

North Fork Crow River Watershed District

Approved Minutes

February 9th, 2015

Managers Present: Barchenger, Berndt, Wuertz, Hanson via Skype (TX)

Managers Absent: Brauchler

Staff Present: Tara Ostendorf, Christopher Lundeen, Christine Knutson

Others Present: Larry Ladwig (JD1 Landowner), Noah Bruntlett (CD 43), Roger Imdieke, Dave Johnson (JD1)

Call to Order:

President Wuertz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Review and Approve Agenda:

Ostendorf added additional agenda items for discussion under Additional Business. Motion to approve agenda as revised made by Manager Barchenger, seconded by Manager Berndt. Motion carried with all in favor.

Consent Agenda:

Correction to the minutes: Correction of motion second for CD32 request for repair to Barchenger as seconding the motion; correction to treasurer's report for expenses to CD 37. Motion to approve consent agenda as revised and amended made by Manger Barchenger, seconded by Manager Berndt. Motion carried with all in favor.

Open Discussion from the public:

Larry Ladwig inquired to the status on the JD1 Branch 12 Houston report. Ostendorf updated Board and public that Houston Engineering has received all of the historic profile information from the District and will be finalizing the report within the next two weeks. Mr. Ladwig requested to be kept informed on the progress. Mr. Ladwig also expressed displeasure with information related to the Governor's plan presented by recent media reports regarding renewed interest in enforcement of the existing 50' buffer rule in MN. Mr. Ladwig also asked for an update on the Boards' findings against Liebl Farms for possible drainage violation.

Noah Bruntlett, attending the meeting on behalf of his relative, Kevin Bruntlett, inquired as to the Board's decisions and future plans regarding finalizing repair of CD 43. Ostendorf updated Board and public on the upcoming meeting with DNR representatives to go over the project proceedings, and efforts to obtain a scope of services proposal for completing as-as-built survey of the area to determine final elevations.

The Board allowed late discussion from Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County commissioner. Mr. Imdieke discussed his experiences at the Stearns AIS Convention and extended an invitation for the Board to attend a product demonstration to be held in Spicer on Wednesday, February 11th.

The Board allowed late discussion from Dave Johnson. Mr. Johnson inquired as to the status of the culvert replacement on JD1. Ostendorf informed Board and public that the culvert has been purchased by MBC drainage and will be installed in the Spring. Mr. Johnson inquired as to the product specifications. Board directed Ostendorf to get information from MBC drainage and update Mr. Johnson.

Staff Reports

Administrator's Report:

Update on office move and property sale.

Ostendorf gave update on status of building move, issues with phone/internet services at current location, issues with heating at both buildings and expectations for sale of old building. Board directed Ostendorf to attempt to resolve heating related issues due to mechanical failure with the installer and general contractor.

Update on the Prairie Storm – USFWS Wetland Impoundment Project.

Ostendorf gave update on status of project. Project is outside of budget as currently designed. Wenck will redesign the project to fit the current budget and staff can apply for additional funding to obtain funding for additional work. No direction or motion made.

Update on the JD1 Impoundment Project

Ostendorf gave update on status of project. Project currently does not provide a high water quality benefit. Engineer recommends the project as a flood reduction project. No direction or motion made.

FY2014 CWF Grant Awards: DrainageDB and GIS Database

Ostendorf updated the Board that the 2014 BWSR CWF grant applications for Drainage Inventory and Database was approved for funding, but the second application for the GIS Database was not funded. Ostendorf stated that staff will rewrite the grant application to be included under a 2015 MPCA CWP application.

Approve attendance and registration for MAWD Legislative Days

Motion to approve registration and other expenses for three attendees for MAWD Legislative Days from appropriate fund made by Manager Hanson, seconded by Manager Berndt. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion of “One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P)” and appointment of manager to planning process and approval of resolution 2015-02:

Ostendorf updated staff on need to appoint manager as representative for voting on policy committee. Motion to approve resolution 2015-02 naming John Hanson as delegate for the District made by Manager Barchenger, seconded by Manager Berndt. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion of legal counsel representation in drainage violations.

Ostendorf presented Board with recommendations of legal firms from neighboring Districts. Board directed staff to prepare a request for proposal and request for qualifications and send to recommended firms.

Discussion of website design and hosting

Ostendorf informed Board of website problems and failures. Ostendorf informed the Board that she would look into different hosting companies to resolve some of the issues.

Set date for Board planning / visioning workshop.

Ostendorf requested that the Board set a date to hold an organization planning and visioning workshop with Board, staff and BWSR / MPCA representatives. After discussion, the Board directed Ostendorf to plan for early April 2015, depending on representative schedules.

Additional Business – Stearns County Notice of Public Hearing-Ordinances Changes, BWSR 1W1P Survey, BWSR Funding Opportunity-50' Buffer Inventory and Enforcement Plan,

Board directed Ostendorf to compile commentary and attend the public hearing for ordinance changes, as well as request attendance of Stearns County commissioner to attend next Board meeting.

Ostendorf requested that managers complete the BWSR 1W1P survey and submit to BWSR or return to her for submittal.

Ostendorf updated the Board on recent BWSR press release for funding opportunities to compile conditions inventory and propose an enforcement plan. Board directed Ostendorf to do additional research with the possibility of submitting an application for funding.

Technician’s Report:

Lundeen reported on current activities including; Submitting annual grant reports to E-link, writing grant application for DNR AIS inspection grant, grant project/file organization, activities with building move, attendance at the Stearns County AIS Convention, and updates to the Stearns County AIS Plan.

Lundeen updated the Board on the upcoming Earth day event and inquired if the Board would make a donation to the event, as they have done in the past. Motion to approve \$400 for expenditures related to the Earth day event from appropriate fund made by Manager Hanson, seconded by Manager Barchenger. Motion carried with all in favor.

Bookkeeper / Administrative Assistant’s Report:

No Report

Program Reports

Permit Report:

No Report

Drainage Report:

CD 32 – Review and approval of DRAFT Request for Proposal for engineering services. Review and approval of DRAFT Request for Proposal for professional services for drainage tile scoping.

Ostendorf presented draft RFP documents. Motion to approve RFP documents and send to firms made by Manager Hanson, seconded by Manager Barchenger. Motion carried with all in favor.

Other Ditch Business: - Ostendorf presented ditch status report as presented in print at the meeting. No direction or motions made/

Board Member Meeting Reports:

No reports.

Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

No Discussion

Calender Review:

No Discussion

FYI Items:

Ostendorf made correction to language regarding the City of Brooten's Wellhead Protection Plan as follows: the plan has been approved by the Department of Health (DOH) and is available on the DOH website.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Manager Berndt, seconded by Manager Barchenger. Meeting Adjourned.

John Hanson – Secretary