

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers  
Turtle Creek Watershed District  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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

Also attending were Mark Behrends, Att'y Dan Donnelly, and Steve Kraushaar. Attending remotely were Att'y John Kolb and Pat Martinson.

Dave made a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes from both the Work Shop meeting and the Regular Board meeting seconded by Pete and carried.

The Treasurers report showed \$190,494.73 in checking and \$150,539.27 in the Money Market. Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit, seconded by Jon and carried.

Jon made a motion to cancel check number 1499 issued in June 2022 to Pete VanErkel as it has been lost and re-issue a new check. Dave seconded the motion and carried. Pete Abstained.

Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports ending January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. There was no discussion.

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

Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc	\$ 1,350.00 (routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,660.95 (routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,812.50 (County Ditch #8)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 6,130.00 (County Ditch #31)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 645.00 (County Ditch #31)
Patton Hoversten & Berg	\$ 500.00 (Bond—County Ditch #8)

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

Accurant LLC	\$ 309.00
Accurant LLC	\$ 158.00
Minnesota Watersheds	\$ 3,249.00 (annual dues)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 72.50
Peter VanErkel	\$ 300.00 (replacement for loss check)
Nancy Finley	\$ 55.57 (Verizon Reimbursement)

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

Dave made a motion to accept the 2022 annual report as presented by Nancy, seconded by Pete and carried. Nancy will forward a copy to James and Tim—Mower SWCD to post on the Web site and also mail a copy along with the Financial Reports to Dave Copeland at Minnesota Watersheds.

Pete made a motion to approve the 2023 work plan as discussed and updated at the January 2023 meeting seconded by Dave and carried.

Jon made a motion to accept and sign the Legal agreement confirming that the TCWD have read the agreement and understand its provisions and agree to abide by the legal services between the District and Rinke Noonan. Jon Erichson signed the Agreement and returned to James who will fax to the Rinke Noonan office. Thanks John Kolb and Welcome to TCWD Board.

Nancy has sent out an invitation to the Citizens Advisory group regarding a meeting before the March Board meeting, as this is a requirement listed in MN Statute that we are required to have a meeting at least once a year as a Watershed District.

Jon and James are working on a plan to remove trees in Turtle Creek between Interstate 90 and the confluence of Turtle Creek and Cedar River. Jon will be contacting landowners and developing removal instructions before the Board can get bids from local Contractors for removal.

Mn statute requires that each appointed or elected Manager sign an Oath for their election, as Dave and Jon have been reappointed for another 3-year term James had both sign their Oath at the Feb. meeting.

At 5:30 PM Pete made a motion to pause the regular meeting for the scheduled public hearing seconded by Dave and carried.

Chairperson Michelle called the hearing to order and read the Welcome.

John Kolb explained the purpose of the Preliminary hearing for County Ditch 31 Improvement.

At this time Att'y Donnelly stated the Petitioners have concerns and questions at the time of the scheduled hearing and have a future meeting set up to discuss these concerns therefore Att'y Donnelly requested a Continuance hearing date be set.

Pete made a motion to recess the hearing and set the date of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Government Center in Hollandale Minnesota for a Continuance hearing seconded by Jon and carried.

Att'y Kolb verified that no further publications or notices were required if the date, time, and place was documented in the Minutes and Att'y Donnelly was present representing the Petitioners.

Pete made a motion to close the hearing seconded by Dave and carried.

Michelle reopened the regular Board meeting.

James reported that MAWD has changed their name going forward they will be known as Minnesota Watersheds.

James also reported the Minnesota Watersheds annual summer tour will be held in Albert Lea Minnesota June 20<sup>th</sup>—June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 and hosted by Shell Rock, Turtle Creek and Cedar River Watersheds. There will be a Welcome dinner on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Wedgewood Cove and a bus tour showing conservation projects across all 3 watershed districts on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Jeanine planned on attending the meeting however due to weather conditions she forwarded me this email to share with you:

Geneva Report: Lake levels are near normal, but a little high given the season, especially after recent heavy rain. Stop logs set at the full-service level with continuous flow over the dam. We plan to begin gradually lowering the lake soon (maintaining a close watch on runoff). The lake does not appear to have winterkilled and dissolved oxygen monitoring suggests good overwintering conditions for fish. The water is turbid (green) under the ice, suggesting algae and plant growth has been sustaining the oxygen levels.

I recommend lowering the lake in late winter and through summer 2023 to control less desirable fishes and to regenerate bulrushes and cattails.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Nancy K. Finley*,  
Recording Secretary