

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
August 15th, 2023

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale Minnesota. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Michelle O'Connor, Dave Vanderploeg, and James Fett. Att'y John Kolb attended remotely. Pat Martinson also attended the meeting. Peter VanErkel and Jon Erichson were absent.

Troy and Ron Olson arrived late after the meeting had been adjourned.

Dave made a motion to accept the minutes from July 2023 as presented seconded by Jeff, carried.

In Jon's absence James gave the Treasure's report showing \$185,930.27 in checking and \$152,007.11 in the money market. Jeff made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Dave and carried.

James distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial Reports ending July 31st 2023. There was no discussion.

Jeff made a motion to forward the bills that Nancy had been holding on Ditch #31 Freeborn County to Pat Martinson Freeborn County Auditor-Treasure seconded by Dave and carried. These have been documented in the previous meeting minutes.

The following bills were submitted for approval to be forwarded to Pat Martinson Freeborn County:

Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 7,200.00 (Ditch #31)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 4,450.00 (Ditch #31)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 2,475.00 (Ditch #8)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 2,250.00 (Routine Maintenance)
Donnelly Law Office	\$ 8,729.33 (Ditch #31)
Rinke Noonan	\$1,769.65 (Ditch #31)

Jeff made a motion to approve and forward the bills seconded by Dave and carried.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

Austin Dailly Herald	\$ 134.30
Albert Lea Tribune	\$ 134.30
Nancy Finley	\$ 55.57 (reimbursement from Verizon)

Jeff made a motion to pay the bills seconded by Dave and carried.

At 5:15 Dave made a motion to suspend the regular meeting for the Proposed Budget hearing seconded by Jeff and carried.

Chairperson Michelle called the Hearing to order for the Proposed Budget hearing for the year of 2024.

Nancy verified the publications in the Austin Daily Herald—Mower County and the Albert Lea Tribune—Freeborn County.

James presented the proposed 2024 Administration Levy as follows:

1. Attorney Fees (Rinke Noonan)	\$10,000.00
2. Recording Secretary /Expenses	\$ 7,200.00
3. Managers	\$ 8,500.00
4. Administrative Services (Mower SWCD)	\$ 18,500.00
5. Audit and Monthly Financial Services	\$ 6,500.00
6. Viewers Association and MAWD Dues	\$ 3,500.00
7. Insurance	\$ 2,200.00
8. Advertising and Postage	\$ 1,000.00
9. Rent	\$ 800.00
10. Water Monitoring and Water Plan	\$ 6000.00
11. Incentives, Cost Sharing, Conservation	\$ 22,900.00
12. Tree Removal	\$ 15,000.00
13. Beaver Tails	\$ 2,500.00
14. Clean Water Legacy	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 114,000.00

Hearing no public input Jeff offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption of the budget of \$114,000.00. Whereas, the Managers of the aforesaid district have had a hearing on its proposed budget for the year 2024, after publication hereof and having heard all persons interested therein, now therefore be it resolved that the budget herein before proposed and set forth in the published notice thereof, be and hereby is adopted for the year 2024. The motion was seconded by Dave and carried.

Nancy will complete and forward copies to Freeborn and Mower County auditors.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the hearing and return to the Regular Board meeting seconded by Jeff and carried.

An application for permit was submitted by Mn DOT for a bridge/culvert replacement. Project location in Austin between Oakland Ave interchange and TH 218S interchange. NW section 34 R T103N R 18W. Contractor is to be determined yet. Jeff made a motion to grant this application seconded by Dave and carried. Permit # 08-01-23.

Jeff made a motion to approve the final order dismissing improvement proceedings, allocating costs to petitioners and certifying the assessment of costs regarding CD#31. The final order is consistent with a preliminary agreement signed by over 90% of the petitioners. The preliminary distribution of costs was modified/verified by the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer and is listed as Exhibit A with the final order. Petitioners will be able to pay their costs up front, or have the balance assessed to their taxes with payment over 10 years with 3% interest. Dave seconded and the motion carried.

Att'y Kolb discussed options on how to handle the issue of cattle in Deer Creek on the Jones Property. John states there are several challenges including watering source and crossings, restrictions, and pollutant discharges from the livestock. After discussion regarding the removal of the fencing from the original project Att'y Kolb will do further research and bring a better solution to the next meeting.

James reminded the Managers of the CD J 30 Redetermination of Benefits hearing scheduled during the Board meeting on Tuesday, Sept 19th 2023 at 5:15.

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

After the meeting had adjourned Ron and Troy Olson stopped by requesting information regarding costs on CD #31 and requested itemized invoices for all work done by JHS. James stated he would contact our Attorney as to how they should proceed or who they needed to contact.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy K. Finley
Recording Secretary