the violation must either be restored or an after the fact permit filed with the District. Carried.

63. Complaint Section 16, McDonaldsville Township. Manager Ista reported that she received a call that requested an investigation into the possible filling of dead rivers by Dunham Gravel in Section 16, McDonaldsville Township. Manager Wagner volunteered to look into the matter.
64. Engineer Bents reported that at an onsite investigation with Charles Balstad and the USFWS was conducted in Section 2/3 of Gregory Township, Mahnomen County to view the proposed USFWS wetland restoration project. Balstad stated that he did not oppose the permit application by the USFWS to restore wetlands; however he was concerned over the proper line established by the USFWS and the lack of weed and tree control that is seeding the neighboring properties.

65. Manager Skaurud left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

66. **Beaver Dam Removal Contract.** Manager Wagner reported that Attorney Hanson recommended that the District execute a contract with Wagner for beaver dam removal rather than doing the work on a per diem basis. Manager Ista asked if it is necessary for the District to advertise before approving a contract with Wagner. Hanson stated that it was not a requirement to bid for the work and the contract term could be limited so that we could bid the work at some future date. Also having a contract with Wagner would not preclude the District from having more than one contract to remove the beaver in the Watershed District. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve a beaver dam removal contract with James Wagner, Sr., at a rate of $20 per hour with mileage to be charged at a rate of $0.375. The term of the contract will expire on December 1, 2004. Carried. Consensus of Managers was for Attorney Hanson to draft the contract for signature with the provision approved by the Board.

67. **Complaints/Investigations.** Administrator Bennett reported that Ralph Kraft filed a complaint against Virgil and Clyde Neset for allegedly blocking a waterway in Section 6, Fossum Township. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing Dick Sundberg to investigate the complaint. Carried.

68. Vice Chairman Wright recessed the meeting at 1:00 p.m. to be reconvened at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, at the District office.

69. Chairman Seykora reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2004. The following members were present: James Wagner, Sr., Joe Spaeth, Jim Skaurud and Diane Ista. The following members were absent: Steve Dalen and Robert E. Wright. In addition the following persons were in attendance: Administrator Jerry Bennett, Engineer Jerry Bents and Loretta Johnson, recording secretary.

**Project Reports.**

70. **Acquisition/Demolition 2000.** Warren Seykora presented a list of site locations with maintenance items remaining from the 2000 Acquisition/Demolition Project. The remaining items are minor with some of the items involving maintenance items that are the responsibility of the District. Seykora indicated that he had contacted Dakota Bridge, contractor who did the demolition portion of the project, for the portion of work under the original contract, but had not received a reply. Manager Ista suggested trying to contact Dakota Bridge via mail. Engineer Bents noted that on December 2, 2003, letters were sent to Dakota Bridge notifying them of the remaining items that needed completion, but the work has not been completed. Consensus of Managers was for Seykora to continue pursuing the work with Dakota Bridge.
71. **Heiberg Dam.** Administrator Bennett reported that Attorney Hanson has recommended that the board officially adopt the appraiser’s report and an official determination of benefits and damages for the property, which will likely be affected for the construction, implementation, and maintenance of the Heiberg Dam Project. The sheriff has formally delivered the appraisals to landowners Juel and Bjorn Furuseth and Phil Ellingworth. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Skaurud to formally execute the determination of benefits and damages form as prepared by Attorney Hanson. Carried.

A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing payment of a $75 fee to the Minnesota DNR for an amended permit on the Heiberg Dam. Carried.

Manager Skaurud reported that at a meeting with Juel and Bjorn Furuseth, they had still expressed an interest in the construction of a power plant to generate electricity on their property location adjacent to the dam. Skaurud said that Bob Merritt, MN DNR, told him that it is highly unlikely that they would be able to obtain a permit for a generator plant at the sight and had stated that he would prepare a letter along with an explanation of the permitting difficulties to Furuseths upon request by the District. A motion was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing a request to Merritt to prepare and send a letter of explanation to Furuseths. Carried.

**PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

72. **Mark Chisholm, Section 21, Strand Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Ista Permit Application No. 9-1-04-1 of Mark Chisholm to install a 36 inch CMP in Section 21, Strand Township was approved. Carried.

73. **Pete Kappes, Section 7, McDonaldsville Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Ista and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 9-1-04-2 of Pete Kappes to raise the grade on the northwest side of his home in Section 7, McDonaldsville Township, was approved. Application needs to contact Norman County Planning and Zoning to make sure there are no floodway issues. Carried.

74. **Pete Kappes, Section 11, Anthony Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Wagner, Permit Application No. 9-1-04-3 of Pete Kappes to install a culvert with a flap gate in Section 11, Anthony Township, was approved. Carried.

75. **J & L Jossund Farms, Section 34, Lee Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Skaurud and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 9-1-04-4 of J & L Jossund Farms to install culverts and widen crossings in Section 34, Lee Township, was approved. The applicant is not assessed into Norman County Ditch #5, and will need to petition into the ditch system prior to construction. Carried.

76. **J & L Jossund Farms, Section 23, Hendrum Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Ista and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 9-1-04-5 of J & L Jossund Farms to clean an existing ditch in Section 23, Hendrum Township will be returned to the landowner notifying him that a permit is not required for a ditch cleaning. Carried.
77. **Stewart Klask and Kevin Chisholm, Section 4 and 9, Pleasant View Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Ista, the permit application of Stewart Klask and Kevin Chisholm to clean a ditch in Sections 4 and 9 of Pleasant View Township was tabled. Property owners will be notified they need permission from the MN DNR prior to board action on the permit. Carried.

78. **Mahnomen County Highway Department.** Upon a motion by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Wagner, Permit Application No. 7-27-04-8 of the Mahnomen County Highway Department to replace a bridge in Section 10, Pembina Township, was tabled pending notification of adjoining landowners. Carried.

79. **Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Sections 2 and 3, Gregory Township.** Upon a motion by Manager Wagner and second by Manager Ista, Permit Application No. 9-1-04-6 of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District to restore wetlands in Section 2 and 3, Gregory Township, was approved with the exception of the wetland bordering the Charles Balstad property. Carried.

80. Manager Skaurud left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

81. **COE Upper Reaches Project.** Managers discussed the repair and maintenance to the Upper Reaches Project in areas of the levee that are indicated by a report by the Corps of Engineers as unacceptable for future maintenance by the COE unless trees and fencing are removed by the District. Administrator Bennett suggested staking the new fence locations to indicate to landowners where the fence would need to be moved.

82. **Complaints/Violations.** Engineer Bents reported on a complaint filed against Gerald, Joe and Keith Chisholm for work done in Section 13, Green Meadow Township on the Francis Chisholm trust property. Bents stated that following a field investigation; he recommended that the Board of Managers pursue this as a violation, because the work was done without a permit. A permit for cleaning the ditch was filed with the District on August 30, 2004, and Bents suggested that the permit for cleaning be returned to the applicants notifying them that the permit submitted does not address the work done and that they need to submit an “after the fact” permit for improving the ditch. Carried.

Regarding the Pederson Brothers violation, Dick Sundberg reported that previously the USFWS and Pedersons had reached a verbal agreement, but that has changed. Consensus of Managers was not to take any action with the anticipation that they may reach an agreement.

83. **Drainage Systems Repairs and Maintenance.** Chairman Seykora reported on his inspection of the ditch systems for repair, maintenance including spraying and mowing. Seykora displayed a map indicating the areas of proposed spraying and stated that Perley Triangle Agronomy would be doing the spraying. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Ista to accept the contract for Perley Triangle Agronomy at a cost of $180 per hour plus chemical for trees and brush. Carried.
Administrator Bennett distributed a report listing the requests for repairs by ditch system and project along with the August 2004 requests for Norman County Ditch #37 spraying of trees and cattails, Project #29, spraying of trees and cattails and Moccasin Creek Dam spraying trees. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve the August repair requests. Carried.

84. **Upper Reaches, J.D. #51.** Engineer Bents reported that he would have a final plan and a recommendation from Midwest Testing for the September 8, 2004, meeting of the Board of Managers for the repair of the slides on J.D. #51 along the north edge of the City of Ada. Following a review by the Managers the report will be forwarded to the City of Ada. Regarding the request for Harlan Hoff for debris removal and investigation of sloughing of the channel, a motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing notification to Hoff that the District will be responsible for removing the debris and will monitor the slough. Carried. Engineer Bents stated that on the locations of the debris piles on the Upper Reaches Project, a list of repairs, map of the site locations along with photos will be provided to the MN DNR, notifying them of the proposed work. Manager Wagner volunteered to accompany Dick Sundberg to locate the sites and obtain photos and a location map.

85. **Project No. 6, Lake Ida.** It was reported that a temporary construction easement would be preferable to a permanent easement for landowners on Project No. 6. A motion was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing preparation of the temporary construction easements, payment to landowners at the $1,000 per acre rate. Carried.

86. **Project No. 34.** A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing cleaning in Sections 23, Popple Grove Township on Project No. 34. Carried.

87. **Project No. 20, Clay County Ditch #45.** Regarding the sediment removal in Sections 14 of Viding and 28 of Felton Township, Engineer Bents recommended the sediment removal only in Section 14 of Viding Township. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing a sediment cleanout of Section 14, Viding Township, Clay County on Project No. 20. Carried.

88. **Clay County Ditch No. 14.** Consensus of Managers was to hold an informational landowner meeting on Clay County Ditch No. 14 at the regular September meeting of the Board of Managers. Carried.

89. **Project No. 30, Green Meadow Dam.** Engineer Bents reported that the soil borings are complete on the Green Meadow Dam and Midwest Testing indicated that they would have their work completed by the regular October meeting of the Board. Engineer Bents will prepare the final report that will include proposed repairs and cost estimates at the regular November meeting of the Board. Carried.

90. **Rockwell Dam.** A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing Engineer Bents to contract for the repairs to the Rockwell Dam. Carried.
91. **Grass Strip Violations.** Managers discussed apparent encroachment by landowners on the grass strip boundaries of ditch systems. Managers Spaeth and Wagner felt the District should make an effort to curb the encroachment. Administrator Bennett suggested that everyone on the ditch system be treated equally therefore, the whole ditch system needs to be made aware that the District will begin enforcing the grass strip violations. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing staff to begin the process of enforcing the grass strip violations on District projects, with the assistance of Attorney Hanson to ensure the legal system is followed correctly. Carried.

92. **FDR Project Team.** Administrator Bennett distributed a spreadsheet from Don Buckhout, requesting long-range projections from the District for proposed future projects. Manager Ista commented that she felt as though the FDR Work Group and Project Team were not working out as well as it was originally meant to be suggested scheduling a meeting with. A motion was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Ista to contact the legislative oversight committee for the Project Team, along with Jerome Deal and Paul Swenson, requesting a meeting with them and the oversight committee in an effort work at better ways in moving projects forward through the Project Team process. Carried.

93. **Watershed District Assessment.** Chairman Seykora reported that he received three responses to date from Board members on the District assessment that was mailed to Managers. Manager Ista suggested seeking assistance from an unbiased person in compiling the responses. Chairman Seykora stated that he had help from Peg Braaten, Minnesota Extension Service, in preparing the assessment and could ask her for assistance.

94. **Watershed District Retreat.** Administrator Bennett stated that he had discussions with Susan Senko, Minnesota Department of Administration, about doing a six-hour session, tailored to the Wild Rice Watershed District for approximately $2,000.

95. **Distribution of Meeting Minutes/Notes.** Administrator Bennett stated that the draft minutes distributed to the Managers prior to Board approval would be marked as a “draft” so that the reader knows of they have the draft or original minutes. Following approval by the Board the watermark distinguishing the DRAFT copy will be removed. Bennett stated that Managers have access to the meeting notes and wanted to know who from the Board would like copies provided for mailing purposes. Bennett also asked about what option Managers would prefer when they authorized preparation of a list of motions as of January 1, 2004, and stated that at the regular October meeting, draft copies of the motions and summaries would be provided to the Board to determine future format.

96. **Meetings/Conferences/Seminars.** A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing attendance at the Clay County SWCD Fall Tour, September 8, 2004, at Moorhead. Carried. A motion was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing attendance at the MARC & D Summer Meeting and Training Sessions, September 14-16, 2004, at Mahnomen. Carried. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing attendance at the North Ottawa Impoundment, Groundbreaking Ceremony, September 20, 2004. Carried. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing attendance at the Impaired Waters and Local Government Workshop, September 21, 2004, Crookston. Carried.
97. There being no further business to come before the Board of Managers a motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

98. Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Jim Skaurud, Secretary
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**TOTAL** | **134,301.71**