

Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD)  
Regular Meeting  
August 28, 2018

**1. Call to Order**

Bruce Leinen convened the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Managers present: Bruce Leinen, Wayne Rasche, Jim Buschena, Harvey Kruger, and Gary Ewert

Staff: Jan Voit and Catherine Wegehaupt

Others: Jim Eigenberg, Jackson County

**2. Minutes**

Wayne Rasche made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24 regular meeting. Harvey Kruger seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Jan Voit presented the treasurer's report and bills payable. Jim Buschena made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Gary Ewert seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

Jan Voit explained the funding situation for Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 19. Discussion was held regarding the Minnesota Statutes § 103D.335 Subd. 17 borrowing limitations, the proposed change order request, and the engineer, contractor, and HLWD responsibilities to the project and the landowners.

Harvey Kruger made a motion to approve payment of \$277,886.23 to Svoboda Excavating for Pay Application #2, which does not include the change order cost of \$55,584. The \$277,886.23 will be paid once funds are received from Jackson County. Jim Buschena seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. 2019 Levy for General Operating Purposes**

Wayne Rasche made the following motion.

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the HLWD have had a hearing on its proposed budget for the year 2019, after publication thereof, and have heard all persons interested therein,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that a mill rate sufficient to produce \$250,000.00 be levied upon all taxable property in the Heron Lake Watershed District, situated in the Counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, and Nobles for the year 2019, for the purpose of the General Operating Levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 103D.905 Subd. 3. The Secretary be and he here is advised and directed to certify this levy to the County Auditor of the said Counties.

Harvey Kruger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Reports**

*District Administrator*

Jan Voit reported on the Practical Leadership workshop, newsletter, West Fork Des Moines River (WFDMR) Major Watershed Project Phase II Final Report, 319 Small Watersheds grant program, WFDMR Targeting and Prioritizing Endeavor, Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors meeting, Jackson County Ditch (CD) 3, low interest loan program, Jackson County JD 19, and the Clean Water Fund grant round.

Discussion was held regarding Jackson CD 3, the statutory requirements for filing, and the oversight on the part of the county. Discussion was also held regarding the statutory borrowing

limitations. The managers directed Jan Voit to draft a resolution to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts.

Jim Buschena made a motion to approve the septic system loan applications for Curtis and Janeen Baumgard, Julie Malenke, and Mike and Amanda Schmitz contingent upon providing the required documentation. Gary Ewert seconded this. Wayne Rasche abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Jan presented the WFDMR Story Map to the managers. The story map was created as part of the WFDMR Major Watershed Project Phase II. The story map has been shared with counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and state agencies to be used as an educational tool.

#### *Watershed Technician*

Catherine Wegehaupt provided information regarding the water sampling analysis options. Wayne Rasche made a motion to send samples to Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories and remove suspended volatile solids and turbidity from the sample analysis at the recommendation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Jim Buschena seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

She updated the managers about the cedar revetment and shoreline cleanup projects completed by the Minnesota Conservation Corps crew and HLWD staff, Minnesota Department of Agriculture cover crop project, Seward 29 construction project, and the Isder/Murray County permit application.

She also gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the 2017 water quality monitoring results. Discussion was held regarding Department of Natural Resources flow monitoring, timing of precipitation, the response of the streams and lake to rainfall events, and nitrogen and phosphorus loading. A question was asked regarding tampering with the monitoring equipment. The boxes are locked and no tampering has been experienced to date. A question was asked regarding whether other watershed districts conduct water monitoring studies that parallel what we are doing. There are other watershed districts that work with MPCA, but Catherine has not compared HLWD results with others to see where their emphasis has been. The HLWD follows the standard process recommended by MPCA. A question was asked whether Okabena-Ocheda (OOWD) or Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Districts (KLRWD) conduct monitoring programs similar to that of the HLWD. OOWD does monitoring, but is not part of the MPCA effort. She is not aware of KLRWD conducting a monitoring program.

#### *Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Conservation Project Tour and Meetings Update*

Harvey Kruger reported on the Drainage Water Management meeting in Lamberton, BWSR Conservation Project Tour in Rock and Nobles Counties, and the BWSR board meeting.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Harvey Kruger  
Secretary