

**North Fork Crow River Watershed District**  
**Approved Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 12, 2024**

**Managers Present:** Ross Amundson, Jim Barchenger, Bob Brauchler, Jim Weller, Jim Wuertz,

**Staff Present:** Colton Henjum, Christine Knutson, Chloe Truebenbach

**Others Present:** Gary Berndt, Ron Fuchs, Roger Lyon, John Kolb (Rinke Noonan)

**1. Call to Order**

President Brauchler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Review and Approve Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Barchenger, seconded by Wuertz. Motion carried.

**3. Consent Agenda Items**

1. Treasurer's Report and Bills to August 12, 2024
  - 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 Amundson, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

**4. Minutes**

July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the July 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes made by Amundson, seconded by Barchenger. Motion carried.

**5. Staff Reports**

**A. Administrator's Report:** Colton Henjum

**1. Activities**

Henjum provided a report of his activities for the month as well as drainage systems that had been worked on.

Highlights included a 319 grant meeting with Stearns SWCD and presentation at the Rice Lake Association annual meeting.

**2. 2023 Audit Report**

Henjum presented the 2023 audit report completed by Peterson Company LTD. After discussion a motion was made by Manager Wuertz to approve the 2023 audit report, seconded by Barchenger. Motion carried.

**3. Drainage conference**

Henjum noted a drainage conference was going to take place near Rothsay MN on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was noted there is no registration fee and Henjum will forward registration information.

**4. MAWD Annual Conference**

Motion to send five managers and two staff to the 2024 MAWD Annual Conference made by Weller, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

**5. Pope Stevens Conservation Day**

A request was shared from the Pope Stevens Conservation Day committee requesting donations to help pay for transportation of students to the event. Motion to pay \$200.00 for BBE student bussing made by Barchenger, seconded by Wuertz. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

## **6. MAISRC Conference**

Motion to send Truebenbach to the MAISRC Conference made by Weller, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

## **7. PLAP**

Henjum presented requisition form #2024-2 from the Pirz Lake Association. Motion to pay \$1,000 to the Watershed's administrative account to lower their debt to the Admin Fund and \$7,500 on the loan principal at Bonanza Valley State Bank from the PLAP fund made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

## **B. Watershed Project Coordinator's Report: Chloe Truebenbach**

### **1. Introduction**

Chloe Truebenbach introduced herself to the board.

## **C. Funds Manager / Administrative Assistant Report: As noted in financial statements.**

## **6. Program Reports**

### **A. Permit Reports: None**

## **B. Drainage Report:**

### **1. JD1**

Joe Lewis presented a final report on the JD1 Branch 12 re-sloping project. Lewis noted the project followed the design plans and did not find any errors or problems with the completed project. It was noted that there was a pile of dirt left on the ditch bank. Motion to accept the contract as complete, pay the submitted invoices to MBC drainage, with \$5,000 being held as retainage until the dirt pile is moved off the buffer, and award damages to the landowners listed in the H2Overviewers report made by Weller, seconded by Wuertz. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz, Abstained: Barchenger

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Roger Lyon inquired about the status of conversations with the USFWS on JD1 Branch 12 Fork 6. Henjum and Lewis noted they had not received any more communication from the USFWS since the last meeting and would reach out to see if there were any new developments.

Harold Marthaler inquired about rocks that were found in the ditch on JD1 Branch 12 Fork 6. Henjum to send a letter to the landowner.

### **2. CD32**

Henjum shared pictures of a weed that was found growing throughout CD32 Branch 2 and noted the Sauk River Watershed was dealing with the same issue. Motion to hire MBC Drainage to clean out the vegetation made by Amundson, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Brauchler, Barchenger, Wuertz,

Abstained: Weller

Opposed: None

Motion carried

### **3. JD2**

An estimate was provided from MBC drainage for the clean out on JD2 south of Hwy 55. After discussion, it was decided 50 yards less riprap would be necessary for the project. Motion to approve the estimate with the revision made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Roll call.

Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz,

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

## 7. Open Discussion from the Public:

Roger Lyon noted frustration with the beaver dam problem on JD1 Branch 12 Fork 6 Spur 2. Water was reported to be backing up the ditch through the USFWS land. Henjum noted a trapper was actively trapping and the Stearns Highway Department would be ready to take the dams out as soon as the beavers are trapped.

Henjum noted Richard Kirckof had inquired about the tile on CD38 being replaced. Board consensus was to get an updated estimate and explain the difference between a repair vs improvement to landowners.

## 8. Items for Next Meeting Agenda: None

## 9. 2025 Budget Hearing:

President Brauchler paused the regular board meeting and opened the 2025 budget hearing at 8:00 PM. Henjum presented the proposed budget that the budget subcommittee had put together earlier in the month. Motion to approve resolution 2024-05 and adopt the 2025 budget made by Wuertz, seconded by Barchenger. Roll call. Affirmative: Amundson, Barchenger, Brauchler, Weller, Wuertz, Opposed: None  
Motion carried.

The regular board meeting continued at 8:05 PM.

## 10. Board Member Reports:

Manager Amundson reported he attended the Rice Lake Association annual meeting. Manager Brauchler reported he attended the Koronis Lake Association annual meeting.


## 11. Calendar Review:

## 12. FYI Items: None

**13. Closed Session:** Motion to move to closed session for attorney client privilege to discuss ongoing litigation made by Amundson, seconded by Barchenger. Motion Carried

Motion to close the closed session and return to open meeting made by Barchenger, seconded by Weller. Motion carried.

**14. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Amundson, seconded by Wuertz. Motion carried.



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Ross Amundson – Secretary