

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 Fifth Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510
Ph: 218-784-5501
SPECIAL MEETING
May 22, 2024
APPROVED MINUTES

A full list of acronyms used is available at the end of this report (Appendix A)

1. A special meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Managers in attendance included: Greg Holmvik, Duane Erickson, Curt Johannsen, Dean Spaeth, Matt Borgen, and Raymond Hanson. In addition, the following people were in attendance: Administrator Tara Jensen, Engineer Jerry Bents and David Vipond. Attorney John Kolb and Attorney Levi Liebl were present via electronic means. Manager Mike Christensen was absent.
2. Chairman Holmvik called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with recital of the pledge of allegiance.
3. Wild Rice River Study Request. Administrator Jensen reported that a Special Meeting was requested by Manager Hanson and Manager Spaeth to discuss a written request from David Vipond that the District request Houston Engineering to conduct a study verifying the MNDNR Findings of Fact dated August 11, 2023, which were presented to the Board.

Attorney Liebl has a conflict of interest as he is representing Mr. Vipond. Attorney John Kolb with Rinke Noonan was asked to attend remotely to provide legal advice to the Board.

Manager Hanson stated that Mr. Vipond is unable to get the study that he is requesting, and that the information would also be useful for the District to have.

Engineer Bents described the information provided by the MNDNR (Q90) which is reflected in the handout presented to the Board. He stated that a simple analysis of the flow of water would cost approximately \$5,000.00. To further analyze the effect on aquatic plants and species or to obtain hydrologic models could cost closer to \$50,000.00.

Attorney Kolb questioned how this information would be helpful to the WRWD. Engineer Bents stated that it could be helpful for future water appropriation permit applications. A lengthy discussion was held.

A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve Houston Engineering to do a report, not to exceed \$5,000.00, on how the Q90 protocol affects and is applicable to the Wild Rice River and our region.

Further discussion was held. Administrator Jensen pointed out that if a study was conducted, Mr. Vipond would have to request the information from the District via data request as the District is completing the review to verify if our current process for approving water appropriation permits is adequate. Attorney Kolb clarified that the District currently relies on MNDNR studies to accompany WRWD permit applications. Since there is a jurisdiction questioning the MNDNR findings, this study could verify if the MNDNR process adequately addresses concerns in our Watershed plan.

Chairman Holmvik called for a vote. Manager Johannsen and Chairman Holmvik opposed. Carried.

4. 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 11:11 am.

Curt Johannsen, Secretary

Appendix A

List of Acronyms Used:

MNDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
WRWD	Wild Rice Watershed District