Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
October 16th, 2018

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota at 0500 P.M. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Michelle Miller, Peter VanErkekl, Steve Penkava, Justin Hanson, and Att’y Kurt Deter. Jon Erichson and Dave Vanderploeg were absent.

Also attending the meeting were Tom Butler, Lynn Huston, Scott Thompson, Dustin Meyer, and Lee Loverink.

Pete made a motion to accept the September 2018 minutes as presented seconded by Jeff and carried.

Correspondence included the reminder to the Managers of the MAWD Annual Conference November 29-December 1st, 2018 at Arrowwood Conference Center. Those available to attend should contact Steve Lawler to assist in making Hotel reservations.

In Jon’s absence Nancy presented the Treasurers report showing $116,391.33 in checking and $22,171.42 in savings. Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried. Nancy distributed the Bank reconciliation and Financial statement for September 30th, 2018. There was no discussion.

The following bills were submitted for approval to be forwarded to Pat Martinson-Freeborn County Auditor-Treasure:
- Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc. $ 3,553.93 (routine maintenance)
- Patton, Hoversten, & Berg P.A. $ 5,000.00 (Drainage Petition-Freeborn County)

Pete made a motion to approve and forward these bills seconded by Jeff and carried.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:
- Verizon Wireless 53.08
- Hill, Larson, & Walth, P.A. $ 158.00
- Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc. $ 2,493.10 (Water sampling)
- Rinke Noonan $ 950.00

Pete made a motion to approve payment for the District bills seconded by Jeff and carried.

An application for permit was submitted by Robert Ford to clean ditch in Riceland Twsp, Freeborn County section 26 R103N. Loren Lair has signed this application. Mr. Ford will be his own Contractor. Jeff made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Pete and carried. Permit number 10-01-18.

An application for permit was submitted by Barry Hoffman to tile in Moscow Twsp. Freeborn County section 5 1/4 section T103N 5 lines of tile X 1200 ft. John VanWilgen is the Contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Pete and carried. Permit number 10-2-18.

Pete spoke with Sue from the Highway Dept regarding maintenance of culverts, she states it is the City Engineer’s job to monitor and maintain the culverts.

Lynn Huston and Dustin Meyer attended the meeting in regard to replacement of a culvert on 890th Avenue on Lateral 1-1 of the Deer Creek Branch to joint County Ditch No. J24 in SE 1/4 section 3 Moscow twsp. the structure is to be maintained as a 60” concrete culvert. The culvert was replaced with a 54” Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) which is undersized and will restrict upstream drainage. The work was done without a TCWD permit and is in violation of District Rule 3.2 H and Minnesota state Statute 103E. After discussion and explaining how this happened Lynn and Dustin agreed to replace the structure having the same capacity as the original 60” concrete
culvert. In the future the Managers advised they check with any of the TCWD Managers or Steve Penkava to find out if they need a permit on a project.

Pete made a motion for Att’y Deter to send a letter to Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District regarding the Buffer Enforcement. As TCWD elected to assume responsibility for enforcement of the buffer law under 103F.48 they are the entity that is responsible for making decisions on any enforcement actions on county ditch systems within the Turtle Creek Watershed District where they are the Drainage Authority. The Board was surprised, upset, and concerned that enforcement letters went out to landowners within the TCWD on county ditches under their jurisdiction based on incorrect information. The Managers and Engineer spent a great deal of time responding to landowners’ concerns and were especially concerned that these letters went out without any involvement of the TCWD or authorization by the District to send out these letters. Jeff seconded the motion for Att’y Deter to send out a letter, the motion carried.

Justin explained the original water plan expired in 2015 but, an extension was approved by BWSR until December 31st, 2018. The Cedar River Comprehensive Watershed Plan (1W1P) will likely not be approved until the end of 2019. Justin ask the Board to approve a new Resolution to extend the original water plan until approval of the new Watershed Plan not to exceed June 30th 2020. Michelle signed the extension for and returned to Justin.

Pete suggested to Att’y Deter when he is not available to attend the monthly meetings it is not necessary to send a replacement as any legal issues that come up they could contact Kurt by either email or phone which Kurt agreed would be a workable solution.

Nancy explained the issues she is having with her computer considering it’s age and not updated information. Pete made a motion to have Steve Lawler proceed with assisting in purchasing a new updated computer seconded by Jeff and carried.

The only manager report was from Jeff who states someone shared with him they were having difficulty getting permit applications from the Internet. The service has been resolved and should be accessible now.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Pete and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy K. Finley
Recording Secretary