

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES SUBJECT TO THE MANAGERS APPROVAL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at 500 PM at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Jon Erichson, Dave Vanderploeg, Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava and Justin Hanson. Michelle O’Conner and Steve Lawler were absent.

Attending Remotely were Att’y Kurt Deter and Dave Copeland.

Vice Chairperson Dave Vanderploeg presided over the meeting in Michelle’s absent and welcomed Att’y Deter and Dave Copeland remotely and invited them to feel free to participate at any time during the meeting.

Pete made a motion to accept the December 2021 minutes with the addition of Michelle O’Conner’s bill from December 2021 being added in the total amount of \$1142.12 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 2022 year.

The Treasurer’s report showed \$277,290.40 in checking and \$22,190.19 in savings. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried. Jon distributed the Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, there was no discussion.

Continuing the discussion from the December 2021 meeting regarding the checking account balance Jon discussed possibly funding future projects with the excess balance. After discussion Dave made a motion to authorize Jon to check with the bank for the best options for the District seconded by Pete and carried. Jon will report his meeting at the February meeting.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

Hill, Larson, Walth P.A.	\$ 158.00
Verizon Wireless	\$ 54.23
Rinke Noonan	\$ 950.00
Deluxe	\$ 322.54 (ordering checks)

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

There were no permit applications submitted at the January 2022 meeting.

Steve Penkava gave the following Crop damage rate report for 2022:

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 29th 2021.

**Corn damage rate**                      **187.8 bushels @ \$5.10 = \$958.per acre**

**Bean damage rate**                      **53.0 bushels @ \$12.02 = \$637. per acre**

**Freeborn County Crop Damage Rate for 2022 (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 \$440. Per acre. This rate is based off from an average annual rental rate of approximately \$250.

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-Treasure. Pete made a motion to accept these reports seconded by Jeff and carried

Nancy distributed copies of the “draft copy” of the 2021 annual report for the Managers to review for additions, adjustment, and/or corrections for the February meeting.

Steve Penkava distributed copies of the Engineer’s Preliminary Report for the Repair & Improvement of County Ditch No J27, Freeborn County, Mn. After discussion Jon made a motion to set the preliminary hearing for February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Government Center in Hollandale Minnesota at 5:30 P.M. seconded by Pete and carried. Pat Martinson will send out notices and publications.

The Managers felt it was time to set up a meeting with the Watershed District Advisory committee that was elected in March 2021, which has been delayed due to Covid restrictions. Justin will have Steve Lawler check with the Committee for available dates and report back to the Board..

Jon inquired about an update on the Hickory Lake Project which they had offered some funding to support the project. Justin reached out to Lindsey Zeitler—NRCS-CD in Albert Lea and received this reply: [“We were hoping to get the construction of the project completed this fall but the DNR permit took a really long time and didn’t actually get approved until late November to early December. Right now we are hoping the project can get constructed in 2022 hoping the water levels remain manageable.](#)

The landowner is also still working on finding a contractor that is going to be able to do this kind of work”

Justin Hanson shared with the Managers, just for their information, some funding, grants, cost share and incentives the SWCD has been involved with.

Due to Steve Lawler’s absence at this meeting the Managers were reminded that the 2022 annual workshop will be held at 4 P.M. before the February meeting at the Government Center in Hollandale, Mn. This year additional Clean Water funds will be available through 1W1P for projects. We need to have projects ready to go for implementation, especially in the highly targeted Geneva Lake head slope areas. This will be included in our discussions as well as maintenance concerns expressed by property owners at previous meetings in reference to mowing/control of weeds in the ditch easements. Att’y Deter agreed to look into methods used by other Watershed districts to address maintenance issues.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nancy K. Finley,*

Recording Secretary