



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

122 N Jefferson St | P.O. Box 267 | Minneota MN 56264-0267
admin@ymrwd.org | (507) 872-6720 | www.ymrwd.org



Regular Meeting Minutes January 8, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President James Kraus at 9:00 a.m. at the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (YMRWD) Office at 122 North Jefferson Street in Minneota, MN.

Managers present: President Tim Buysse (present at 9:22am)
Vice President James Kraus
Treasurer Tim Dritz
Secretary John Boulton (present at 9:15am)
Public Relations Manager Doug Gregoire

Others present: Michelle Overholser, YMRWD Administrator
Brooke Buysse, Yellow Medicine SWCD/Watershed
Rick Anderson, Lyon County Commissioner
Gary Laleman, Lyon SWCD Board
Lucas Youngsma, MN DNR Hydrologist

2018 Organizational Business

Election of Officers

Dritz moved to maintain the current officer's positions. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Officers will continue to be:

President: Tim Buysse
Vice President: James Kraus
Secretary: John Boulton
Treasurer: Tim Dritz
Public Relations: Doug Gregoire

The second order of business was to identify legal counsel and designate a depository and newspaper for official business purposes in 2018. Dritz made a motion to maintain the partnerships with the same bank, newspaper, and attorney as last year. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Official Depository: Bank of the West, Minneota MN
Official Newspaper: Minneota Mascot, Minneota MN
Legal Counsel: John Engels, Engels Law Offices, Minneota MN

The third order of business was to set a regular meeting date and time to conduct business each month. Gregoire made a motion to follow the same schedule as last year. Dritz seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting Date/Time: 2nd Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Gregoire made a motion to appoint the following managers to represent the Watershed District at meetings. If the appointed manager cannot attend any given meeting, the manager should contact the manager listed as the alternate to attend. Dritz seconded. Motion passed 2-0.



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Committee	Appointment	Alternate
One Watershed One Plan Partners Personnel Committee	Buyse	Dritz
Yellow Medicine County Buffer Law Committee	Kraus	Gregoire
Area 2 MN River Basin Projects Liaison	Boulton	Buyse
Lyon County Parks	Buyse	

Dritz made a motion to keep the per diem and expense reimbursement rates at the same values as in 2016. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

- Meeting Per Diem:** \$75 per meeting
- Hourly Rate:** \$15 per hour
- Maximum Daily Rate:** \$75 per day
- Mileage:** Use current IRS Rate (\$0.545/mile in 2018)
- Meals:** Reimbursable with submitted receipts

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (December 11, 2017)

Dritz moved to approve the minutes. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer's Report

Overholser presented the following reports:

- Balance Sheet
 - Profit and Loss Report
 - Warrants to be Paid
 - Ditch Balance Report
- Total Liabilities and Equity = \$22,656.99
Net Income = -\$22,656.99
Total Warrants = \$12,977.82
Total net Income = \$61,118.08

Outstanding warrants to be paid include:

- Bankcard Center
 - Dayton Herigon
 - Farm & Home Publishers, LTD
 - John Engels Attorney
 - K & K Tiling, Inc.
 - Thompson Excavating
 - Tom Barber
 - VK Services
 - Jim Wambeke
 - Yellow Medicine, SWCD
 - Rinke Noonan
- Credit Card = \$1,363.47
Beaver Bounty= \$390.00
Yellow Med County Plat Book=53.80
Invoice 4951= \$996.20
Beaver Dam Removal Tyro 33= \$337.50
Maintenance at Dames= \$2,106.25
Beaver Bounty= \$150.00
Feb. 16-March 16, 2017= \$76.40
Rent =\$500.00
Brooke'sWork for YMRWD= \$6899.20
County Tile 39= \$105.00

Gregoire moved to pay the warrants and file the treasurer's report. Dritz seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Old Business – Request for Permit: JD-7 Cross Connection (Oftedahl)

Michelle explained to the board the Yellow Medicine ditch authority is not concerned about this project since it connects to the existing 24" line and will not connect to JD-7. Emily reviewed this permit before she left and was concerned since the tile does not follow the surface flow of the water.

Dritz moved to approve the permit. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 3-0.



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Old Business – Hoffman-DNR Response

Lucas said that there is an exemption for a water appropriation permit for lift pumps. The board remembers the pump being issued for the use of irrigation, otherwise the board stated they would not have approved the permit. Still no permit can be found for the tile line crossing watersheds and the board is confident that they would not have approved the permit as the project is shown today.

Gregoire moved to send Corey Hoffman a letter saying that the tile line crossing watersheds needs to be disconnected from the pump system. Corey would have until May 1, 2018 to make the changes or appeal the request. Dritz seconded. Kraus abstained. Motion passed 3-0.

New Business – Request for Permits

Steve Dressen- Board held discussion in regards to areas that looked like wetlands. Michelle stated that we have received letters saying the project complies with WCA and the Swamp buster Act.

Dean Wyffels- Still needs the landowner's signature (his parents). **Condition for Approval:** Signature is needed.

JD-16 Storage (Oftedahl)- Installing 18" non-perforated tile to create a "reservoir" so that his pumps would not have to run all the time. **Condition for Approval:** The sub irrigation pump be shut off when the MN DNR releases there weekly information regarding the river flow being in the highest 10% of flows or when the water is backed up to the Oftedahl property.

David Swenson- No changes to the permit, he was unable to get the work completed that he was previously approved for. He needs to get approval from the Lac qui Parle watershed for the part of the project that drains into that watershed.

Dritz moved to approve the permits with the discussed conditions. Kraus seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business – HAS/ HRA (Michelle)

Originally at the time of hire the contract the board offered to Michelle Overholser included a clause where the board would offer health insurance benefits in an amount not to exceed \$800/month. Alternative if Overholser elected to be insured under a spouse's policy, the district would fund a health reimbursement account (HRA) at the same rate. The contract also stated that if an HRA is not feasible for any reason, Overholser may request consideration of an alternate benefit to be funded up to the same amount. After researching the HRA option, it was determined by both parties that this was not a desirable option. Overholser proposed that the board instead fund her HAS. The maximum amount that could be put into a HSA account a month is \$500, in order to not exceed limits imposed by law. Overholser requested that the district fund a SEP-IRA with the additional \$300/month to equal the \$800/month benefit offered in the original contract. Both of these options are tax free for the district.

Dritz moved to permit Overholser to open the necessary accounts and revise the existing contract, which will be presented at the next meeting. \$500 a month will be put into Michelle HSA and \$300 into an IRA. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 4-0.



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New Business – Shared Services (Yellow Medicine SWCD and Lincoln SWCD)

Yellow Medicine submitted new contract for 2018 to be signed for our shared services agreement. Lincoln just needs a motion from the board to approve the contract. Both contracts are very flexible depending on the shared services employee’s schedules.

Boulton moved to continue with the shared services agreements with Yellow Medicine SWCD and Lincoln SWCD. Gregoire seconded 4-0.

New Business – Drainage and Water Conference (Feb. 15th)

The upcoming drainage conference is Feb 15th in St. Cloud. Watershed administrator asked which board members were interested in attending. Boulton and Dritz agreed to attend the conference, Kraus declined, and Buysse is undecided.

Gregoire moved to approve the attendance for anyone who wishes to attend the conference. Kraus seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business – Set Public Hearing date for Co. Ditch 38

A date needs to be set for the Co. Ditch #38 public hearing. Monday February 12th, the date of the next board meeting.

Dritz moved to have the public hearing at the next board meeting 2-12-2018 at 9:30am. Gregoire seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Other Business – Future Events

February 12	9:00am	Regular Meeting-YMRWD in Minneota
February 15	Day	Drainage and Water Conference

Public Comment, Reports, and Adjournment

Overholser provided a verbal update of the past month’s activities (familiarizing herself with the office and responsibilities).

Boulton provided brief summary of Area 2 meeting.

At 10:38 a.m. Boulton moved to adjourn the meeting. Kraus seconded. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary John Boulton

Date

Minutes prepared by Brooke Buysse



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The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 12, 2018 at the District Office.