



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

122 North Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 267, Minneota MN 56264-0267
Phone: 507-872-6720 www.ymrwd.org ymrw@centurytel.net



Regular Meeting Minutes September 12, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Buysse 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
Secretary John Boulton
Treasurer Tim Dritz

Managers absent: Vice President Jeff Hoffman
Public Relations and Information Officer James Kraus

Others present: Administrator Emily Javens
Lyon County Commissioner Rodney Stensrud*
Dale Buysse, Resident*
Tony Abrahamson, Benchmark Survey and Design, Permit Applicant*
Ben Nath, Permit Applicant*
Robert Hoffman, Resident*
Corey Hoffman, Resident*

**Partial attendance*

Approval of the Agenda

Buysse asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Tim Dritz asked to add Corey Hoffman and Ditches 4-5 to the agenda. **M/S/P to approve the agenda as amended:**

Motion by: John Boulton

Second by: Tim Dritz

Passed: 3-0

Public Hearing – 2017 Budget and General Levy

The regular meeting was recessed in order to hold a public hearing on the 2017 budget and levy. A proposed budget was available for review and had income and expenses equal to \$265,800. The general levy was proposed to be \$232,500, a 2.7% increase from last year. Buysse asked for comments from the public and there were none. The public hearing was then closed and the regular meeting was reconvened.

2017 Budget and General Levy

M/S/P to approve a budget of \$265,800 and a \$232,000 general levy.

Motion by: Tim Dritz

Second by: John Boulton

Passed: 3-0



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Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

M/S/P to approve the August 8, 2016 regular meeting minutes:

Motion by: John Boulton

Second by: Tim Dritz

Passed: 3-0

Treasurer's Report

Javens presented the following reports:

- September 12, 2016 Balance Sheet
 - Aug. 9 – Sept. 12 2016 Profit & Loss Report
 - Expenses by Vendor Summary Aug 9 – Sept 12
 - June 13, 2016 Ditch Balance Report
- Total liabilities and equity = \$242,408.85
 Net Income = \$12,801.93
 Total warrants = \$4,037.17
 Total balance = \$46,940.62

M/S/P to approve the treasurer's report and pay the warrants:

Motion by: John Boulton

Second by: James Kraus

Passed: 4-0

Warrants to be paid:

Vendor	Details	Aug 9 - Sep 12, 16
Aracely Leos	September Office Cleaning	30.00
CenturyTel	Phone, Internet, Router	222.62
Dave's Fencing	Anderson Lake Sign Installation	256.50
Farm & Home Publishers, LTD	Platbooks	89.40
Ivanhoe Times	Public Hearing Notice (2017 budget)	48.00
Jim Wambeke	Office Rent	500.00
John A Engels, Attorney	General Legal Services	86.70
Minneota Mascot	Public Hearing Notice (8/18 Advisory mtg)	54.00
Netpoint	Website	8.95
RESPEC	PRAP Grant	1,680.00
Rinke Noonan	Ditch 38 and Ditch 39 Legal Services	865.00
Taunton Senior Center	Meal and Rent for 8/18 Advisory mtg	150.00
VK Services	Website updates	46.00
		4,037.17

Public Comment – Request for River Maintenance

Dale Buysse joined the meeting and was welcomed by President Buysse. He asked him if he wanted to provide public comment on an issue. He said yes and wanted to request trees be removed along the river on his property. He says he has been in several times over the years and no one has ever done anything. The



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Board did not remember him speaking to him. He then clarified he had met with former staff in the past. Javens agreed to give him a call to discuss the matter after the meeting.

New Business - Permit Applications

Javens presented eight drainage permit applications. The first four were small requests to add short seepage lines to existing systems. There were no significant issues with the applications and were recommended for approval with the conditions stated below (if any.)

The last four applications were from Tony Abrahamson, Benchmark Survey & Design, to install pattern tile drainage on four parcels in the Watershed Ditch 8 and Lincoln County JD-29 watersheds. It should be noted that WD-8 flows into JD-29. Javens had reviewed the permits prior to the meeting and had some concerns about the sizing of the systems, among other issues. The practice standard written for subsurface drainage by the Natural Resources Conservation Services recommends that drainage systems be designed using a drainage coefficient of $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Javens found that the outlets had been designed to a 1" drainage coefficient or greater. Abrahamson was present and stated he would never put pipe in that big and said he adjusts them in the field to meet the $\frac{1}{2}$ " drainage coefficient. The Board explained that according to our Rules, the District cannot approve applications to drain land in excess of the design capacity of the ditch. At the time of the meeting, the full history and engineering of the ditch system had not been fully researched. (All of the permit applications were turned in after the deadline that was communicated to Abrahamson in mid-August.) The board was adamant that using a 1" drainage coefficient was excessive and could not be approved. New designs would need to be submitted. Discussion took place to determine the design standard that should be used if the original ditch design parameter could not be found. Dritz mentioned that most of the systems that are being improved are found to be operating at 50% capacity or less when considering modern farming practices. The best option would be to petition for an improvement if the applicant wants to tile his field to the $\frac{1}{2}$ " standard. They could also hire an engineer to determine the capacity of the existing system. Javens will continue to research the history of the ditch and will communicate findings to the applicant. Other issues with the applications that need to be resolved before new requests will be considered included the following:

- Permit Application 9-06: Approximately 40 acres were being drained by the proposed tile system, but the land is not benefitted property of the ditch system. It shall be removed. Alternatively, the landowner could petition into the system following MN Statute 103E guidelines.
- Permit Application 9-07: A portion of the land to be drained was not in the drainage area of branch 1 line they wanted to use as an outlet. This land cannot drain to the branch 1 main unless the designer can show that the 6" line has the capacity to handle the water. Furthermore, the proposed project included bringing 8" lines into the 6" main. This will not be allowed.
- Permit Application 9-08: The applicant will need to get permission from the Lincoln County Drainage Authority before work may proceed. The applicant is restricted to the drainage coefficient of the original ditch design and shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

M/S/P to approve four drainage permit applications with the conditions specified below and deny four permits:

Motion by: Tim Dritz

Second by: John Boulton

Passed: 3-0



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Permit #	Applicant	Activity	Location	Conditions
2016-09-01	Warren Regnier	Install 800' of 5" seepage lines, connect into existing private system	Lincoln County, Burton 15	APPROVED
2016-09-02	Don Gorecki	Install 4,000' of 5" seepage lines, connect into 3 different private drainage systems	Lincoln County, Limestone 4	APPROVED
2016-09-03	Don Gorecki	Install 600' of 5" seepage lines, connect into existing private drainage system	Lincoln County, Limestone 2	APPROVED IF applicant signs the permit application
2016-09-04	Loretta Lundberg	Install 3 150' seepage lines, connect into Lincoln County Ditch 35 tile line	Lincoln County, Ash Lake 22	APPROVED, BUT permission from Lincoln County Ditch Authority is required before work can begin
2016-09-05	Benchmark Survey & Design / Goody's Farms	pattern tiling, 5 new outlets into WD-8	Lincoln County, Marshfield 9	DENIED , applicant will need to decrease system capacity before approval will be considered, providing an outlet to the neighbor should also be considered
2016-09-06	Benchmark Survey and Design / Goody's Farms	pattern tiling, 6 new outlets into WD-8	Lincoln County, Marshfield 5	DENIED , applicant will need to decrease system capacity and remove portions of the system that are not benefitted properties of the legal ditch
2016-09-07	Benchmark Survey and Design / Jo's Family Farms	pattern tiling, connect into branch1, WD-8	Lincoln County, Lake Stay 33	DENIED , applicant must redesign and cannot use larger 8" lines that will connect into smaller 6" lines. Portions of the drainage system must be removed or calculations provided to show the 6" outlet can handle the flow from a larger watershed.
2016-09-08	Benchmark Survey and Design / Anna Sonstegard Trust	pattern tiling, 6 new outlets into JD-29	Lincoln County, Lake Stay 28	DENIED , will need to decrease system capacity and obtain approval from the Lincoln County Drainage Authority

New Business – MAWD Resolutions

Javens asked if the Managers had any issues they would like to address through resolutions process of the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD). Buysse mentioned the possibility of asking MAWD to hire a Human Resources specialist that can assist the watershed districts in hiring and other related topics. Javens will research and draft a resolution with Buysse for presentation at our next meeting.

Public Comment – Robert and Corey Hoffman

Robert and Corey Hoffman requested that the Board continue to investigate the work that was completed in Wergeland 4 that rerouted water from the Lac qui Parle River to Mud Creek. Managers discussed the history



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to the best of their recollection and Javens added details provided from the meeting minutes. Since memories were not completely clear and the issue remains unresolved in the minds of the Managers and the Hoffmans, Javens will prepare a finding of facts document that can be reviewed at the next meeting before making decisions about how to proceed.

Administrator's Report

Javens updated the board on the past month's activities in a verbal, as well as a written report. She also provided copies of the September office schedule, the Clean Water Fund grant application that was submitted in August as well as a preliminary awards nomination form that was submitted to recognize the hard work of our partners in creating the One Watershed One Plan. Lastly, she mentioned a personal vacation she plans to take at the end of the year. She wondered if the Board would like the office staffed by a partner organization or if it would be fine to close the office from December 19-30. The Board felt finding alternate staffing was not needed and that a message on the answering machine and email system could direct people to one or two of the managers if assistance was needed.

Manager Reports

Boulton reported on the joint DNR/BWSR meeting held on buffers and Dritz reported on many interesting presentations he heard at the International Drainage Conference.

Adjournment

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: John Boulton
Second by: Tim Dritz
Passed: 3-0

The meeting was adjourned by Buysse at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Boulton

10/10/16

Secretary John Boulton

Date

Minutes prepared by Javens

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District is October 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the district office.