

Minutes of the meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
May 16th, 2023

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, and James Fett. Att'y John Kolb attended remotely. Steve Penkava was absent.

Also attending the meeting were Luke Nielsen, Scott and Dawn Lightly, Brad Edwards, Wes Tennis, Kevin Paulsen, Brian Burkard, Ray Thomas, Att'y Dan Donnelly and Jeanine Vorland.

Pete made a motion to accept the April 2023 minutes as presented seconded by Jeff and carried.

The Treasurers report showed \$180,662.87 in checking and \$151,216.01 in the Money Market. Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Dave and carried.

Jon distributed the March 31, 2023 Financial report and Bank Reconciliation which was not available last month as well as the April 30th, 2023 reports. There was no discussion.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

Olson Tree Service	\$31,300.00
Accurant LLC	\$ 316.00 (February & March)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 417.50
Nancy Finley	\$ 55.78 (Verizon Reimbursement)

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

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

Robert Hanen	\$ 194.48 (CD J 30)
Mark Behrends	\$ 591.15 (CD J 30)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 112.50 (CD J 27)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 925.00 (Ditch 31)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 936.15 (Ditch 31)

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

The following bills were **RECEIVED BUT NOT AUTHORIZED FOR PAYMENT**:

Rinke Noonan	\$ 2,896.50 (Ditch 31)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 5,593.42 (Ditch 31)

Pete made a motion to accept but NOT AUTHORIZE payment on these bills until final resolution therefore these bills will be added to the previous ones submitted at the April 2023 meeting and held. Seconded by Dave and carried. Nancy will keep originals until time of payment.

An application for permit was submitted by Scott Thompson to tile in Moscow Twsp section 2 SW ¼ T103 R19 to replace bad tile and outlet into JD #24. Downstream landowner has signed this application. Boe Brothers is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit # 05-01-23.

An application for permit was submitted by Brian Burkard to tile and install pump in Riceland Twsp section 10 SW ¼ of NW ¼ & N 1/2 SW ¼ T 103 R 020 to outlet into Rice Lake Branch. Brian has attended the Riceland Twsp Board meeting regarding this project. It is Riceland Township Board of Supervisor's intent to help secure a plan that would satisfy this project to qualify for a permit from Turtle Creek Watershed and Riceland Twsp. After discussion Riceland Twsp, Turtle Creek Watershed and Brian Burkard have chosen option one which states "Beginning at the SW corner of the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ section 10 Riceland Twsp east side right of way of 820th Ave. A steel pipe to be no larger than 10 inches in diameter, with a minimum of four inches of ground cover. Heading a southwesterly direction across the road right away. Turning or bending to outlet southerly into the right of way ditch on west side of 820th Ave. Installing an approved 24-inch apron on the north side of the 24 inches by seventy-foot culvert south of the pipe. All future cleaning and repairs from the pipe to be the Rice Lake Branch will be paid by the above property owner. At the Town Boards discretion." Pete made a motion to grant this permit with the approval of the Riceland Board whom are present at the meeting, seconded by Dave and carried. Ellingson drainage is the Contractor for this project. Permit # 05-02-23 .

An application for permit was submitted by Keith Kruger for a joint project in section 15 NW¼ Newry twsp Freeborn Cty R19. Kruger Farm/WoWacintanka WMA. Ray Thomas is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Dave and carried. Permit # 05-03-23.

An application for permit was submitted in conjunction with the above Keith Kruger permit from State of Minnesota DNR for Wetland Restoration to outlet into private open ditch. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Dave and carried. Permit # 05-04-23.

Jeanine Vorland attended the meeting for the Wetland permit application and also gave the following Geneva Lake Update: Geneva update: Department of Resources staff began gradually removing stoplogs bringing the lake down to normal runout levels. Recent rains caused lake levels to rebound to the higher levels we had earlier associated with snowmelt and rains in early spring. Stop logs are set at 6 inches below full service level at this time. The plan remains to lower the lake more aggressively as the growing season progresses in order to regenerate habitats.

Atty Kolb reminded the Board of their request from last month's meeting to direct Att'y Kolb to notify Att'y Donnelly of its proposed course of action. John emailed a letter titled "Timeline for Actions by Petitioners." This letter gave the petitioners until the May board meeting to either increase the bond or dismiss the project and determine how to cover costs. In Att'y Donnelly's formal response it states the Petitioners have been in discussion regarding the Boards request however due to landowners' other obligations they have not been able to reach a conclusion. And request TCWD Board give an extension.

Att'y Kolb provided a spread sheet showing a list of all expenses incurred for the CD31 improvement to date totaling \$208,994.58. John, Steve Penkava and Pat Martinson have been working on determining what expenses should be paid by the maintenance/repair funds. Thus far, they have determined that at least \$31,581.75 or roughly 15% of the total CD31 improvement expenses could be paid by the maintenance/repair fund rather than the improvement fund.

After discussion Pete made a motion to revisit this discussion at the June meeting seconded by Dave and carried. **Next meeting will be Tuesday June 27th 2023 at 5 P.M.**

Pete made a motion to accept John's recommendation, in summary the total project cost is \$208,994.58, John recommends a total of \$40,605.97 (\$31,581.75 + \$9,024.22) to be allocated to maintenance and inspection. Motion seconded by Dave and carried.

Att'y Kolb reported on the redetermination of benefits for J #24 identified 11 out letting ditches going into J. 24. The Freeborn County Auditor's office discovered that these ditches were not assessed properly for the repair fund. John is working with Freeborn County to correct the administrative error and assess and bill the out letting ditches correctly in the future.

James provided the Managers with handouts including maps and graphs from 2022 Water Monitoring sites. All four designed water monitoring sites began after the last board meeting and James discussed the data that CRWD collected. After discussion Dave made a motion to authorize James to establish spread sheets for annual data which TCWD would cover the cost, seconded by Pete and carried.

Jon Erichson reports he and James have met with the Mower County Board for their annual update. Dave has not been scheduled on the agenda with Freeborn County yet, James will check into available date for him.

James reminded the Managers Registration is open for the Mn Watersheds summer tour now which Turtle Creek is hosting. Also, the agenda is on line, dates for the tour are Tuesday June 20th -21st, 2023 at Wedgewood Cove Golf Club in Allbert Lea, Mn.

With the Summer tour on the regular meeting date the next TCWD Board meeting will be the following Tuesday June 27th, 2023 at 5 P.M.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy K. Finley
Recording Secretary