

**MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
December 28th, 2006 at 6:30 pm
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; J. Klocker-Administrator; Kurt Deter-Attorney; Tom Bonde-Technical Advisor; Maggie Leach-MPCA; Rod Hughes; Marlys Larson & Ron Schneider-Spicer City Council and Harlan Meintz-Diamond Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Hodapp at 6:35 pm.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the November 16th minutes. The motion passed.
4. The Treasurers Report-G. Behm-see attached report. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the Treasurers Report subject to audit. The motion passed.

J. Klocker stated that the Watershed District will receive \$25,000 from the State of MN by electronic payment. This amount is what the state matches in funding to make up the property tax deductions that lower the amount of taxes individuals pay to the counties. This will be the final payment of all taxes due to the Watershed District. A discussion took place on budgeting remaining funds.

G. Behm suggested that the Board consider having J. Klocker deposit checks directly in the bank, rather than mailing them to J. Flanders for deposit. Board members were in general agreement; however, decided to wait until after the audit.

G. Behm presented information on a 30 day option Certificate of Deposit (CD), offered by Home State Bank at a 4.75% interest rate. Current rate is 2.25% in the money market checking account. Board members were in favor of transferring funds into a CD account. J. Klocker could determine the amount needed for monthly bills prior to the Board meetings. A motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by R. Schaefer for the Watershed District to invest in a 30 day option CD through Home State Bank. The motion passed.

R. Zenner asked for legal counsel to comment on the possible conflict of interest with Home State Bank. G. Behm's niece is President of the bank. K. Deter stated that the Board was within their right to choose a bank for the Watershed District. It was also noted that Home State Bank is moving to Willmar in 2007. No change in the official bank was taken.
5. A motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by G. Behm to approve the December bills to pay. The motion passed.

6. A motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the Final Tax Levy. The motion passed.

7. The Clean Water Partnership Grant requires that the recipients have regulatory and enforcement authority. The Watershed District was informed that the SWCD's do not have either type of authority. J. Klocker reported the awarding of funds from the State of MN does not require a Comprehensive Plan be in place. The Watershed District could be the designated financial authority for the grant. G. Behm and J. Klocker did attend the SWCD meeting, where they informed the SWCD Board that the Watershed District would like to be the grant sponsor. The SWCD will formalize their decision at their January meeting.

A resolution clarifying this change was created and titled "**Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District Identifying Willingness to be Designated as Clean Water Partnership Project Sponsor**". The document was reviewed and discussed by the Board and the Administrator. See attached. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded R. Zenner that the Watershed District introduce and accept the Resolution as stated. The motion passed. The document was signed and a copy will be sent to the Kandiyohi SWCD.

8. Comprehensive Plan Approval Process has 2 options, which were presented by J.Klocker:

#1 Non-Controversial Process-Can be a slower process in which the Watershed District submits the Comprehensive Plan and BSWR acknowledges receipt of the document. BSWR would publish a 60 day review, allowing for challenges from the public or other agencies. A meeting with BSWR would need to be scheduled. A hearing would be scheduled by BSWR if any one person challenges the Comprehensive Plan.

#2 Other Process-During the 60 day comment period a hearing is scheduled automatically by BSWR. All details and comments would be addressed during the hearing. J. Klocker and James Haertel-BSWR have discussed both options available to the Watershed District, along with the expected time frame.

Comments on the initial viewing of the Comprehensive Plan have been provided by the MPCA and Stearns County. J. Klocker stated that if the February meeting is moved up, the extra time would allow her and Mike Sharp to process these comments into the Comprehensive Plan. If the Comprehensive Plan can be approved early, the Watershed District will have more time to devote to the requirements of the grants. A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders to reschedule the February Board meeting, to February 8th at 6:30 pm. The motion passed. J. Klocker will post the change of date and time for public notification.

9. New London-Spicer school has requested a donation by the Watershed District to the Gary Westby Internship Program. J. Klocker stated the request was made by Kevin Acquard, Principal of the High School. Skip Wright-DNR informed J. Klocker that in the past the intern assisted the DNR with water monitoring activities. S. Wright would like to meet with J. Klocker to discuss joint DNR and Watershed District potential intern

projects. A motion was made by R. Schaefer and seconded by J. Flanders that the Watershed District donates \$500.00 to the Gary Westby Internship Program. The motion passed.

10. County Road 10 project update-J. Klocker stated that Emmons, Olivier Resources will be meeting with the other agencies involved; hopefully, an update can be presented to the Board at the January meeting.

Discussion: M. Larson stated that the Spicer City Council has not yet approved a specific project plan. R. Schneider stated the Council has discussed holding ponds in the County Road 8 area. J. Klocker stated that EOR and SEH Engineering are in agreement on many key issues. R. Schneider agreed and noted that the input of both groups, especially J. Michels has been valuable. R. Hughes provided information of the value of a shallower ditch, as compared to the typical county ditch. This design is less expensive and holds water longer. R. Schneider invited the Watershed District Administrator and Board Members to the Spicer City Council meetings (2nd and 4th Wednesday) to assist the City Council during the design phase of this project.

11. Administrator's Update- J. Klocker

a. Grant update-Clean Water Legacy grant, for \$194,000, is run through BSWR. Kandiyohi County is the financial sponsor. Monies for the CWL grant may come from: DNR, Department of Agriculture or other agencies. All grant money will need to be spent within 2 years.

The Conservation Partners grant will be used for a "Rain Garden Training Workshop" and "Shoreline Restoration Workshop". J. Klocker and Lucas Youngsma from the Shakopee Creek Watershed Project, have tentatively planned the two-part Raingarden workshop to occur on March 5th and 22nd. The evening workshops will require preregistration and funds will be available for some of the costs.

b. CROW-MFCRWD \$50,000 grant is for 4 monitoring workshops per year; volunteer coordination, sampling and sampling equipment. This Watershed District will be responsible for planning 1 of the workshops. Planning will begin January 30th. One goal is to allow citizens the ability to enter their data into a computer program and see other Crow River data within the system.

c. Adobe Acrobat software is being requested by J. Klocker, the software allows for more storage of data (newsletters, large documents) using minimal computer memory. A motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by R. Schaefer that J. Klocker purchases the Adobe Acrobat software for the Watershed District. The motion passed.

d. Insurance Deductible Account- G. Behm and J. Flanders will check with the auditors on how best to set up an insurance deductible account for J. Klocker insurance premiums.

12. Public comments:

M. Larson stated she was thrilled with the amount of grants obtained and projects planned by the Watershed District.

R. Schneider stated that the input provided thus far has been helpful to the Spicer City Council; he hope the input will continue.

M. Leach stated she has a spreadsheet which lists all: monitoring sites, instrumentation used to monitor and diagnostic sites on the Crow River. This spreadsheet could be reduced to just the Middle Fork area. M. Leach will send it to J. Klocker.

As no other business was brought before the Board a motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary

Revised 1-17-07