

North Fork Crow River Watershed District

Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

August 10th, 2020

Managers Present: Jim Barchenger, Bob Brauchler, John Hanson, Jim Weller, Jim Wuertz

Staff Present: Cris Skonard, Christopher Lundeen

Others Present: Kurt Deter (Rinke-Noonan), Joe Lewis (HEI), others.

1. Call to Order

President Brauchler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held via teleconference due to the Governor's Emergency Stay Safe Minnesota order. The public was able to access the teleconference by requesting an access code.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the revised agenda made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

3. Consent Agenda Items

1. Treasurer's Report and Bills to August 10th, 2020
 - a. Check Register - 106 Bonanza Checking Acct
 - b. P & L Detail – All Accounts
 - c. Balance Sheet – All Accounts

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Barchenger, seconded by Hanson. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

4. Minutes

July 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

5. 2021 Budget Hearing

President Brauchler convened the 2021 Budget Hearing at 8:00 pm. Skonard presented the 2021 budget. Barchenger asked if the Survey and Data Acquisition fund will be exhausted by the end of the year. Skonard indicated that it will be exhausted.

Motion to close the 2021 Budget Hearing made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-07 Adopt 2021 Budget made by Weller, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Regular meeting continued at 8:20 pm.

6. Staff Reports

A. Administrator's Report:

1. Activities

Skonard updated the Board on various activities within the District. Noted attendance via remote to the Drainage Work Group. All staff are working remotely from home due to the stay at home order.

2. 2021 MAWD Dues

Skonard informed the Board that the 2021 MAWD dues will be \$3,518 and due in February 2021.

3. Pope-Stevens Conservation Day

Skonard reported a donation request for the Pope-Stevens conservation day.

Motion to donate \$200 contingent on the event will be held made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

4. WPLMN Invoice Payments

Skonard asked the Board to pre-approve an invoice from the MFCRWD in the amount of \$279.02 for sampling under the WPLMN grant once reimbursement from the MPCA is received.

Motion to pay the MFCRWD in amount of \$279.02 after receiving reimbursement from the MPCA made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried

5. Koronis Lake AIS Petition Update

Skonard reminded the Board of the Koronis Lake AIS hearing on August 17th at 6:00 pm. Wenck has coordinated the meeting setup and will host the online meeting.

6. Paynesville High School – Water Testing Collaboration

Skonard informed the Board of a potential collaboration project with the Paynesville High School to have students assist with water quality testing. Board questioned if OSHA age limits were applicable and potential liability issues. Consensus to obtain more information and move forward.

7. Pirz Lake – Cayton Property

Ron Rinqvist presented his findings regarding the assessment on the Cayton property. He recommended that the Cayton property benefit be reduced to \$90.

Motion to accept appraiser’s recommendation to reduce the benefits on Stearns parcel 08.05242.0035 to \$90 made by Hanson, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried

8. 1W1P Approved Practices

Skonard presented to the Board the approved NRCS practices which are eligible for 1W1P grant funding.

9. Additional Business

None

B. Watershed Project Coordinator’s Report:

1. Activity Report:

Lundeen gave a report of his activities including monitoring and working on the sub-watershed grant project. Noted the BWSR grant application to install rock inlets and other water quality practices was almost ready to submit. Also noted an interview has been scheduled for the 319 Small Watershed Grant with MPCA.

2. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

Lundeen informed the Board that the CAC is scheduled to meet on August 20 and that Stearns County Environmental services would be presenting on feedlot permitting.

3. Additional Business

None

C. Funds Manager / Administrative Assistant Report: As reported in Financial Statements.

7. Program Reports

A. Permit Report: None

B. Drainage Report:

1. JD1 Main and Branches: Status Update

JD1 Main Repair

Joe Lewis, HEI, updated the Board on the status of the JD1 repairs noting work has been slowed and MBC is waiting for Lincoln Lake to drawdown before resuming work. Lewis noted that they will get as-builts for work completed to date.

Prairie Storm Update

Skonard reported a meeting was held on-site at Prairie Storm on July 20th which included the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Wenck Engineering. Chris Meehan provided the survey results noting multiple beaver dams. The stop logs were pulled from the structure. Weller discussed several grey areas in the Memorandum of Understanding between the NFCRWD and the USFWS.

Branch 9 Petition

Skonard presented a landowner petition to abandon JD1 BR9 south of Pope County Road 20. The petition was signed by all upstream landowners. Attorney Deter concurred with the petition and recommended to set a hearing date.

Motion to set the Abandonment Hearing for JD1 BR9 south of Pope County Road 20 on September 14, 2020 at 8:00 pm made by Wuertz, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried

Branch 8 – Wert Property

Skonard informed the Board of flooding issues on the Wert property. Mr. Wert addressed the Board regarding the problems on his property and the need for it to be cleaned. Lewis instructed to obtain a quote to repair this area and to start the necessary paperwork.

2. CD37 Update

Attorney Deter reported that he has not heard back from the Fuchs' attorney. Nothing new to report.

3. Beaver Bounty Rate

Skonard informed the Board of the difficulty in finding trappers to remove nuisance beavers. Skonard presented a handout of what other drainage authorities are paying.

Motion to supercede the existing drainage policy and set the beaver bounty rate at \$100 per tail made by Weller, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

4. Other Ditch Business

Weller asked about tree spraying noting tree growth in CD7 and CD32 and wanted them removed while in early growth stages. Skonard to contact available contractors and obtain quotes for the September meeting.

C. Board Member Meeting Reports:

Hanson updated the Board on the Rice Lake Association petition drive to establish an aquatic invasive species project. Hanson also presented a notice regarding the University of Minnesota Water Quality Conference and recommended that all Board members and staff attend the on-line event noting it was a cost effective educational event.

8. Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

Herickhoff's to appear at September meeting regarding January permit application, pending Governor's Stay Safe order.

9. Open Discussion from the Public:

Landowner Gary Berndt commented on the Prairie Storm performance and also commented on ditch weeds south of Stearns County Road 18.

Roger Lyon asked about liability for water that may have back flowed down his irrigation well due to flooding. He also asked who will pay crop damages due to flooding. Attorney Deter shared that the watershed is not responsible for crop damages.

10. Calendar Review:

Contact the Administrator for future events.

11. FYI Items:

None

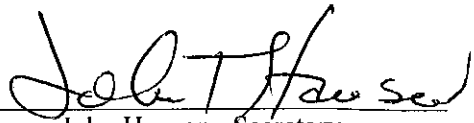
12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Hanson, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



John Hanson – Secretary
Sept 14, 2020