

**MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
MFCRWD Office, 189 County Road NE, Spicer, MN**

Present: J. Flanders, B. Wing and R. Schaefer of the Board; Absent: G. Behm, R. Hodapp; M. Johnson-Administrator; J. Morales & D. Erickson-Technicians; J. Kolb-Legal; T. Ostendorf-BWSR; B. Nelson & J. Taatjes-George Lake and R. Bliss-Green Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 by Bruce Wing-VP.
2. District Mission Statement- "We exist for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed"-was read by B. Wing
3. Review/approve the agenda-Motion made by R. Schaefer, seconded by J. Flanders to remove item #6 "Office and Finance Manager Position Description" and item # 8 "West's No Mow letter" from the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

(The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member).

4. Approve the minutes of the February 7 meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Meeker County – Drainage Repair Policy
7. Bill Language Legislative Days at the Capitol- Motion by J. Flanders, second by R. Schaefer to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 3-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Administrator's Report:
 - a. ACGC – Yes! Team Project of the Year Award-Rescheduled to April.
 - b. BWSR Board Conservationist – Tara Ostendorf, formerly, the Administrator of the NFCRWD, is our new Board Conservationist. Our Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) which expires soon can be incorporated into the 1W1P, provided we request an extension of the process. Agency grants will still require a completed CMP; the extension/administrative letter would suffice for this requirement. M. Johnson will create a letter for the April meeting. Local Capacity Grant is a new type of BWSR grant, provided to SWCD's. A WD could partner with SWCD for projects; accessing funding up to \$100,000 from each county. All counties received the extra funds for 2017 and 2018. These are 2 year grants and would expire in 2019 and 2020. Legislative bills-House Rep. Torkelson has introduced a buffer bill. BWSR is also working on a Technical Training Team; Tara is on this team and is implementing some of the NRCS tool kit training modules.
 - c. George Lake-B. Nelson reported on the MN Coalition of Lake Associations meeting. Topics covered: Peter Sorenson-previous director of the MN AIS Research Center is on a research sabbatical. His current research entails the designation of "lake preserves" like a wildlife preserve. Other states have designated areas of protection. He would like to see that level of protection for some of MN lakes. The DNR is stocking muskies in Gull Lake. HF1360/SF1090 is a bill in the legislature asking for the removal of sales tax for lake associations paying for AIS treatment costs of State waters. R. Schaefer, reported that this information was passed on to Rep. Dave Baker, who replied he would support this bill. Eurasian Water Milfoil is becoming resistant to some chemicals. Wright County is developing a mandatory inspection of all watercraft (in and out). Wright County will work with

Clemson University and MN AIS Research Center for advice on their treatment options of Starry Stonewort. B. Nelson encouraged the WD to apply for an Initiative Foundation (IF) grant and create an All Boats Inspection Program. R. Schaefer relayed the problems incurred by the Kandiyohi County AIS Task Force and their IF grant. The IF grant was obtained for a stationary decontamination station. Problems occurred when the DNR would not approve survey information obtained via lake access AIS inspectors. The County then returned unspent funds of the grant, as they were no longer able to meet some deadlines stated in the grant. R. Schaefer will meet with B. Nelson in March to discuss options. B. Nelson stated that it may be of interest to view the machine/process on Lake Koronis as they attempt to control their Starry Stonewort.

J. Taatjes requested information on the process of creating a Project on George Lake for the purpose of treatment of Curly Leaf Pond Weed (CLPW). An application request for funding was provided. M. Johnson will review the application. Discussion occurred of the other CLPW Projects (Diamond, Nest, Green). George Lake is interested in contracting with James Johnson, who did his graduate work in CLPW. An application will be handed in to WD staff for consideration.

- d. Review Calendar/District Activities -See calendar noting the audit scheduled for three days.
- e. Review of Project Status
 1. Diamond Lake TMDL Implementation, Hubbard, Schultz, and Wheeler Implementation Activity CIP #13-02-M. Johnson and D. Erickson will present a project update to the County Commissioners on April 18th, including these photos. See Activity Report for more photos and information.
 2. North Fork One Watershed One Plan-M. Johnson stated the group is currently working on "how the ground water relates to our plan with specific measurable goals. An example would be the "a decrease of TP could lead to delisting of a lake. Currently Diamond and Nest are listed as impaired. How do we tie urban and rural stewardship together? Houston Engineering would like both groups to work together to resolve the issue. A good plan should not pit urban against rural. The Planning work group is trying to define this matrix. New draft plan is due in Jan 2018. Policy meetings are attended by B. Hodapp/B. Wing and the next meeting is in May.
- f. Administrative matters
 1. MAWD Resolution – MAWD’s Bylaws need a letter of request by 2/3 of the membership in order to change the bylaws. A special meeting is planned for the Summer Tour to update the Bylaws in the transitions of R. Bohn’s retirement. A motion was made by J. Flanders, seconded by R. Schaefer to request a special meeting by the MAWD Board of Directors for the Purpose of Updating the Bylaws. The motion passed 3-0. M. Johnson will send a letter.
 2. Clean Water Partnership Loan Funds – The fund of \$85,030, will expire June 2018. Legally we could loan this money to ourselves for the purpose of funding future projects or we could return unspent funds to the State. The project has already been established and a public meeting took place regarding the project. A motion was made by R. Schaefer, seconded by J. Flanders to use the balance of the Clean Water Funds for appropriate projects within the WD. The motion passed 3-0.
 3. Office and Finance Manager Position Description-Discussion on the job description of an accounting person. Discussion of our current contract with our accounting firm. Motion by R. Schaefer, second by J. Flanders to approve the position of an Office and Finance Manager. The motion passed 3-0. M. Johnson will post the position and proceed accordingly.
 4. CL3 – Monitoring Site Easement-The current easement with USGS is outdated. J. Kolb updated the agreement with the property owner (Hoffencamp). Terms were agreed upon. Motion made by J. Flanders, seconded by R. Schaefer to approve the CL3 Easement Agreement with the Hoffencamp’s. The motion passed 3-0.
 5. Meeker County – Ditch Inspector and Drainage Repair Policy-M. Johnson, T. Ostendorf, J. Morales met with the new Ditch Inspector (Kevin Kalvig). J. Morales met with the Olaf Johnson, a J. Flanders recommendation last month. T. Ostendorf presented information from BWSR and the CREP program. This ditch project could be implemented for water quality and erosion control measures. We as a WD could assist property owners and Counties with these bigger projects. See Drainage Repair Policy for County Drainage Systems. See information provided by Wenck Engineering for Project Location Overview.

Estimated Project cost is \$90,000. The challenge is with public waters and drainage authority. Approval of the Ditch Authority would be needed prior to the project and an agreed upon plan after the project. Other farms downstream could benefit from the same type of project. Livestock is using this ditch for watering purposes downstream. Discussion of restoration of the river/ditch area led to agreement by the Board of the potential benefits of the Project. J. Morales will schedule a meeting of the involved parties.

6. B. Anderson-Wetland Restoration – USFW have removed existing tile and created a berm. A motion was made by R. Schaefer, second by J. Flanders for \$422.61 for creation of a berm north of Lake Calhoun for this wetland restoration project. The motion passed 3-0.
7. Johnson Project –See notes in #5 Meeker County Ditch Inspector.
8. Westby Internship-Motion made by J. Flanders, seconded by R. Schaefer to approve \$500 for the Westby Internship. The motion passed 3-0.
9. NRCS – Soil Health Day Donation- Staff will attend the Ridgewater conference. Motion by J. Flanders, seconded by R. Schaefer to approve a donation of \$140. Motion passed 3-0.
10. M-01-16 AGCG Yes! Team Project Voucher Correction -Motion by R. Schaefer, second by J. Flanders to approve the corrected check of \$3000 less; the corrected total is \$16,366.69.
11. West No Mow Letter-The West's requested a letter of support in requesting that the township not mow their ditch area. Discussion occurred on the importance of pollinators and the mission statement of the WD. House file Senate file 218 and House File #124 may address their concerns more so than a watershed district. M. Johnson will draft a letter to the West family.
12. Integrated Watershed Management
 - a. Surface Water Assessment Grant-Phase II grant started yesterday and will use strategies for the implementation. Many of these items are already addressed in the 1WIP. The WD is not responsible for the implementation, so it seems like time spent doing tasks that we do not implement. MPCA will be reviewing our ideas of projects above and beyond the 1WIP. See Activity Report for more details. MFCRWD will act as the Fiscal Agent.
 - b. Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy- Partnering agencies CROW, NFCRWD, and MFCRWD will have \$50,000 for the preparation of the Strategy planning. Staff at the MFCRWD has a request in for the group, and will act as the Fiscal Agent.
9. Legal Counsel Report J. Kolb presented the revised WD Bill which includes: compensation change from \$75-\$100 per diem; meeting change to allow for offsite participation; project tax levies and clarification of “greater than 80% area” for wetland replacement bank. We are soliciting for more sponsors. B. Wing, R. Schaefer and M. Johnson will be attending the MAWD Legislative Meetings later this month.
10. Public Access Forum – None.
11. A motion was made by J. Flanders, seconded by R. Schaefer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0 and the meeting ended at 8:52 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary