

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
February 21st,2024

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers were invited to join the SWCD meeting the month of February therefore the meeting was held on Wednesday February 21st, 2024 at the Hormel Nature Center. Attending the meeting from Turtle Creek were Jeff Ravenhorst, Jon Erichson, Dave Vanderploeg, Michelle O'Connor, Nancy Finley and James Fett. Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava, and Att'y John Kolb were absent.

Following the Mower SWCD meeting, dinner was provided by Piggy Blues in Austin. During dinner and conversation, we enjoyed a presentation of before and after slides of projects accomplished during the past year by the Soil Service.

At 7 PM the Turtle Creek Board met in another classroom for the regular monthly meeting. Also attending that meeting were Arlen Schamber, Dawn Loverink, Lance Loverink, Al Karstens, Beth Karstens, and Lee Loverink.

Jeff made a motion to accept the January 2024 minutes as submitted seconded by Dave and carried.

The Treasurers report showed \$206,416.77 in checking and \$153,815.77 in the money market. Jon distributed the financial report ending January 31st, 2024. After discussion Jon made a motion to transfer \$50,000.00 from checking to the Money market to stay with the FDIC regulations. Jeff seconded the motion and carried.

The following bills were submitted for approval to be forwarded to Freeborn Cty Auditor-Treasure Kelly:

Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 775.00(routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$6,250.00(Cty Ditch #8)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$1,995.00(Cty 31)
Mark Behrends	\$3,672.50(CD J27 & 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:

Mn Counties Intergovernmental trust	\$ 1528.00(insurance renewal)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 890.50
Rinke Noonan	\$ 1000.00
Lance Loverink	\$ 60.00(beaver tail)
Nancy Finley	\$ 51.42(Verizon reimb)

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

A permit application was submitted by Ben Anderson for the south end of the field west of Mud Creek ditch in Freeborn County, Geneva Township, SE 1/4 of section 14 to fill and re-construct a ditch that outlets into Mud Creek. This application approved to proceed with the following conditions:

The work must be completed during the 2024 construction season, and the berms on the west side of the property must be removed. The old ditch will be filled with the original spoil and track packed with a bulldozer. The new ditch will be excavated with a 2-3-foot-wide bottom, 2:1 side slope, and hydroseeded with mulch after Turtle Creek Watershed District staff approve the excavation.

An application for permit was submitted by Dennis Kuhn to tile and install pump station on 150 acres in SE ¼ Section 20 Geneva Twsp Freeborn County T104N R 20W to outlet into private tile without agreement. Ellingson Co is the Contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to approve this application seconded by Dave and carried. Permit Number 02-01-24.

James provided copies of the changes on the 2024 work plan the Managers discussed in January. Dave made a motion to approve these changes seconded by Jeff and carried.

Jeff made a motion to approve the 2023 annual report submitted by Nancy, Dave seconded the motion and carried. Nancy will forward copies to Tim Ruzek to publish on the web site and mail a copy to Dave Copeland --BWSR.

Michelle signed a letter from Peterson Company LTD to accept their price and officially start the audit. Nancy will return the signed letter.

Michelle signed the Order and Notice for the preliminary hearing on CD8 drafted by Rinke Noonan for the hearing to be held at 5:15 March 19th, 2024 at the Government Center Hollandale, Mn.

Chad Billat gave the following update regarding the Angell Restoration design “BWSR concluded that borings along Deer Creek and JD 30 revealed very sandy soils, which will result in significant construction and stability issues. They will no longer pursue the ditch reroutes as part of the restoration. They are working on a new concept plan, which James will review with the board once it is completed.”

Jeanine was unable to attend the Feb meeting but, sends this Geneva update email: Geneva Lake update: Plans for winter drawdown were cancelled due to lack of sufficient winter conditions to help induce winterkill. The primary objective of winter dewatering is to control undesirable fishes. Since winter drawdowns do carry some downside for non-target species we decided to cancel plans given the likelihood of failure to achieve the main objective. We plan to initiate a growing season drawdown in spring in order to regenerate vegetation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Finley
Recording Secretary