

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 Fifth Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510
Ph: 218-784-5501

REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2014
APPROVED MINUTES

1. The regular meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Wednesday March 12, 2014. Managers in attendance included: Greg Holmvik, Duane Erickson, Dean Spaeth, Mike Christensen, John Austinson, and Raymond Hanson. Absent: Curt Johannsen. In addition the following persons were in attendance: Administrator Kevin Ruud, Engineer Jerry Bents, Attorney Elroy Hanson, Tara Jensen, and various other interested taxpayers and landowners.
2. Chairman Holmvik called the meeting to order 8:30 a.m.
3. Agenda Approval. A motion was made by Manager Austinson and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve the agenda with the addition of the following items: by Administrator Ruud - Red River Watershed Management Board Joint Powers Agreement; by Manager Erickson – Citizen’s Advisory Board addition and Update on Jon Peterson’s Lockhart Project. Carried.
4. Approval of Billings. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Christensen to approve payment of billings as presented. Carried.
5. Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Christensen to approve the February 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Carried.
7. Financial Report. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Erickson to approve the monthly financial report dated February 28, 2014. Carried.
8. Open Mic. No one spoke at this time.
9. Citizen’s Advisory Board. Manager Erickson stated that Wesley Green expressed interest in joining the Citizen’s Advisory Board. Manager Erickson also asked if Board Managers were allowed to attend meetings. Attorney Hanson stated that Board Managers are able to attend Citizen’s Advisory Board meetings and sit in the audience, but are not allowed to do so as a Board Manager, rather attendance would be as a citizen. A motion was made by Manager Austinson and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the addition of Wesley Green to the Citizen’s Advisory Board. Carried.
10. Jon Peterson’s Lockhart Project. Administrator Ruud informed managers that he spoke with Brian Dwight with BWSR regarding the proposed changes to the Lockhart Project vegetation. Dwight suggested having a meeting with Administrator Ruud, Dwight, Peterson, and Brett Arne with BSWR in attendance. When Dwight and Arne are in the area they will notify Administrator Ruud and a meeting will be scheduled. Manager Erickson asked the Board if there was interest in paying for the seed required for the project. Several Board members commented that they felt as this might open expectations to do the same for future projects and they were not sure that the Board would want to open themselves to this scenario. Chairman Holmvik suggested the

Board continues discussion on the topic following the meeting between Peterson, Dwight, Arne, and Administrator Ruud.

11. 8:45 am - Leon Johnson. Administrator Ruud updated the Managers on the permit request previously filed by Leon Johnson and tabled by the Board pending information requested from the applicant regarding hydraulic analysis to verify required culvert size, survey profile of channel upstream to next roadway crossing, drawing/sketch showing cross section where crossing will be installed including any overflow section location. Johnson returned a drawing showing the information requested, along with the addition of an excavated spillway that will direct water back into the channel. Adjacent landowner, Duane Hanson, was in attendance and said that he approves the installation of the culvert if it is done as the drawing details with the addition of a spillway. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Erickson to approve Permit #3-12-14-7 to install a crossing with a pipe, contingent on installation of 72" pipe and overflow section as shown in design plan by Mark Christensen (Norman County Soil and Water) dated 2/28/14. Carried.

12. Community Flood Control Levee Projects. Engineer Bents provided an updated on the City of Halstad levee recertification project. A preliminary design has been completed and the grant amendment has allowed the land acquisition project to begin moving forward. The city is taking the lead on negotiations with the individuals who own the majority of the land needed for the project. Engineer Bents added that a bonding request has been submitted for construction this year. A reimbursement agreement, signed by Halstad Mayor Steve Sortland was presented by Administrator Ruud. The local cost share for the project is \$152,693.00. Once the local cost share has been met by the City of Halstad, expenses would be submitted to the State of Minnesota for 100% reimbursement. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Hanson approving the Board to enter into the reimbursement agreement with the City of Halstad. Carried.

Engineer Bents updated the progress for the City of Ada ditch realignment. The Army Corps of Engineers has been working for several months on a Section 408 modification review plan. The review will likely begin in May.

13. Green Meadow Project Team. Administrator Ruud updated the Managers regarding the progress of the Green Meadow Project Team. Currently the Project Team is looking at problem identification. The next meeting will focus on approving problems and needs, along with goals and objectives, and hopefully begin looking at possible solutions. The goal of the Project Team is to provide up to three potential solutions to the Board. Several Board members expressed their pleasure in the process thus far, along with excitement for the end result.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

14. Norman County Highway Department, Section 23, Shelly Township. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Erickson to approve Permit #3-12-14-9, to replace a bridge with two 11' x 6' box culverts. The approved permit is a change to a previously approved Permit #1-8-14-6 to replace a bridge with one large culvert and regrade the adjacent roadways. The new permit contains similar sized pipes as the original. Carried.

15. Norman County Highway Department, Section 16, Fossum Twp. Norman County Highway Department Engineer, Tom Knakmuhs was in attendance and informed the Managers of the decision to remove the bridge without replacing the structure. The decision was based upon the low traffic count and the high cost of replacing the structure. The County and Township leaders met and decided that replacing the structure was not a cost effective decision. Currently the structure is not useable as it is closed. A motion was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Christensen to approve Permit #3-12-14-8 to remove a bridge and restore the slopes to match the site with the conditions that the applicant regrade the slopes to match the adjacent upstream

and downstream channel section and obtain appropriate vegetative cover. Manager Hanson added that while individuals might be against the removal, the Board does not hold the ability to require a replacement of the structure. Carried.

16. A motion was made by Manager Austinson and seconded by Manager Hanson approving the following permits with conditions as listed. Carried:

- Duane Brendemuhl, Section 2, Flowing Twp. Permit #3-12-14-2 to install pattern tile with standard tile conditions.
- Duane Brendemuhl, Section 14, Flowing Twp. Permit #3-12-14-3 to install pattern tile with standard tile conditions.
- Garden Valley Telephone Company, Various Sections. Permit #3-12-14-5 to install fiber optic telephone cables with the conditions that the project located in Section 11 of La Prairie Township is installed so the fiber optic cable is a minimum of 30" below any ditch channel bottoms and the applicant is responsible for adequate erosion control measures during construction.
- Greg Zillmer, Section 10, Hagen Twp. Permit #3-12-14-11 to install pattern tile with standard tile conditions.

17. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Christensen to table the following permits. Carried.

- Roderick Anderson, Section 4, Wild Rice Twp. Permit #3-12-14-1 to install a crossing and culvert in Project 12, pending previously requested information from the applicant.
- Dahl Brothers, Section 21, Bear Park Twp. Permit #3-12-14-4 to install subsurface drain tile, pending previously requested information from the applicant.
- Stashenko Hempeck, Section 12, Hendrum West Twp. Permit #3-12-14-6 to repair erosion of a driveway, extend a culvert and raise the driveway elevation until a field review can be completed.
- Scott Visser, Section 7, Fossum Twp. Permit #3-12-14-10 to install a new centerline culvert pending previously requested information from the applicant.

18. Lower Wild Rice Preliminary Storage Evaluation. Administrator Ruud updated the Board regarding his request for funding to develop a marketing plan at the last Flood Damage Work Group meeting. The request was approved and the Wild Rice Watershed District was approved a \$5,000 grant to develop a marketing plan for the Lower Wild Rice to use with agencies. Engineer Bents added this marketing tool would allow us to begin looking at all available funding sources to help pay for land acquisition as it becomes available. A meeting with possible funding partners is being discussed to see what things are necessary to include them in the funding of this project. Manager Spaeth voiced concern about partnering with agencies that would hinder the ability to store water on the acquired land. Engineer Bents stated that the partnering agencies would be asked to join, knowing the long term goal is using the land for channel restoration and setback levees. Discussion took place regarding the current permitting process surrounding wetland restoration. A suggestion was made by Manager Hanson to have Engineer Bents review wetland restoration permits earlier in the process to see if retention is a possibility and the watershed would offer a cost share towards permits that are able to incorporate water storage. At the recommendation of Attorney Hanson, the board will put the topic of wetland restoration permit policies and water storage on the upcoming agenda prior to developing a policy regarding the issue and have the terms written.

19. Goose Prairie Marsh. A meeting with sixteen Landowners, Administrator Ruud, and Managers Christensen, Erickson, and Austinson was held on February 24 at the West Central Ag meeting room in Ulen. The outcome of the meeting was good, with no major concerns from Landowners regarding the potential project. Engineer Bents stated that the DNR would like to have an operable outlet. The ideal location for the structure would be near the road for access issues. This would require digging a channel from the marsh to the road. Engineer Bents presented the Managers with a data summary report. Administrator Ruud added that at

this time he is looking for Board approval to negotiate with the DNR on the water levels. The Board recessed from Goose Prairie Marsh conversation to accommodate the 10:00 am appointment.

20. 10:00 am - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) Strategy. Tara Mercil, April Lueck, and Tim James from the MPCA joined the Watershed to present information regarding WRAP and asking them to become a local sponsor for the process. Mercil began by presenting the Board with information regarding the background of the process, monitoring, and assessment. In the past focus was placed on chemical aspects, recently physical and biological aspects were added the assessment. Several products are produced from this process including a Watershed Conditions Report, Monitoring and Assessment Reports, Biotic Stressor Identification, HSPF Modeling, TDML, and a Final WRAP report. The process includes two years of monitoring and assessment followed by two years of report compilation for a total of four years. Following the completion, implementation of practices is determined by the Watershed. Manager Erickson expressed concern that various agencies are assessing the same things. Mercil added that they utilize as much information that has already been collected by other agencies as possible and fill in the voids as necessary. Chariman Holmvik asked how sampling can be done when rivers such as the Marsh do not have a steady flow. Lueck stated that they try to determine and test site locations to the best of their ability, but some sites are not guaranteed that they will be able to obtain an assessment dependent on water conditions. Engineer Bents added that the State has allowed Watersheds to delay publishing their 10-year plans in order to allow them to incorporate information provided through the WRAP reporting. Administrator Ruud said that from his perspective, other Watersheds have been as involved with the process as much as they can be. Manager Austinson asked Mercil who funds the process. Mercil answered that it is funded through the State, the Watershed would submit for reimbursement for their time as well as costs incurred for subcontractors.

A motion was made by Manager Austinson and seconded by Manager Hanson approving the Watershed to work with the MPCA through the WRAP process. Carried with Manager Erickson opposed.

Lueck presented the Board with information regarding the site sampling process. Site selection is a systematic unbiased design. Areas with more than 5 square miles of drainage will be sampled. Where possible, road crossings will be used for access rather than entering private land. In 2014 testing will be completed in May through September and 2015 testing will take place June through August. Manager Erickson asked if the identification of an exotic plant or species hinders all future chances for water retention. James said that he wouldn't eliminate the possibility for water retention based on the identification of a rare species. While the instance has not risen in the past, if new things are found the management of that would be determined by the Watershed District and its partners. Engineer Bents added that in general this process has determined that fish communities are stressed due to altered hydrology which works well with water retention goals. Manager Spaeth asked why the MPCA needs the Watershed's permission to complete the process. Mercil added that if a Watershed is not interested in partnering, the MPCA will subcontract with others. Working together builds better community relations and the end result is a useable product for Watersheds.

Goose Prairie Marsh (Continued). Administrator Ruud returned to the conversation surrounding the Data Summary for Goose Prairie Marsh. The low water level that the DNR is currently comfortable with is 1204.5, with the option to draw down to 1203.5, but not on a yearly basis. The higher level would result in a loss of approximately 90 acre feet of water storage versus the low level. The high water level that the DNR is currently comfortable with is 1207.5. Engineer Bents detailed that the potential for water retention from 1207.5 to the targeted 1208.5 is approximately 350 acre feet of storage. The DNR was worried about returning the water down to the summer operating level prior to nesting season. A higher level would take longer to draw down. Chairman Holmvik asked how a set draw date would work with flood retention and asked what cost share has been developed with the DNR. Engineer Bents was in agreement that the draw down date should be dependent on downstream flooding conditions and added that at this time the discussion of who is paying for the project,

and what percentage has not been determined. Manager Hanson added that he would like to see the structure built to a higher level incase the option to increase storage was available in the future. The Board was in agreement that they would like to negotiate the spring high water level, along with the date that the draw down begins, trying to correlate it to when the South Branch starts receding in the same area.

21. Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority Proposed Funding Program. Administrator Ruud informed the Managers that the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority will be meeting on Thursday, March 13, to determine the qualifications for their funding program.

22. Proposed Farm Bill Funding. Engineer Bents provided the Managers with two handouts entitled “Your Guide to the New Farm Bill Conservation Programs” and “Regional Conservation Partnership Program” which highlighted information regarding the recent Farm Bill. Engineer Bents stated applications for this year’s funds must be made by September, 30, 2014. Implementation of projects can happen within the next five years. The yearly allocations will be there for the next five years or until the Farm Bill is modified or amended.

23. Joint Powers Agreement with Red River Watershed Management Board. Chairman Holmvik highlighted the changes to the updated Joint Powers Agreement. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve the Board enters into the Joint Powers Agreement with the RRWMB. Carried.

24. Per Diems. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve payment of Managers per diems and expenses as distributed. Carried.

25. Upcoming Conferences. Chairman Holmvik reminded Managers of the FDR/DNR March Conference March 25-26, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes.

26. There being no further business to come before the Board of Managers, a motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Spaeth to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Chairman Holmvik adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

John Austinson, Secretary

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Feb 13 - Mar 12, 14				
02/24/2014	ACH	AT&T	Cell Bill	123.42
02/25/2014		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 02/24/2014	5,075.26
02/26/2014	ACH	Harland Checks	CHECK REORDER	159.21
02/27/2014	ACH	PERA		727.49
03/03/2014	ACH	Arvig	phone, internet, fax	382.83
03/11/2014		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 03/10/2014	5,721.13
03/12/2014	15202	Morris Electronics, Inc.		1,163.57
03/12/2014	15221	Ada City	Feb Utilities	295.15
03/12/2014	15222	AmeriPride	rugs	74.12
03/12/2014	15223	Cardmember Service	Quickbooks support subscription	249.95
03/12/2014	15224	Envirothon	Donation	100.00
03/12/2014	15238	FAO - St. Paul	Ada 408	39,650.00
03/12/2014	15226	Houston Engineering, Inc.	February Billing	11,238.58
03/12/2014	15227	Kenneth Aaron Kesselberg	Snow removal	75.00
03/12/2014	15228	MARCO, Inc.	Copier Lease	630.36
03/12/2014	15229	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation	Feb Electric, March Budget billing	223.89
03/12/2014	15230	Minnesota Viewers Association	Annual Dues	125.00
03/12/2014	15232	Northwest Beverage, Inc.		36.50
03/12/2014	15233	Office Supplies Plus		903.72
03/12/2014	15234	Ralph's Food Pride	Supplies	39.10
03/12/2014	15235	Red River Watershed Management Board	February 2014 Reimbursement	2,558.37
03/12/2014	15236	Renae Kappes	Cleaning - 2@60	120.00
03/12/2014	15237	Wambach & Hanson	February Billing	3,192.65
03/12/2014	15240	Duane L Erickson		272.82
03/12/2014	15241	Gregory R Holmvik		119.57
03/12/2014	15242	John D Austinson		171.30
03/12/2014	15243	Michael K Christensen		278.47
03/12/2014	15239	Dean P Spaeth		105.42
03/12/2014	15244	Raymond M Hanson		89.61
Feb 13 - Mar 12, 14				73,902.49