

## **Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018 6:00 p.m.**

**Heron Lake Watershed District office**

**Heron Lake, MN**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Paul Pietz, Jerry Ackermann, Larry Janssen, Naomi Hill, Jerry Christopherson, Mona Henkels, Allen Jensen, Dave Dieter, Matt Widboom, Jan Voit, and Catherine Wegehaupt

#### **1. Call to Order**

Paul Pietz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Introductions were done.

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the June 25, 2018 HLWD Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jerry Christopherson and seconded by Allen Jensen to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. HLWD Advisory Committee membership**

Paul Pietz has contacted a landowner in Jackson County to fill the seat left vacant by Clarence Madsen. The person declined. Committee members were asked to notify Paul if they had any suggestions for membership.

#### **4. Talking Points**

Paul Pietz and Jan Voit discussed the issue of Talking Points. Instead of the two of them developing Talking Points, they believe this should be done by the HLWD Advisory Committee. They proposed a meeting on December 18 from 11 am to 1 pm, including lunch. Planning will be done and committee members will be notified.

#### **5. Discussion Items**

Jan Voit gave an update on HLWD activities.

#### **HLWD**

##### *Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)*

Governor Dayton appointed Harvey Kruger to serve as a member of the BWSR board. The appointment was effective July 4, 2018. His term expires January 3, 2022.

##### *Practical Leadership*

On July 26, 2018, Bruce Leinen and I participated in a Practical Leadership workshop sponsored by the Association of Minnesota Counties. This was an interactive, skills-practice workshop training. Lisa Negstad, Negstad Consulting, LLC taught attendees about coaching. Coaching engages and energizes staff to take initiative, problem-solve with confidence, and do their best work. The training was designed so that coaching strategies and concepts could be applied on the job the next day.

##### *Newsletter*

The annual financial newsletter was drafted on August 2, 2018. The draft narrative and supporting photos and graphics were sent to Livewire Printing Company for formatting. The document was reviewed and approved on August 3, 2018.

##### *BWSR Conservation Project Tour*

On August 22, 2018, I attended the BWSR Conservation Project Tour. The event began with a welcome and introductions by Gerry Van Amberg and John Jaschke. Ed Lenz and Dan Livdahl provided a tour overview.

Tour stops included the Worthington Wellhead Area, Bella Park, Prairie View Pond Water Quality Improvement Project, Summit Lake Restoration Project, lunch and presentation at the Prairie Events Center, Rock River/Landfill Protection Site, Elk Creek Manure Handling Project, Rock County Rural Water Area, David Wessel's farm site and nitrogen management improvements, and the City of Adrian Wellheads. The event concluded with dinner at the Round Lake Winery and a presentation by the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

#### *Seward 29 Construction Project*

Repair of the earthen structure in Section 29 of Seward Township began on August 27, 2018. The project was completed and the engineer signed off on September 11.

#### *Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Annual Conference*

On September 5, 2018, I attended the MAWD Annual Conference Planning Committee meeting. Abstracts submitted for the conference were reviewed and selected. Many changes were recommended including specific tracts for the pre-conference workshops, a movie night featuring short videos from watershed districts, a watershed district row in the trade show, a new trade show layout, and entertainment during the social hour rather than after the banquet. The proposed changes will be presented to the MAWD Board at their September 21 meeting.

#### *MAWD Resolution*

At the August meeting, I informed the managers about the statutory borrowing limit in Minnesota Statutes 103D.335 Subd. 17 states, "The managers may borrow funds from an agency of the federal government, a state agency, a county where the watershed district is located in whole or in part, or a financial institution authorized under chapter 47 to do business in this state. A county board may lend the amount requested by a watershed district. A watershed district may not have more than a total of \$2,000,000 in loans from counties and financial institutions under this subdivision outstanding at any time."

On September 4, I drafted background information for the proposed MAWD resolution and sent it to Louis Smith for review. I spoke with Louis regarding this subject on September 6. On September 10, he submitted a draft resolution and revised background information. These documents were included in the meeting packet. The resolution is on the agenda for the September board meeting.

#### **Grants**

##### *Major Watershed Project (MWP)*

The grant ended June 30. The final report was approved by MPCA on August 6.

##### *WFDNR Targeting and Prioritizing Endeavor*

The grant ended on June 30. The final report was approved by MPCA on August 14.

#### **Grant Applications**

- *Small Watersheds Focus Grant Program.* The EPA 319 Grant Program is changing. For the next funding round, ten small watersheds will be chosen to develop a detailed work plan, focusing on areas at the HUC 10 or HUC 12 scale. The chosen applicants will be prioritized to receive four, four-year grant awards that will span a total of 16 years. The intent of the

program is to provide a steady source of funding, focus implementation efforts, and achieve measurable water quality improvements. The application was submitted on June 1. The HLWD's interview was held on July 25. On August 10, the HLWD was informed that we were not chosen for an in-person interview. A follow-up meeting will be held with MPCA staff to determine what could have been done to improve our competitiveness in the grant process.

- *Clean Water Fund.* The CWF grant round opened in early July. Work on the application was done in July and August. The application is for BMPs in the JD 3 watershed. It was submitted on August 30.

### **Public Drainage Systems**

#### *Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 14*

ISG submitted the draft Final Engineering Report (FER) on September 7. Jan Voit reviewed the document and sent the revised version to ISG on September 18.

#### *Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 19*

On August 8, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) completed a construction stormwater inspection of the project site. Based on the inspection, corrective actions and document submittals were required to be completed within specific timeframes.

The contractor is asking for additional funds via change orders due to the tree removal around the pond, the extra requirements to meet the MPCA requests, and the additional hours and work for the electrical crossings. The board did not approve these requests at the August meeting. Kyle Sammons, I+S Group, will attend the HLWD's September meeting to explain the proposed change orders for the project.

#### *Jackson County Ditch (CD) 3*

On September 18, Louis notified Jan Voit that he had not heard anything regarding potential settlement. Informational statements are due September 25. These are typically completed by the attorneys for the parties jointly and the statements inform the scheduling conference. At the scheduling conference, the court discusses the nature of the case with the attorneys and sets the schedule for discovery, motions, and trial. The court will also explore the possibility of settlement. The court has set a scheduling conference for October 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Catherine Wegehaupt informed the committee that the grant application periods for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education programs are now available. The organizations are interested in on-farm demonstration projects and farmer-led education efforts.

## **6. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. was made by Mona Henkels and seconded by Dave Dieter. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Allen Jensen, Secretary