

North Fork Crow River Watershed District

Approved Regular Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2020

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

Staff Present: Cris Skonard, **Via Teleconference:** Christopher Lundeen

Others Present: Kurt Deter (Rinke-Noonan), **Via Teleconference:** Joe Lewis (HEI), Steve Notch (Stearns Commissioner), Gary Berndt, Roger Lyon, Donovan McKigney, 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 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 October 12th, 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 Hanson, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

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

Motion carried.

4. Minutes

September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

Motion carried.

September 11, 2020 Lake Koronis AIS Hearing Date Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Hanson, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

September 18, 2020 JD1 BR8 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Wuertz, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

5. Petition to Abandonment a Portion JD1 BR4 Hearing (Concurrent w/Oct Meeting)

President Brauchler convened the JD1 BR4 Partial Abandonment at 8:00 pm. Skonard presented the petition that was signed by all concerned landowners upstream of JD1 BR4. Attorney Deter stated the petition was valid and proper. Skonard shared the required public notifications for the hearing. No public comments were received.

Motion to close public comment portion of the JD1 BR4 Partial Abandonment Hearing made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Partial Abandonment of JD1 BR4 made by Hanson, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

Regular meeting continued at 8:15 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. Lake Koronis AIS Petition - Update

Skonard updated the Board and public regarding the Lake Koronis AIS Petition Hearing held on Oct 1 at the River of Life Church in Cold Spring. Skonard noted the meeting was continued to November 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the same venue. The continued hearing will also be live streamed.

3. Rice Lake AIS Petition

Skonard reported a \$20,000 irrevocable line of credit was received in lieu of the bond requirement. Attorney stated this was acceptable in lieu of a bond or cash and recommended the Board accept the petition.

Motion to accept the Rice Lake AIS petition and assign it Project 2020-1 by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None
Motion carried.

Motion to appoint Wenck as the engineer and the appraisal team consisting of Ron Ringquist, Jeff Johnson and Al Kerber made by Barchenger, seconded by Hanson. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Barchenger, Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Opposed: None
Motion carried.

4. Additional Business

None

B. Watershed Project Coordinator's Report:

1. Activity Report:

Lundeen gave a report of his activities including completing the subwatershed grant and completing WPLMN water quality monitoring for the year. Noted that all lake water quality sampling has been completed for the year. He will begin entering all data for reporting.

2. AIS Proposal

Lundeen informed the Board that the Stearns AIS proposal will be due at the end of the month and requested the Board approve submitting an application. Hanson spoke in favor of pursuing AIS grant funding.

Motion to proceed with the Stearns County AIS grant made by Hanson, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

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

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 that an as-built survey will be performed for work to date. Lewis presented a quote from MBC Drainage to repair JD1 BR2.

Motion to approve the MBC Drainage quote in the amount of \$2,400 to repair JD1 BR2 made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

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

2. CD3: Highway 23 Culvert

Skonard presented an email and policy statement from MN DOT regarding culvert modification during a construction project and the need for a hearing. Attorney Deter stated that a hearing is not necessary, however, if MN DOT wants a hearing, they will be responsible for all costs regarding the hearing including notifications.

3. CD7: Prepaid Assessments

Skonard informed the Board that several prepaids have been received on CD7 due to land transfers. Skonard recommended that the money be used to pay down the loan at Bonanza Valley State Bank.

Motion to use the prepaids to reduce the loan debt made by Weller, seconded by Wuertz. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried

4. Ditch Assessment Committee

Skonard informed the Board that the ditch assessment committee consisting of Skonard, Hanson and Wuertz met on September 25th. All ditch accounts were reviewed and recommended assessments be made to CD29, CD36, CD37 and JD1. The committee also recommended that CD40 funds be transferred to CD43 and close the CD40 account. Attorney Deter recommended that the CD40 funds be transferred to CD43 and to close the CD40 account.

Motion to transfer all remaining funds from CD40 (\$163.60) to CD43 and close the CD40 account made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

Motion to assess CD29 Redetermined in the amount of \$125,000 over 2 years at 4% interest made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried

Motion to assess CD36 Redetermined in the amount of \$120,000 over 3 years at 4% interest made by Barchenger, seconded by Wuertz. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

Motion to assess CD37 Redetermined in the amount of \$160,000 over 2 years at 4% interest made by Weller, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

Motion to assess JD1 in the amount of \$1,200,000 over 8 years at 4% interest made by Hanson, seconded by Wuertz. Roll Call.

Affirmative: Brauchler, Hanson, Weller, Wuertz Abstain: Barchenger (Benefitted Landowner)

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Attorney Deter noted that all buffer payments should be paid, by check, separate of the assessment and not “netted” as part of the assessment. This process ensures a clean procedure to ensure buffers have been paid.

5. Other Ditch Business

Attorney Deter noted that Mr. Virgil Fuchs has retained a new firm.

Discussion ensued regarding future prepaids and ditch loans.

Motion to use all future prepaids after initial assessment be applied to any outstanding loan to reduce principal payment made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll Call.

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

Motion carried.

C. Board Member Meeting Reports:

Manager Hanson noted projects utilizing 1W1P funds and recommended we also utilize this funding mechanism to fence out livestock along the river and public ditches. Lundeen noted that a grazing specialist is on staff at the Stearns SWCD for additional assistance.

8. Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

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

9. Open Discussion from the Public:

Roger Lyon inquired about any Prairie Storm update. No update noted.

Donovan McKigney noted increased beaver activity on the private ditches upstream of the cleaning activities on JD1 north of Pope CR22.

10. Calendar Review:

November 5, Koronis Lake AIS Hearing
Contact the Administrator for future events.

11. FYI Items:

None

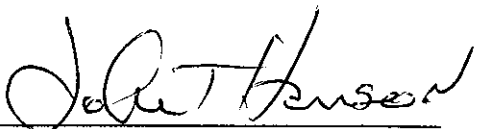
12. Adjournment:

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

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

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



John Hanson – Secretary
9 Nov 2020