

MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

November 2, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Present: R. Hodapp; S. Braegelman; K. Olson; J. Hedtke; R. Schaefer; M. Johnson; J. Kolb; J. Kavanagh;
and A. Johnson.

AGENDA

1. The meeting was called to order by President Hodapp at 6:30 pm.
2. The District Mission Statement-“We exist for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed” was recited by President Hodapp.
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by R. Schaefer, seconded by J. Hedtke. Motion passed 5-0.
4. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - a. 2020-10-06 MFCRWD Minutes
 - b. 2020-11-02 Income & Expense
 - c. 2020-11-02 Treasurer’s Report
 - d. Board Manager Attendance Policy – updated text from 10/6 regular board meetingA motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by S. Braegelman and seconded by K. Olson. The motion passed 5-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Board Manager Matters
 - a. Minnesota Association of Watershed District’s will be a virtual conference this year. M. Johnson received the membership packet today. Each WD selects two delegates and one alternate for the Annual Business Meeting. The delegates will vote on the Resolutions on behalf of the Board. Delegates will be R. Hodapp and J. Hedtke with S. Braegelman as the Alternate.
 - b. Administrator 2020 Performance Evaluation date was scheduled on December 1st after the Board meeting.
6. Projects/Permits/Reports:
 - a. JD 17 Wetland Restoration Project Memorandum – M. Johnson reported that financial assistance on this project has been requested. This project does meet our “High Priority” criteria. Josh Pommier, the Farm Bill Biologist of Pheasants Forever described the project to the Board. The Project Objective, Program Workload and timelines need to recognize the three-year timeline. Start date is tentatively set for next summer. The next step is to finalize funding for Hedtke property owners The RIM Incentive payment would be \$14,969.42. The cropland lease for 2021 would be \$3625. R. Hodapp asked for clarification of the easement area, which is 5.6 acres. M. Johnson stated that Clean Water Partnership Loan Funds were available for this type of a Project until October 2021. If used, the WD would do a 1st tier loan to the WD and then use that money to pay the landowner. The ad valorem tax would cover the cost of the WD loan. R. Schaefer made the motion that the District use Clean Water Partnership Loan funds as 1st tier District loan to pay Cliff Hedtke \$18, 594.42 (\$14,969.42 + \$3625) for a signed easement and construction right-of-way for the CD 17 Wetland Restoration Project. The motion was seconded, by K. Olson. J. Hedtke asked what the warranty time on performed work. J. Pommier, stated that RIM covered “the cost of failures of a project”. The motion passed 5-0.
 - b. Hubbard, Schultz, and Wheeler Lakes –J. Kavanagh presented information at the Technical Advisory meeting in October. J. Morales presented water quality data. Wheeler Lake had a severe alga bloom this summer. A winter draw down was proposed, no feedback was received after the public notice. The winter draw down of 2-3 feet, would help improve fish population. The current conditions are ideal. The water levels and CD2 are currently low. A draw down will hopefully create more storage and it will refill more slowly than last time when it filled too quickly. R. Hodapp thanked them for

their work.

- c. Accelerated Implementation survey results – The WD did the survey of our two most impaired waters - Nest and Diamond lakes. Core samples were done last winter, and analysis will be performed with the information going back to the landowners. Andy Johnson performed the survey.
 - d. Activities Report-See the report with hyperlinks for further information.
7. District Matters
- a. County Ditch 47/Middle Fork Crow River: Project Initiation and Update Memorandum-M. Johnson referred the Board to the memorandum dated 10-28-2020 on CD 47. This county ditch is one the poorest water quality ditches within the WD. There are 8 potential projects that could be done at a cost of \$562,000. A Projects & Practices grant from BWSR request was denied. The e-coli is a main concern. J. Hedtke asked how a county can abandon a ditch. J. Kolb stated that the legal process involves 50% of landowners agreeing to the statutory process. R. Hodapp asked about the “greenbelt” option. J. Kolb reported that it is a specific part of Watershed law-activities within the greenbelt, would need to follow specific land use rules. An example would be-cattle exclusion zones. The Board discussed this issue at length. R. Hodapp asked what is involved in establishing a greenbelt. J. Kolb reported that the process is like establishing the WD rules. M. Johnson reported that A. Johnson and J. Morales has visited the sites and significant erosion has occurred. No action was taken.
8. Legal Counsel Report-none
9. Public Access Forum – No public comments were received.

The Board used this time to review the MAWD Resolutions Committee Report.

Recommendations-See packet for further information Resolutions Committee.

1. Creating an Easier Appeals Process for Corrections to the Public Waters Inventory – Committee supports – Board agreed.
2. Limiting Wake Boat Activities that Directly Cause Shoreline Erosion and Spread Aquatic Invasive Species-Committee opposes -Board agreed.
3. Banning the Use of Carcinogenic Pesticides and Herbicides on Residential and Commercial Lawns – Committee Opposes – Board agreed.
4. Requiring Soil Health Goals in Watershed Management Plans and Ten-Year Plan Amendments- Committee Opposes-Board agrees.
5. Limiting Excessive Use of Groundwater for the Purpose of Watering Urban and Suburban Landscapes during the Summer Months – Committee Opposes – Board agreed.
6. Permitting Water Storage on Wetlands Controlled by the DNR During Major Flood Events- Committee Supports-Board agrees.
7. Watershed Districts Agricultura Drainage Bod Funding – Committee Supports – Board agrees.
8. Watershed-Based Implementation Funding through Coordinated Comprehensive Watershed Plans-Committee Supports-Board agrees.

A motion was made by K. Olson, seconded by J. Hedtke to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary