

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2018**

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 8:00 a.m. Present: Linda Vavra, Jason Beyer, Doug Dahlen, Jerome Deal, Steven Schmidt, and Allen Wold. Absent: Scott Gillespie, John Kapphahn. Also present: Engineer Chad Engels, Engineer James Guler, Engineer Tech Troy Fridgen, Attorney John Shockley, and Administrator Jamie Beyer.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to include North Ottawa legal representation.
- CLAIMS** Upon motion by Schmidt, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the Claims of October 18, 2018 were approved as presented with the addition of payment to Stan Churchill in the amount of \$1286.73 for the viewing of WCD #9 & #10.
- MINUTES** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the Minutes of September 20, 2018 were approved.
- GILLESPIE** Scott Gillespie entered the meeting.
- TREASURER'S REPORT** Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the September Treasurer's Report was approved.
- PERMIT #18-094 CHESTER RAGUSE** This permit was tabled for consideration at a later date.
- PERMIT #18-093 DANIEL OACHS** This permit was resolved by engineering staff before the meeting.
- PERMIT #18-096 STEVENS COUNTY HWY DEPT** The details of Permit #18-096 were reviewed. Property owner David Horning described the project, which would involve correcting the grade of two culverts by lowering them 6". Approximately 1 ½ miles of county ditch would also be cleaned-out. Stevens County Assistant Engineer Jon Maras stated that his department knows this area has poor drainage and supports this project. Neighboring property owner David Hasbargen stated he has no opposition as long as the ditch is cleaned-out further west to Section 17. Engels asked Mr. Horning if this project would bring water across a subwatershed divide from Section 15; Horning stated that it will not. Deal asked if any parcels should be required to petition into TCD #37. Schmidt emphasized that, in his opinion, this project would be correcting a construction mistake on a county ditch. Dahlen made motion to approve the permit. David Hasbargen requested that the ditch adjacent to Section 17 and 18 be cleaned-out; Gillespie encouraged Mr. Hasbargen to speak with Maras. Gillespie seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.
- JD #12 LATERAL NO. 2 & NO. 4** Tracey Von Bargaen requested design and engineering support for Spring 2020 construction on JD 12 Lateral No. 2 and No. 4. The Grant County Highway Department intends to reconstruct the laterals in accordance with the 2007 legal profile; this work will repair several scour holes in the area, and may increase the size of the current 48" culverts. The project will reconstruct a 3-to-1 inslope and backslope, and create a 6' ditch bottom. Engels requested authorization to review the potential for erosion after construction, and the opportunity to bring these laterals to the 10-year design standard. Deal made motion, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, to authorize the BdSWD Engineer to provide design assistance for the reconstruction of JD #12 Lateral No. 4. Gillespie made motion, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, to authorize the BdSWD Engineer to provide design assistance for the reconstruction of JD #12 Lateral No. 2.
- RRWMB LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** Rob Sip and Dan Money, Red River Management Board, provided an update on lobbying efforts on behalf of member watershed districts and the member resolutions that have been submitted. Board managers expressed their support for resolutions submitted by the Wild Rice and Roseau River Watershed Districts. They also discussed RRWMB's levy and project funding processes.

WCD #8 COST-SHARE	Guler presented a cost-share proposition with the Wilkin County Highway Department over a large diagonal culvert on WCD #8 that was originally set 1' too high. Wilkin County will install the culvert if the District pays for materials. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the District approved the cost-share of a 24" diagonal culvert installed on-grade, this fall, by the Wilkin County Highway Department.
TCD #27 CULVERT	Attorney Tom Athens has been in communication with MnDOT's attorney; they requested the original contract documents, but have not responded to the District's claim that they are financially responsible for the replacement of the buckled culvert.
TCD #23 CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE	Construction is substantially complete. A private approach at Crossing #1 was installed without a permit. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, engineering staff are instructed to issue an after-the-fact permit and invoice the landowner for their share of the cost of the crossing. Deal made motion, seconded by Gillespie to approve payment to Wagner Construction in the amount of \$151,635.96, contingent on the review, verification and possible revision by engineering staff. Motion carried.
SCHMIDT	Schmidt left the meeting.
NORTH OTTAWA FDR, NRE, & EXPENSE MANAGEMENT REPORT, LEGAL REPRESENTATION, & CAMERA DONATION	Board managers reviewed the October 18, 2018 FDR, NRE & Expense Management Report. Fridgen flooded cells A3 and B3 over several weeks, and delayed full release of the water out of cells A3 and B3 until after October 6, a nationally-recognized day for birdwatchers. Drone footage was taken of the wildlife, but has not yet been published. President Vavra and Jamie Beyer attended the RRWMB October meeting, and requested that authorization be granted to allow the RRWMB's attorney, Louis Smith of Smith Partners, to consider representing the BdSWD for North Ottawa (the authorization was granted). Mr. Smith was contacted and is considering the request. A meeting with the DNR has been scheduled for November 13. Staff conducted an informal watershed survey, and found that operation and maintenance of Minnesota impoundments are funded by a variety of sources. One unique feature of the North Ottawa Impoundment is its designation as a game refuge. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, the donation of a Canon camera from Jennifer Dahlen was accepted. Staff were asked to send a thank-you and acknowledgement of the donation.
BUFFER ORDINANCE	BWSR has stipulated a number of changes to the District's Buffer Rule; they are being considered by the District's attorney and staff.
SOUTHERN BOUNDARY	An informational meeting with affected Southern Boundary landowners has been scheduled for November 26 th at the Graceville Community Center.
RRWMB & DRAINAGE WORK GROUP UPDATES	Deal provided an update on the RRWMB, specifically on a successful effort to move committed (but undisbursed) funds into interest-bearing accounts. Deal and Wold spoke about changes in the Drainage Work Group to discontinue legislative recommendations based on consensus. Beginning in 2019, legislative recommendations will be made by majority and minority reports, with the exception of state agencies – state agencies will be allowed to veto Drainage Work Group recommendations outright, and stop them from being brought to the legislature.
MAWD	Vavra asked Board Managers to consider their availability to attend the MAWD Conference.
BANK INTEREST SOLICITATION	Jamie Beyer relayed that solicitations had been sent to regional banks regarding opportunities for interest-bearing accounts. Responses are due in November.
2019 LAND LEASES & BID PROCESS	Board managers reviewed land available to lease for 2019 and the process that will be used to bid-out leases for 2019 & 2020. Discussion included rental trends for the land over the past few years, and maximizing land rental income based on board members' fiduciary responsibility to the District. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, leases for 2019 will be determined by sealed bid, and will be renewed for 2020 unless cancelled by the District.
TCD #4 & TCD #35	Fridgen informed the board that changes to clean-out and maintenance activities in TCD #4 and TCD #35 will exceed \$10,000 by about \$4,000. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, Fridgen is authorized to continue the maintenance activities.

**TCD #31
EROSION
REDUCTION
PILOT PROGRAM**

Fridgen stated that the Traverse County SWCD has approached the District regarding a cost-share pilot program on TCD #31 that would involve the installation of a concrete mesh product, Shoreflex, which prevents erosion and holds sediment in-place. Traverse County SWCD would provide \$17,000 and proposes that BdSWD matches the same amount. Because of the possible benefits to stabilize ditch slopes, prevention of future erosion of field outlets, and the transfer of nutrients from soil to water, Fridgen spoke with BWSR's Pete Waller about the potential use of Riparian Aid; Waller supported the idea. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the pilot program cost-share was approved. Engels emphasized that the mesh must be installed correctly in order to be effective; engineering staff will be employed to provide some support on the project.

Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.