

PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO THE MANAGERS APPROVAL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers

Turtle Creek Watershed District

March 16th, 2021

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at 5 P.M. at the Government Center in Hollandale Minnesota following the guidelines of sanitizing tables and chairs and social distancing before the start of the meeting. Steve Lawler also set up the Zoom option for anyone wishing to join remotely.

Attending the meeting in person were Jon Erichson, Michelle O'Connor, Dave Vanderploeg, Pete VanErkel, Steve Penkava, and Steve Lawler. Attending via Zoom were Att'y Kurt Deter and Jeanine Vorland. Jeff Ravenhorst was absent.

Also attending the meeting were James Fett-Mower SWCD, Phil Wacholtz-Freeborn County Engineer, Pat Martinson—Freeborn County Auditor-Treasure, and Dave Finley.

The February 2021 minutes were approved with a motion from Pete seconded by Dave and carried.

The Treasures report showed \$228,829.62 in checking and \$ 22,189.25 in savings. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Dave and carried. Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial report for February 28th 2021, 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.	\$ 1,235.00 (routine Maintenance)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 812.50 (Redeter. Of Benefits Cty Ditch J12)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 1,137.50 (Improvement Cty Ditch J12)

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

Verizon Wireless	\$ 55.93
Hill, Larson & Walth PA	\$ 158.00
Dave Vanderploeg	\$ 409.25
Peter VanErkel	\$ 400.00
Jon Erichson	\$ 728.76
Nancy Finley	\$ 1,900.00
Rinke Noonan	\$ 950.00

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

An application for permit was submitted by Phil Wacholtz-Freeborn County Engineer for Freeborn County which this project includes various culvert replacements on County road 26 between TH 251 and CR 46 Riceland Twp Freeborn Cty to outlet into private open ditch without agreement. Freeborn Construction is the Contractor for this project. Dave made a motion to grant this application seconded by Pete and carried. Permit Number 03-01-21.

Jeanine Vorland and Phil Wacholz discussed options to control rough fish and get a better drawn down of the property east of Geneva Lake as part of the CSAH 26 reconstruction project. Phil will report back to the Board next month with cost estimates for the various options.

Steve Penkava reported on the bidding on the J12 project. He states the bids will be open April 15th so the Managers will have the discussion at the April 20th 2021 meeting..

Pat Martinson, Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer, attended the meeting to report that the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners took action to call and redeem the GO Watershed Bonds, Series 2013 which fund the Deer Creek and Swenson Lateral projects. The county plans to pay off the bonds from its General Fund and loan the balance of the debt to the watershed at an interest rate to be determined by the Freeborn County board. The end result should be a debt with a lower rate of interest than what is currently in place. The loan and terms are scheduled to be passed at a May County Board meeting.

Dave Vanderploeg reported he attended the Freeborn County Commissioners meeting this month for updates and any questions and/or concerns they may have for the Turtle Creek Board and states it went well. Several new faces attending. Dave provided the Commissioners with copies of the 2020 TCWD annual report.

Steve Lawler discussed the MAWD Event for hosting a virtual Legislative Event on March 17th at 1:00 P.M. and provided the tentative agenda. Jon may be interested in attending the conference virtually.

James Fett—Mower SWCD attended the meeting as a follow up request from the Managers for a summary of the water monitoring data. James explained the data with handouts and a power point presentation. After discussion Dave made a motion to continue collecting water samples and also use baseline monitoring information to prioritize future monitoring effects. Seconded by Pete and carried.

Att’y Deter provided Orders for approving the redetermination of benefits and improvements both of which were approved at the March 2021 meeting. Michelle signed these Orders and returned to Steve Lawler.

Steve Lawler distributed the final draft of the 2021 work plan and states it will be posted on the web site.

Steve Lawler requested the Managers consider a discussion on the management of Water Quality projects as a component of the 1W1P efforts and would TCWD be willing to Manage the contractual obligations where our partners have limited resources. The Board has done this in the past managing the CRP Buffer program, Rock Inlet program and the Riceland project. This will be a future agenda item.

It was brought to the Managers attention there is an issue with cattle grazing on the ditch banks. This will be addressed at the April 2021 meeting to review the District policy and procedure.

Steve Penkava reports he has had a discussion with a landowner requesting to replant trees that had previously been removed. Steve and one of the Managers will contact the landowner and view this project in the Spring.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy K. Finley

Recording Secretary