

MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
September 4th, 2007
Spicer, MN 56288

Present: Joe Flanders, Gordy Behm, Robert Hodapp, Robert Zenner and Ruth Schaefer of the Board; Julie Klocker-Administrator; Tom Bonde-Technical Advisor; Maggie Leach-MPCA, Kurt Deter-Legal Counsel, Doug Hanson and Marlys Larson.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman R. Hodapp at 7:08 pm.
2. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to approve the agenda as stated. The motion passed.
3. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by G. Behm to approve the minutes of the August 7th meeting. The motion passed.
4. The Treasurers Report was provided by J. Klocker. See attached report. A motion was made by G. Behm and seconded by J. Flanders to approve the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
5. September bills to pay were presented by J. Klocker. See attached report. A motion was made R. Schaefer and seconded by G. Behm to approve the September bill to pay. The motion passed.
6. Diane Sander of the CROW sent a request for funding for the Crow River Clean Up Day which will be September 15th. The Watershed District has contributed to this project in the past. Amount requested was \$200. A motion was made by R. Zenner and se and seconded by R. Schaefer to approve \$200 for the CROW River clean Up Project. The motion was passed.
7. 2008 Budget Hearing 7:30 pm Public Meeting was held. J. Klocker stated that she met with G. Behm and J. Flanders to set up the 2008 budget which the Board approved earlier. M. Larson asked if the County Road 10/South Avenue project will receive funds from the WD. J. Klocker stated that until the City of Spicer requests the funds for the project the WD cannot set aside funding or become more involved than the consulting that has been done by Emmons & Oliver Engineering. The official notice for the Public Hearing was published in: West Central Tribune, Belgrade Observer, Lakes Area Review and the Independent Review. As no further discussion was noted a motion was made by R. Zenner and seconded by J. Flanders to approve the 2008 budget as stated. The motion passed.
8. Rules Process information was presented by J. Klocker. Chris Mehan of Wenck Associates and J. Klocker will meet to begin the process and seek legal counsel. The 2nd part will be the Kick Off Workshop with the Board, PCA, BSWR, Wenck & Associates and legal counsel from Rinke Noonan to discuss the process, authority and budget of such Rules. The 3rd part of the process will entail the stake holders meeting to determine what needs to be regulated, what might be under regulated etc. The County Commissioners will be invited to this meeting. SONAR is the Statement of Need and Reasonableness. Rules will the same as an ordinance. The 4th part of process will be the Public Hearing.

Discussion: R. Zenner asked how often do WD amend the Rules, the necessity of revision as it occurs was discussed. J. Klocker stated that WD can state their Rules will “support the County rules”, WD can be more specific than the county or PCA but not more lax than Rules already written. K. Deter stated that the WD could make a Rule specifying that the WD will support or fund a project or policy. J. Klocker pointed out that WD Rules may need to assist in areas of need which may be different than that of the County. J. Klocker will coordinate the dates for the meetings.

9. Best Management Practice Projects:

a.) Laursen Shoreline Site Cost Share Funding Agreement- The property is located on the south shore of Green Lake. Significant erosion is taking place at the shoreline and the boat house. Wenck Engineering and Kestral Design Group have provided a quote of \$10,500. For the Design, contract/bidding process and inspection work. No estimate as to the cost of the entire project has been determined. The project entails more work than grant money could allow, some of the work will be for aesthetic and personal use. So a limitation of funds for erosion control purposes was discussed by the Board and advisors. M. Leach stated that Legacy applications for funding are going to open up in October. This project could be a separate project proposed to MPCA for funding under the Legacy grant which would save our Best Management Practice funds for other projects. The Laursen’s will be eligible for a set amount of grant dollars after they have paid for the project themselves. The Board needs to approve the project and set an amount that can reimburse the Laursen erosion control project. A motion was made by J. Flanders and second by G. Behm to allow for a maximum of up to \$20,000 for the Laursen Shoreline Project. The motion passed.

b.) Bell Tower Plaza Raingarden Project- The City of Spicer is working with the owner of the Bell Tower Plaza to pave the parking area that is currently listed as a Class 5. This would create more parking in the city. The City requested that rain gardens be incorporated into this project to catch and treat the runoff from the new and existing blacktop areas prior to discharging into the storm drain, which runs into the lake. This Project is being recommended to the Watershed District since it would eliminate all the Class 5 runoff which is a real problem. J. Klocker has met with the property manager and their landscaper designer. Details are still pending and a request will be sent to the Board hopefully at the October meeting.

M. Larson asked about the rain garden on the west side of Green Lake that the City of Spicer paid for and doesn’t seem to be maintained. J. Klocker offered to discuss this after the meeting and M. Larson agreed.

c.) Steve Erickson of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife stopped by the office earlier to inform the Watershed District of a potential wetlands restoration project occurring in Colfax Township. The Fischer Lake area project would encompass approximately 320 acres and 6-7 property owners.

10. Report on Closed Meeting: R. Hodapp announced to those in attendance that a closed meeting took place at 6:22 pm till 7:00 pm for the purpose of Administrator performance evaluation. The Board is very pleased with the quality of our Administrators work. The amount of grant money received exceeded our expectations of a newly formed Watershed District.

11. Administrators Report’s: J. Klocker updated the Board on upcoming meetings.

a.) Reviewed calendar;

b.) Diamond Lake Wastewater Workshop Update- The University of MN Extension will take place at Dethlefs Center, Saturday September 29th at 10-12: 00 pm. This meeting will be hosted by the Watershed District;

c.) Monitoring Report-Data is now being entered into an Excel Program and when complete will be entered into the MPCA Storet program.

d.) New staff person discussion- The Watershed District has announced a new position of "Watershed Conservation/Technician" has been posted. Applications will be accepted through September 20, 2007 or until an appropriate person has been located. R. Hodapp and R. Schaefer volunteered to review applications with J. Klocker and report back to the Board.

e.) Sign for the door. The Watershed District is in need of appropriate signage for the public to locate the building easily for meetings and regular business. J. Klocker will contact the landlord to discuss options.

f.) MAWD Resolutions for the December meeting. No pending resolutions at this time. MAWD conference will again be held the first weekend in December in Alexandria.

12. Attorney Report- K. Deter reported that the Brown Valley area was flooded this year and the local Watershed District was instrumental in organizing cleanup as it was able to address the needs of the entire flooded area. It was not limited by city/county boundaries.

K. Deter stated that he is representing a property owner within the Watershed District who is violation of county ditch law. A contractor apparently cleaned out a longer section of a Judicial Ditch than the county approved permit allowed. K. Deter stated that Kandiyohi County claim is against the contractor; he has represented this property owner before and had agreed to represent him on this matter. K. Deter stated he doesn't have all the facts yet and hoped to meet with all concerned parties (DNR, County Commissioners, and County Attorney) soon. The Board and Administrator expressed concern that if this situation isn't a conflict of interest it appears as one. T. Bonde stated that one of our monitoring stations was affected by this process. R. Hodapp asked how this situation will impact the WD and K. Deter stated he would need to think the situation through as it was clear that the entire Board had concerns. The Board requested an update as soon as possible. R. Zenner stated that for the record he wanted to disclose that he sold the property being discussed to the current owner.

13. Public Access-No comments from the public.

14. A motion was made by J. Flanders and seconded by R. Zenner to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was closed at 8:43 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary