

PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO THE MANAGERS APPROVAL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
August 16th, 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, James Fett and Att'y Kurt Deter.

Also attending the meeting were Tom Butler and Chad Billat—Freeborn Soil & Water conservation District.

Pete made a motion to accept the July 2022 minutes as presented seconded by Jeff and carried.

James reported in correspondence regarding a refund for MCI Insurance and also the amount of the MAWD dues that will come later this fall.

The Treasures report showed \$270,282.19 in checking and \$72,192.95 in savings. Once again Jon discussed the "sweeping process" and is still working with the financial institute to arrange for a simplified system and will keep the Managers updated. Jon requested Dave and Michelle also meet with the banking officials for signatures for the District.

Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports ending July 31st, 2022. There was no further discussion. Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried.

The following bills were received for payment by the District:

Accurant Hill Larson Walth	\$ 158.00
Austin Daily Herald	\$ 136.00 (Admin. Levy budget)
Albert Lea Tribune	\$ 134.30 (Admin. Levy budget)
Cedar River Watershed	\$ 1,187.52 (Monitoring costs)
Mower SWCD	\$ 19,496.20 (Administrative & Monitoring data)
Nancy Finley	\$ 54.66 (Verizon Reimbursement)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 950.00

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

At 5:15 P.M. Pete made a motion to suspend the regular meeting for the Proposed Budget hearing seconded by Jeff and carried.

Chairperson Michelle called the Hearing to order for the Proposed Budget hearing for the year of 2023. Nancy verified the publications in the Austin Daily Herald—Mower County and the Albert Lea Tribune—Freeborn County.

Jon presented the proposed 2023 Administration Levy as follows:

1. Attorney Fees (Rinke Noonan) \$11,800.00
2. Recording Secretary /Expenses \$ 7000.00
3. Managers \$ 8000.00
4. Administrative Services (Mower SWCD) \$17,500.00
5. Audit and Monthly Financial Services \$ 6500.00
6. Viewers Association and MAWD Dues \$ 3500.00

7. Insurance	\$ 2200.00
8. Advertising and Postage	\$ 1000.00
9. Rent	\$ 750.00
10. Water Monitoring and Water Plan	\$ 6000.00
11. Incentives, Cost Sharing, Conservation	\$22,250.00
12. Tree Removal	\$15,000.00
13. Beaver Tails	\$ 2500.00
14. Clean Water Legacy	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 114,000.00

Following discussion of the budget for Tree removal Jon made a motion to leave the figure as is until further investigation of the work is complete seconded by Pete and carried.

Hearing no public input Pete offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption of the budget of \$114,000.00. Whereas, the Managers of the aforesaid district have had a hearing on it's proposed budget for the year 2023, after publication hereof and having heard all persons interested therein, now therefore be it resolved that the budget herein before proposed and set forth in the published notice thereof, be and here by is adopted for the year 2023. The motion was seconded by Dave and carried.

Nancy will complete and forward copies to Freeborn and Mower County auditors.

Pete made a motion to adjourn the hearing and return to the Regular Board meeting seconded by Jeff and carried.

An application for permit was submitted by Barbara O'Connor to tile in part of the SE ¼ section 4 Moscow Twsp, Freeborn Cty R19W for Wetland Restoration to outlet into private tile without agreement. 3 landowners have signed this application. Dave made a motion to approve the application **SUBJECT to obtaining the approval and signature of Darrin Meister and providing the name of the Contractor.** Seconded by Jeff and carried.

James handed out copies for the 2021 Financial Audit for the Managers to review and discuss for approval at the September 2022 meeting.

James reports Mower SWCD summer Interns kayaked from 12th Ave NW all the way to the outlet into the Cedar River. They found a lot more issues that expected, roughly 61 fallen trees and 18 acres with low hanging trees that could impede passage. He also had them collect GPS points at every location and create a web map with Google Earth. The map also shows photos. James encouraged anyone to contact him if they would like the link.

Lindsey Zeitler Freeborn SWCD reported to James regarding the status of the Hickory Lake outlet structure repair. She states they had to line up additional funding due to bids being to high. The funds are lined up and construction is slated to begin sometime soon when flows are low, hopefully within the next month. Bishop Excavating is the selected Contractor for the project.

The following is an estimate of cost breakdown from Lindsey: "The SWCD cost share fund we are using for the project only provides up to 50% cost share. Out of the total bid of \$39,275.00 the SWCD is cost sharing \$19,637.50. In addition to that Turtle Creek Watershed voted on matching the landowner match up to \$5000.00. Leaving the landowners with \$14,637.00 out of pocket."

Freeborn SWCD sees this as a way of preventing potentially millions of dollars of damage downstream that would be caused if the structure were to fail during a high flow event.

Cody Fox requested the Managers review and resign the Sub-Agreement between Mower Soil and Water Conservation District and Turtle Creek District, the purpose of this Agreement is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the parties regarding the delivery and implementation of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan using WBIF administered by the State of Minnesota BWSR. Jon made a motion for the Managers to sign this agreement seconded by Pete and carried.

Michelle expressed concern regarding cattle on the ditch bank in her area and felt some legal action should be considered. This will be further discussed at future meetings.

Jeanine Vorland send the following email update on Geneva Lake “Really not much to update. I had hoped the water chemistry data from our survey would be available, but I checked this morning and no report back yet. Here are a few sentences for the meeting notes.

Geneva Report: Lake levels are near normal with stop logs set at the full service level. There has been continuous flow over the dam this summer. The lake has been more turbid (green) this growing season due to suspended algae. Submersed plants are common and diverse with good stands of wild celery (a particularly valuable food and cover plant). Stands of cattails have continued to die-back. I recommend lowering the lake in winter and through summer 2023 to control less desirable fishes and to regenerate bulrushes and cattails.

James spoke with Brad Edwards regarding the rent increase to help cover the cost and expenses of the new TV. After discussion Jon made a motion to increase the rent to \$1000. per year seconded by Dave and carried. This will be effective starting in the year 2023.

Att’y Deter reported on the Red River Partners Summer Tour which will be held August 23-25th in Grand Forks North Dakota. Presentations will include historic flooding, current flood reduction and water quality restoration efforts and future needs.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy K. Finley

Recording Secretary