

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO THE MANAGERS APPROVAL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers  
Turtle Creek Watershed District  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Jon Erichson, Michelle O'Connor, Dave Vanderploeg, Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava, and Steve Lawler. Att'y Deter was absent.

Also attending the meeting were Mike DenHerder and Tom Butler.

The Minutes from the May 2022 meeting were approved as presented with a motion from Pete seconded by Dave and carried.

Michelle received a Water survey regarding specifications on wells from the City of Clarks Grove which she passed on to Steve Penkava.

The Treasurer's report showed \$213,608.13 in checking and \$72,191.75 in savings. Jon updated the Managers on the "sweeping accounts report." Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit, seconded by Jeff and carried.

Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial Reports ending May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. A check number 1373 was written out at the October 2020 meeting for a part of cost share project on Ditch 8 head slope conservation work in the amount of \$1,767.07. The landowner does not recall receiving this check and it has not been cashed. After discussion Pete made a motion for Jon to stop payment on the check and a new check will be issued after the stop payment process has gone through seconded by Dave and carried. No further discussion on the reports.

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

Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 840.00 (Routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 1,050.00 (Routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 350.00 (revisions to Watershed -Viewers)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 17,640.00 (Cty ditch #31)

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

Accurant Hill Larson Walth	\$ 158.00
Troy Hawkshead	\$ 240.00 (beaver tails)
Peter VanErkel	\$ 300.00
Dave Vanderploeg	\$ 208.00
Jeff Ravenhorst	\$ 200.00
Michelle O'Connor	\$ 623.40
Jon Erichson	\$ 878.15 (\$54.44 -Verizon bill)
Nancy Finley	\$ 2,059.44 (\$59.44 -Verizon bill)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 950.00

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

Mike DenHerder attended the meeting with an estimate from Freeborn Construction, Inc. for Geneva Township repairs along South side of Turtle Creek Road figuring 6 locations using broke up concrete @ approx. 3' wide X 10' high averages approx. 370 yards using dirt that will be dug out to rebuild upper part of slope.

Township only pays for material used. Mr Haugen's estimate to furnish and place approx. 370 yards @ \$30.28 per yard = \$11,203.60. This would include seed and blanket.

After discussion Dave made a motion for Turtle Creek Watershed to do a 50/50 cost share not to exceed the total estimate of \$11,203.60 from the Maintenance budget, seconded by Pete and carried.

An application for permit was submitted by Darlene Borneman to tile in Moscow Twsp section 18 west central 120 acres in Freeborn county R19W with a pump installation to outlet into the main open ditch. Ellingson Drainage is the Contractor for this project. A letter of approval from Freeborn County Engineer and Director of Public Works is attached to this application. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit # 06-01-22.

Steve Lawler distributed copies of the 2021 and 2022 Administrative budget for the Board to review for discussion at the July meeting. The Levy hearing will be at the August meeting. Nancy will publish the hearing notices after the July meeting.

Jon and Nancy are working together on the Verizon account payment for a convenient solution as the local office no longer has a program to accept the District checks as they have in the past.

At a previous meeting the Hickory Lake project was discussed and the Managers requested an update. The following is an email response from Lindsey Zeitler NRCS-CD Albert Lea, Mn.

"Construction has not begun yet on Hickory Lake. If the board doesn't know, Duane Johnson passed away in January of this year. Since then I have been working with his 3 sons. They were able to acquire a bid from Bishop Excavating in Blooming Prairie and it was quite a bit over anticipated costs. The bid came in at \$39,275.00. The engineers cost estimate was \$21,757.53. Since then we have ran an amendment through the Freeborn SWCD board to get more funds put towards this project and to also change the contract holder to one of Duane's sons. Based off of the new cost the Freeborn SWCD will now be chipping in \$19,637.50. If the Turtle Creek was still willing to chip in their portion of landowner match up to \$5,000 then the 3 sons will still be covering \$14,637.50 out of pocket.

The reasoning for increased costs is due to COVID, inflation, labor costs, and the complexity of the project. It will be very hard to find a contractor that will do a project like this. Some other contractors have flat out said no to it. Also, borrow is going to be brought in from off site which will add costs too. Let me know if there are any questions. When the weather and conditions are fit construction should begin." Thanks, Lindsey Zeitler

Steve Lawler notified the Managers of two landowners in the City Limits of Austin with concerns of trees in the channel. Jon will contact Morem about removal.

Steve Lawler talked to Brad Edwards about covering the costs of the large screen TV and accessories. Brad will discuss this with the Council if a monthly rent increase would suffice to cover these additions.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy K. Finley, Recording Secretary

