

MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
January 19, 2006
Bell Tower Plaza
118 Lake Ave. N.
Spicer MN, 56288

PRESENT: Gordy Behm, Joe Flanders, Robert Hodapp, Robert Zenner and Ruth Schaefer of the Board; Tom Fischer of BWSR; Kurt Deter of Rinke-Noonan Law Firm; Ann Latham-Adm. Assistant; Tom Bonde, Ron Schneider and Rod Hughes of the public.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Hodapp at 7:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

2. Motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the 12-15-05 minutes. The motion passed.

3. Treasurers Report-Gordy Behm-see attached report

G. Behm stated that the Watershed District received \$3629.00 from Stearns County, as their portion of the amount that can be borrowed for organizational purposes. Meeker and Pope County stated that they will pay late January or February.

3.1 Motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.

3.2 Motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by J. Flanders to pay the January 2006 bills. See attached report.

4. Middle Fork Crow River Establishment Committee-Treasurer Dean Lovold

Dean Lovold stated that the above committee no longer meets now that the Watershed District has been formed. The treasurer would like to close out the checking account. Current fund balance is \$2020.45. The money is being offered to the Watershed District.

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Possible uses for the donated money could be: Citizens Advisory Committee, lake monitoring or for educational purposes. The Board stated that they would accept the funds offered by the MFCR Establishment Committee.

Motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by R. Schaefer to accept the funds offered by the Establishment Committee to be used for the Watershed District. R. Schaefer will inform D. Lovold of the decision. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Watershed District Comprehensive Plan.

The Board discussed the four (Barr, Emmons & Olivier, Wenck and Mid-MN Development Commission) firms who presented at the last meeting. It was agreed that all four firms are qualified to write the plan. Our Watershed District is in a unique situation with the amount of data collected in the Phase I study and personal data collected by T. Bonde. The cost of the project was discussed and ways in which to save money during the process of writing the plan.

Two firms (Wenck and Emmons & Olivier) stated they were willing to delegate as much of the project to Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) as the Board so desires. MMDC does have a close working relationship with the county commissioners and local SWCD. MMDC can also provide the skills and knowledgeable background information for the area. MMDC does not have engineering professionals on staff; however, the engineering firm could be selected at a later point in time. Discussion centered on the possibility of having MMDC write the plan and engineering professionals would be brought in by the Board as needed.

R. Hodapp stated that his preference was with MMDC and others agreed. R. Schaefer stated she would prefer Emmons & Olivier be selected and MMDC provide as much local professional services as they were able. T. Fischer stated the comprehensive plan can always be amended as deemed appropriate. K. Deter stated the process will involve many meetings for the Board and the Citizens Advisory Committee to provide input.

Motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to appoint the MMDC to write MFCWD Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed.

K. Deter will work with M. Johnson on a contract stating the Boards intentions. R. Hodapp asked A. Latham to contact all four firms of the Boards decision; stating that the Board will be requesting their services on an "as needed basis". The Board also extended their appreciation to all the firms for their time, expertise and materials provided to the Watershed District.

2. Accounting Firm Proposal-Gordy Behm

Conway, Deuth and Schmiesing of Willmar submitted a proposal of \$3,500. A previous proposal was submitted by Westberg, Eischens & Van Buren of Willmar, for \$2,500. Many accounting firms do not provide services for non-profit organizations.

Motion was made R. Hodapp and seconded by G. Behm to appoint Westberg, Eischens & Van Buren for the 2005 Watershed District tax year audit. The motion passed.

3. Tax Levy Update-Gordy Behm

Sam Modderman, the Kandiyohi county auditor informed the Watershed District that a computer error was identified. The error apparently did not include "plotted land" in the taxing formula. So far, \$323,000,000 of taxable property has been located and added to the Watershed Districts tax base. This new tax levy is closer to the estimated amount previously quoted by the volunteers organizing the Watershed District. S. Moddermann will provide the Watershed District with more information.

4. Water monitoring-R. Schaefer

A meeting was held on 1-3-06 with Jill Nelson and Skip Wright-DNR to review the lake monitoring program. S. Wright stated that he will assist with the monitoring the summer of 2006; he will not be able to assist in the summer in 2007. J. Nelson stated that she would continue to coordinate the gathering and shipping of the samples. So far the previous list of volunteers is willing to monitor again. Further information will be obtained and presented at the next meeting.

r. Schaefer will request specific information and report back to the Board at the February meeting.

Diane Saunders of the Crow River Joint Powers Board has offered an YB Sonde meter. Both S. Wright and T. Bonde stated the meter could be useful to a monitoring program.

Motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Zenner to accept the Sonde meter from Crow River Joint Powers Board. The motion was passed.

R. Schaefer will contact D. Saunders of the decision and make arrangements to obtain the meter.

5. Officer Updates- A. Latham. See attached.

5.1 Audit proposal-see Treasurers report.

5.2 Organizational funds-see Treasurers report.

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5.3 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Training session hosted by Stearns County will be held on January 24th. A copy of the informational brochure was sent to Rick Reimer-SWCD. Jeff Bredberg-Environmental Services will be attending for Kandiyohi County.

The Board discussed the offer from Jay Michels for a training session on this topic. R. Hughes stated that the majority of contractors and landscapers will be sending their staff to a 3 day training session which will lead to a certification process. All contractors and landscapers would need this certification in order to bid on certain level of projects.

The Board felt that the offer by J. Michels may be duplication and decided to wait on this offer. A. Latham stated it would be helpful for the WD office to have some type of a brochure to hand out to individuals that contact the office. R. Hodapp asked A. Latham to create a brochure for the Board to review at a future meeting.

5.4 Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project is sponsoring the 2006 Earth Day Celebration and requested a cash donation. Sponsors would need to attend a meeting January 31. The Board discussed the importance of providing information to the public on Watershed District function and projects. T. Bonde pointed out that this event is not within the Watershed District. The Board decided to decline for this year and will consider this invitation next year.

5.5 MN Phosphorus Index Training- See attached brochure. Tom Fischer and G. Behm will be attending.

5.6 Lake Associations and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be contacted to solicit input for the upcoming Watershed District Plan. A. Latham stated she is need of a representative from some of the area lakes (Long, Nest and Calhoun). It was decided that she will email Board members a list of who is on the CAC. Additional names will provided at the next meeting.

As no other business was brought to the Board a motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to adjourn the meeting at 8: 35 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary