

Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD)
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2020

1. Call to Order

Wayne Rasche called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.021, subdivision 1, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the HLWD meeting was held by teleconference. All managers and staff attended in person, while others participated in person or by Microsoft Teams.

Managers present: Wayne Rasche, Bruce Leinen, Cory Reith, Harvey Kruger, and Mark Bartosh
Staff: Jan Voit and Davis Harder

Others: Chuck Brandel and Jacob Rischmiller, ISG; Matt Widboom, Nobles County; and Jim Eigenberg, Jackson County

2. Agenda

Bruce Leinen made a motion to approve the agenda. Harvey Kruger seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Minutes

Harvey Kruger made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19 budget hearing and regular meeting. Cory Reith seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jan Voit presented the treasurer's report and bills payable. Mark Bartosh made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Bruce Leinen seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Findings of Fact and Order Approving the Addition of Property to the Assessment Roll of Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 30

Jan Voit explained that this order was approved by the Jackson County board on August 18. It needs the HLWD's approval as well. Bruce Leinen made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact and Order Approving the Addition of Property to the Assessment Roll of Jackson County JD 30. Cory Reith seconded this. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Findings of Fact and Order is included with the minutes and incorporated by reference.

6. Jackson County JD 30 Change Order

Jan Voit reported that she has reviewed the facts regarding this situation with legal counsel and ISG. The next step is to have legal counsel prepare a letter to the construction and bond companies. Until a response is received, there are no other items that can be discussed.

7. Jackson County Ditch (CD) 3 Change Order 3

Jacob Rischmiller gave a report on the CD 3 change order. The area in question is a grass swale that is located on the Gilbert Post property. ISG was not aware that the swale was enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) until after the area was disturbed. They were required to match the original seed mix.

Chuck Brandel explained that a less expensive mix is used for drainage systems since they are generally reseeding road ditches and buffers. CRP is a private agreement, so ISG does not know about these contracts. This is a question that can be asked at landowner meetings. ISG has changed their seed mix specifications to a buffer blend that works for CRP contracts. This was done so landowners can enroll ditch buffers in CRP without having to replant.

Discussion was held regarding the original bid. The contract with Larson Contracting contained the open ditches and buffers. The area that was disturbed was in the contract with Dirt Merchant, Inc. (DMI). Seeding costs were not included in the contract price for this contract.

Discussion was held regarding seeding costs. Larson Contracting bid \$4,500 per acre for seeding costs. DMI bid \$3,085 for the 1.25 acres to restore the grass swale.

Discussion was held regarding the CRP and buffer blends. It might be possible to add additional grasses and forbs to the buffer blend, but Farm Service Agency may not accept this. The area has already been seeded with the required CRP mix.

Mark Bartosh made a motion to approve CD 3 Change Order 3. Cory Reith seconded this. Harvey Kruger abstained. Motion carried.

8. Lease Options

Jan Voit presented lease options. The options included leasing a sport utility vehicle or pickup. If a pickup would be leased, the additional cost would be covered by the HLWD.

Discussion was held regarding the HLWD budget, the need for upgrading vehicles, staff vehicle needs for monitoring, and the possibility of adding a towing package and purchasing a trailer.

Harvey Kruger made a motion to lease a Jeep Renegade Latitude from Marthaler for \$289 per month for 36 months and 15,000 miles per year. Mark Bartosh seconded this. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reports

District Administrator

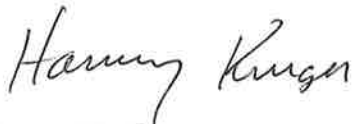
Jan Voit reported on the 2021 levy certification, Jackson County JD 14, JD 3 laterals, JD 36, Board of Water and Soil Resources board meeting, meetings with ISG, field day, monitoring and data gathering, Toe Wildlife Management Area Wetland Restoration grant, JD 3, the One Watershed, One Plan Input Session, JD 19, CD 3, Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership, and the Fulda pond clean out.

Davis Harder was introduced. He described his background. The board welcomed him.

Discussion was held regarding the Fulda pond clean out. The discussion included landowner concerns, possible sale of the property, future maintenance, proximity to Fulda Lake and the need to maintain clean water in the lakes, whether or not there would be a maintenance agreement if the property is sold, and the HLWD's limited ability to have any voice in the situation. Discussion also included Murray County and JD 13, the importance of the pond to the current and future owners, public waters inventory, and buffer law compliance.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



Harvey Kruger
Secretary