



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District
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April 13, 2015

Regular meeting minutes

The regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chairman Tim Buysse. Board managers present were Tim Dritz, John Boulton, Jeff Hoffman and Corey Hoffman. Also in attendance was Cindy Potz, administrator and Emma Volz, technician.

#1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the board for review and approval.

4-01-2015 Motion was made by C Hoffman, seconded by Boulton to approve the agenda.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

#2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of March 2015 were presented to the board.

4-02-2015 Motion was made by Dritz, seconded by C Hoffman to approve the minutes of March 9, 2015. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#3. Approval of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented to the board by Potz. She presented the monthly budget report and the projects and ditches' financial reports for the past month.

After discussion,

04-03-2015 Motion was made by Boulton, seconded by C Hoffman to approve the treasurers' report. All voted aye. Motion carried.

#4. Approval of Submitted Warrants

The submitted warrants were presented to the board for approval.

4-04-2015 Motion was made by C Hoffman, seconded by Boulton to approve payment on the warrants to be paid. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The approved warrants are as follows:

7726	James Wambeke	rent	\$500.00
7728	Century Tel	telephone	\$130.07
7730	Netpoint	website service	\$8.95
7734	managers per diem	Dritz	\$1,011.47
7731		J Hoffman	\$134.55
7733		Boulton	\$900.75
		Buyse	
7721		C Hoffman	\$944.81
7720	staff	Potz	\$2,631.25
7722		Volz	\$2,202.09
eft	PERA	employee retirement fund	\$1,071.99
eft	IRS	payroll taxes	\$1,628.52
7723	Ivanhoe Times	publishing Ditch 38 notice	\$76.50
	Minneota Mascot	publishing Ditch 38 notice	\$74.75
7729	Davis Typewriter Co	supplies	\$147.87
7718	Rinke Noonan Law Offices	Ditch 38 legal	\$3,013.00
7719	Bolton and Menk, Inc.	Ditch 38 engineering Feb Mar	\$834.00
7724	League of Minnesota Cities	workers comp insurance	\$368.00
7725	BankCard Center	charges for quick books, supplies	\$1,061.68
7732	Gruenes Law Office	Ditch 38 legal	\$585.00
7735	Bolton and Menk, Inc.	Ditch 38 April	\$287.50

#5. Approval of Submitted Tiling Permits

Volz presented the submitted tiling permit applications. After discussion, 04-05-2015 Motion was made by J Hoffman, seconded by C Hoffman, to approve the submitted tiling permit applications. All voted aye. Motion carried. The approved applications are as follows.

010415	Lionel Fales	YM	Wergeland	18	SW 1/4	Renewal #380908
020415	Dennis Heggeseth	YM	Swede Prairie	31	SE 1/4	Renewal # 91013
030415	Wanye VanMaldeghem	Lyon	Vallers	9	S 1/2 NE 1/4	Renewal #30314
040415	Robert Bottelberghe	Lincoln	Limestone	24	NW 1/4	
050415	Dennis Broughton	YM	Burton	13	E 1/2 SW 1/4	
060415	Bruce VanKeulen	Lyon	Eidsvold	12		
070415	Richard Nielsen	Lincoln	Lake Stay	14	NW 1/4	
080415	Clarence Possail	Lincoln	Lake Stay	14	NW 1/4 NE 1/4	
090415	Jeff Drietz	Lincoln	Alta Vista	33	SE 1/4	
100415	Mike Hoffman	YM	Swede Prairie	18	SW 1/4 SW 1/4	

At this time, Terry Renken, Lincoln Co resident, who was attending the meeting, was asked if he needed to address the board. He asked to address the board concerning an application that he had applied for last fall. At that time he was asked to contact the neighboring landowners for an easement signature. He has not been able to connect with the neighbors. After discussion, it was agreed that Dritz would assist Renken in finding a copy of an agreement signed by all the parties involved, and review the application for Renkens' drainage.

#6. Louis Claeks unpermitted tiling

Louis Claeks, Lincoln County landowner, and his attorney Curt Deter met with the board to discuss the drainage projects that Louis Claeks had completed both on the east and specifically the west side of his property in section 34 of Hendricks township, in which it appears to the board and others, that Claeks made attempts to drain portions of his cropland by creating a slope and allegedly opening a fenceline in order to drain that parcel onto the land of nearby neighbors. Photos of the project taken shortly after his work was completed were shown. The board stated that it does indeed appear that he was creating a slope in order to drain his property. He denies doing so, stating that he was simply cleaning the area. Deter suggested to the board that the language is not clear in the rules and regulations as to what constitutes a need for a drainage permit, and what constitutes drainage. He doesn't believe that his client intended drainage. Board Chairman Tim Buysse stated that the rules do state that a permit is required for any work that affects the flow of surface water, hence, drainage. Deter proposed to the board that they drop complaints against Claeks if he agrees to pay the two \$250.00 fees and allow the Claeks projects to be permitted. The board denied that proposal and will pursue the attempt to resolve this matter so that they neighboring landowners will not be as adversely affected. The board cannot review and approve a permit application that doesn't exist, and if one was present, would not have approved it unless Claeks were assessed to the drainage ditch that this project does utilize. The board shared their opinion that they feel that if Claeks would follow through with the suggestion first presented to him with an attempt to become assessed into the county ditch on the property of the neighbors, the Nuese brothers, then they would approve tiling on Claeks land and on Nuese land, paid for by Claeks, as Nuese doesn't need the option of drainage. Claeks showed no interest in accepting that proposal. The board continues to want to be proactive in making the property of Claeks open to proper drainage by encouraging Claeks to petition being assessed into the Lincoln County Ditch 8 on the west side of the neighboring Nuese property in section 34 of Hendricks township.

04-06-2015 Motion was made by C Hoffman, seconded by J Hoffman, that the board proposes the option for Claeks to petition becoming assessed into Lincoln County ditch 8, and if he does complete that, the board will drop the two \$250.00 fees being requested of Claeks. All voted aye.

#7. Lincoln County project proposal

It was understood by this administrator that Robert Olson, Lincoln county ditch inspector or others wanted to approach the board on a potential project on County Ditch 37, and a possible cost share. However there was no attendance concerning the matter. The board tabled the proposal until the next meeting, if we receive an indication that someone wishes to attend to explain the project.

#8. Board Managers Reports

YMRW District board managers Boulton, Dritz, Buysse, C Hoffman and J Hoffman attended the Minnesota Drainage Inspectors Annual Meeting in Willmar on March 23, 2015.

Emma Volz, YMRW district watershed technician, also attended.

Concerning local projects, Corey Hoffman stated that he has noticed that we should still address the issue of rocks having been dumped in the creek on the property of Duane Olevson. It is perceived that the rocks are blocking the flow of water from the west under Lyon County Road 3 in Eidsvold Township Section 1. The board requested that Potz and Volz discuss the problem with the landowners and get the rocks displaced to provide better drainage for the landowners to the west.

Board chairman Buysse brought up a discussion on the proposed watershed ditch annual inspection. The board discussed possible options for completing this task. Potz will send a notice to all ditch shareholders to inform them of our intent to begin the inspection of the ditch berms and condition of the ditches. Potz will administer the inspections, working with a licensed contractor who can spray the weeds at the same time. After the inspection is complete, Potz and Volz will report to the board, and an additional notice will be sent to the violators of the drainage ditch rules.

C Hoffman stated that he is not satisfied with the work completed on Watershed Ditch 5 in recent years. He feels that the repair should be redone correctly and that both Ditch 4 and 5 are in need of some clean out, for better flow of the drainage. He was with Mike Weckwerth, former employee last year when they did an inspection of ditch 4 and 5. Discussion was held on the options to get an estimate on the cost of cleaning the ditches. It was suggested that we obtain one estimate from a contractor with a long reach excavator.

#9. Administrators report

Discussion was held with John Engels, watershed legal counsel, on the board proposal to change the wording on the watershed rules and regulations. We reported that we had had discussions and emails with BWSR staff, in which it was suggested to the board that it would be best to complete the process of the One Watershed One Plan, when our plan would be completed, and then we could move forward from there. By that time, we have a better idea how we wish to present our new rules and regulations.

Potz reported on the proposed removal of beaver dams in various locations throughout the watershed and her review and approval of their removal.

Potz shared information that the MAWD summer tour is scheduled for June 24-26, 2015 in Duluth, MN. She will schedule rooms for any board managers wishing to attend as soon as she hears which hotel is involved.

#10. Management meeting with Brett Behnke Shell Rock River Watershed District as guest

Cindy Potz had asked Brett Behnke of the Shell Rock River Watershed to meet with the board and staff of the YM River Watershed District to discuss ideas for improvement of the YM River Watershed District. Potz feels that future employees and future board managers of the watershed district would appreciate some proactive work on what this board should look for in hiring new employees. Homework needs to be done, and consultation with other watershed districts as to building their employee job descriptions and job applications. The job duties of both the administrator and the field technician are very broad and extensive, and the skills needed are not only in office skills, but also a strong connection source creating harmony with common people, agency personnel, sharing personal and political conversations, with the ability to speak the language of many.

Also, an informed and knowledgeable board can lead their watershed through various transitions.

Brett described his job as an administrator. He is able to manage many grant projects and has good staff that is able to support him. Brett does a lot of political connection management, meeting almost weekly at the state capital with those who make decisions on laws and funding, leading to available grants. He attends several meetings that build his rapport with his peers. Brett made several good suggestions, and offered his services as a consultant to the board, as he feels that this watershed district, while strong, can be improved upon. He left information for the board to consider.

#11. Adjourn the meeting

Chairman Tim Buysse asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

4-07-15 Motion was made by Boulton, seconded by Dritz to adjourn the meeting.
All voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Hoffman, Secretary of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

Minutes prepared by CMP

**The next regular meeting of the Watershed District board of managers will be held on
May 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the office of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District.**