

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
January 17th, 2023

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

Jeff made a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes as presented seconded by Jon and carried.

Correspondence included the audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 2022 from Peterson Company LTD which was approved in December 2022. Peter and Jon both signed the engagement letter, Nancy will return the signed copy to Peterson Company and retain a copy for the District.

The Treasures report showed \$193,368.26 in checking and \$150,342.88 in Money Market. Jon also reported on the interest accumulated. Jeff made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jon and carried.

Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports ending December 31st,2022. There was no discussion.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mn County Intergovernmental Trust | \$ 1,517.00 |
| Troy Hawkshead | \$ 240.00 (Beaver tails) |
| Rinke Noonan | \$ 360.00 (Deer Creek Livestock issue) |
| Rinke Noonan | \$ 1900.00 (Oct.2022 & Dec. 2022 Billing) |
| Nancy Finley | \$ 203.95 (Verizon reimbursement & office supplies) |

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

Election of officers' nominations were opened with a motion from Pete to re-instate the current positions of Michelle—Chairperson, Dave—Vice Chairperson, Peter—Secretary, Jon—Treasurer and Jeff –Managers. Hearing no other nominations after 3 requests Jeff seconded the motion and it was carried. The positions remain for the 2023 year.

Steve Penkava gave the following Crop damage rate report for 2023: It is the policy of Freeborn County to set a rate of pay for crop damages that may occur due to repair, improvement, or construction projects. This is done at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

The yield is determined by using a three-year average yield for Freeborn County from data received from the USDA. (National Agricultural Statistics Services)

The sale price is determined by using an average sale price for “new crop” corn and beans from three local elevators on December 27th 2022.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Corn damage rate | 198.6 bushels @ \$5.58 = \$1,108 per acre |
| Bean damage rate | 56.3 bushels @ \$113.39 = \$754 per acre |

Freeborn County Crop Damage Rate for 2023 (Not planted)

It is the policy of Freeborn County to set a rate of pay for crop damage that may occur due to repair, improvement, or construction projects. This is done at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

In anticipation of an upcoming project the County may occasionally ask a landowner not to plant the area to be worked on. This gives the Contractor more time to complete projects and may also result in better quotes.

The rate of pay for not planted acres is \$660. Per acre. This rate is based off from an average annual rental rate of approximately \$375.

The first year the unplanted acres would have no yield
The second-year yield reduction would be approximately 50% because the soil has been disturbed.
The third-year yield reduction would be approximately 25% because the soil has been disturbed
The fourth year the yield should be back to normal.

These two documents have been signed by 3 Drainage Ditch Viewers and Pat Martinson Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer. Jeff made a motion to accept these reports seconded by Jon and carried.

Nancy distributed copies of the Proposed 2022 annual report for the Managers to review subject to additions, corrections, and/or adjustments followed by approval at the February meeting.

With Att'y Kurt Deter's retirement John Kolb from Rinke Noonan will be the primary attorney for the District. After Managers discussion the Board requested James contact John with the Board's options for legal assistance to be discussed when the full Board is available.

It is a requirement to meet each year with the Citizens Advisory Committee. James will contact the Committee to arrange the meeting before the regular Board meeting in March 2023 and invite those members to stay for the Board meeting. This will be confirmed at the February meeting.

James supplied maps and discussion of the MN Department of Health and MN Rural Water association in the process of designating a wetland protection area and drinking water supply management area for the City of Clarks Grove. James spoke with one of the leads on the project and found that it is a pretty standard procedure with no alarming conclusions.

Jeanine attended the meeting with the following Geneva Lake update:

Geneva Report: Lake levels are near normal with stop logs set at the full-service level. There was continuous flow over the dam in summer. A habitat survey was conducted in mid-July. The lake has been more turbid (green) this growing season due to suspended algae. The Secchi disk measurements averaged only 8 inches, which is well below our goal of >2.2 feet. Average water depth was about 3 feet. Total Phosphorous was 0.223 mg/liter.

Submersed plants were widespread. They were found on 96% of the 105 points surveyed. However, they were rated as only sparse on about 89% of the sample points. A reasonable diversity of species was found with good stands of wild celery (a particularly valuable food and cover plant) supported. Stands of cattails have continued to die-back and emergent cover is estimated to be less than 10% of the total basin area.

Wildlife use at the time of the survey was dominated by fish eating birds such as cormorants, pelicans and herons. I don't have any fish sampling data. Observations were that bullheads are common had a very good recruitment year. If carp are present at all it would appear numbers are low. Yellow perch are not uncommon, but northern pike have largely disappeared.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy K. Finley,
Recording Secretary

