

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
November 21st, 2023

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Jon Erichson, Dave Vanderploeg Peter VanErkel, James Fett, and Steve Penkava. Michelle O'Connor was absent. Atty John Kolb attended remotely. Jeanine Vorland also attended the meeting.

Dave chaired the meeting in Michelle's absence.

Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes from October 2023 as submitted seconded by Jon, carried.

The Treasurers report showed \$ 179,411.43 in checking and \$ 152,863.11 in the money market. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried.
Jon distributed the bank Reconciliation and Financial Statements dated October 31st, 2023. There was no discussion.

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

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc. | \$ 1,650.00(routine Maintenance) |
| Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc. | \$ 2,400.00(routine Maintenance) |
| Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc. | \$ 8,977.05(brush control) |
| Rinke Noonan | \$ 2,758.00(J-30) |

Jon made a motion to approve and forward the bills seconded by Pete and carried.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Accurant LLC | \$ 158.00 |
| Troy Hawkshead | \$ 420.00(beaver tails) |
| Rinke Noonan | \$ 654.50 |
| Nancy Finley-Verizon reimbursement | \$ 194.92 |

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

An application for permit was submitted by Peter VanErkel to tile in NE 1/4 SE 1/4 section 35 Geneva twsp T 104 R20 to outlet into JD #24. Kathy Reed has signed this application as downstream landowner. Morriem Drainage is the Contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to grant his application seconded by Jon. Pete abstained, Permit #11-01-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Jon VanErkel to tile in SE 1/4 SW 1/4 section 13 Riceland Twsp T103 R20 to outlet into JD#24. Morriem Drainage is the Contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jon and carried. Pete abstained, Permit #11-02-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Allan Brown to clean private ditch in section 32 Geneva twsp and section 5 Riceland in Freeborn County. 2 downstream landowners have signed this application. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Larry Wangen is the Contractor for this project. Permit #11-03-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Kyle Ladlie to tile in section 13 Bancroft T103 R021 to outlet into open private ditch. Downstream and upstream landowners have signed this application. Adam Bishop is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-04-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Diane Twedell to tile parcel ID 130130120 78244 255th St Albert Lea, Mn to outlet into private tile. Adjacent landowners have signed this application. Adam Bishop is the contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-05-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Joanne Johnsrud to tile parcel ID 130130030 78250 255th St Albert Lea, Mn to outlet into private tile. Adjacent landowner has signed this application. Adam Bishop is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-06-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Dale Wicks to pattern tile on 124 acres in Moscow twsp Freeborn County to outlet into private tile without agreement. Downstream landowner has signed this application. Dale Wicks is his own Contractor. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-07-23.

An application for permit was submitted by LMFF % Kyle Mehmen to tile ¼ SE section 23 R19W one mile West and ¼ mile South of the Red Oak Grove church in Newry Twsp, Freeborn cty to outlet into Deer Creek. Hodgeman Drainage is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-08-23.

An application for permit will be submitted by Larry Lestrud to tile NW1/2 of SE ¼ section 9 Geneva twsp Freeborn Cty approx. 1.5 miles East of Geneva to outlet into private tile without agreement. Downstream landowner has signed this application. Olson Drainage is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. James will obtain a copy of the original application and a map for Nancy which will be numbered 11-09-23.

Att’y Kolb discussed the Notice of drainage system interest for Freeborn County Ditch J-30 and its importance. John states this notice is the last step in the redetermination of benefits proceedings or other action on the drainage system to ensure the drainage system interest is recorded on affected properties. Jon Kolb said that he would redraft the document and have it signed and recorded by staff in Freeborn County.

Jon Erichson reached out to Peterson company for getting a bid for the TCWD 2023 financial audit. In response from Peterson Company, they stated their appreciation for the opportunity to again complete the audit and answer any questions with policies and procedures the Managers have. The year end audit fee will be \$5000.00. After discussion Jon recommended continuing with Peterson Company seconded by Pete and carried.

Pete and Jeff were both reappointed for another 3-year term as TCWD Board Members by the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners. James provided the Oath of Office forms for each to sign which will be kept on file at the Soil Service office.

Steve shared with the Board an updated concept plan and cost estimate to relocate a portion of Deer Creek for the John Angell CREP project. The plan and estimate were provided by BWSR. The Board supports the project and will continue to work with the landowners and BWSR. The Board will also investigate possible funding sources for the project. Jon reported on an issue with a tree down in Turtle Creek. The landowner has refused access on his property to remove the tree. Jon is researching other options for access to remove the tree and will report again at the December meeting.

Jeanine Vorland attended the meeting with the following report:

Observations of Geneva Lake and a limited habitat survey have documented declines in habitat conditions and water quality. A major drawdown is planned to begin in winter with the hopes of reducing undesirable fish populations. Water levels are currently low and there has been little runoff due to the ongoing drought conditions. Work has started on additional wetland restoration work at the Wo Wacintanka Wildlife Management area.

Nancy reminded everyone that all invoices for 2023 should be presented at the December 2023 meeting so Jon to pass along to the accountant before the end of the year.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy K Finley,
Recording Sec’y

Sending Blessings to all for a safe and great Thanksgiving!!!