

**MINUTES OF THE ROSEAU RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF
MANAGERS MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

ORDER: Chairman Diesen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MANAGERS PRESENT: Laverne Voll, Jason Braaten, James Johnson, and Carter Diesen

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Halstensgard, Technician Broten, and Assistant Wensloff

OTHERS PRESENT: (See attached list for 12:30 hearing attendees)

CONSULTING STAFF PRESENT: Nate Dalager and Torin McCormack, HDR Engineering; Erik Jones, HEI Engineering; and Michelle Moren, Attorney

AGENDA: A **motion** was made by Manager Voll to approve the agenda and seconded by Manager James Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: Administrator Halstensgard stated that the Treasurer's Report in the printed packet is updated. She also made note of adding Marco IT services under Old Business and adding the Malung Dam under Projects. A **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Manager Voll and seconded by Manager Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously. Adoption of the Consent Agenda included approving the February 1, 2024, regular meeting minutes as edited, the February 22, 2024, special board meeting minutes, and the manager and employee expense vouchers as read by Manager Braaten. Also included in the Treasurer's Report was the addition of \$2,650 to Moren Law Office and \$8,729.58 to Houston Engineering. The approval also included permit 24-02 (Aaron Olafson.)

OLD BUSINESS: Manager Braaten discussed the investment of funds in the amount of 250K into a CD and the different options available at Citizens State Bank. The board opted to go with the 5 month @ 5.02% option with a possible option to reinvest after 5 months. Manager Braaten stated that he would be going to Citizens State Bank immediately following the meeting to invest the funds. A **motion** was made by Manager Voll and Manager Braaten seconded the motion.

Administrator Halstensgard gave an update on the IT transition stating it was the recommendation of the committee to contract with Marco Technologies. After discussion on the two contracts, one for a tech assessment and support, and one for migration to an O365 platform, Manager Johnson made the **motion** to approve the two contracts with Marco Technologies, seconded by Manager Braaten. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Administrator Halstensgard reported that under One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) grant, there is a 6/30/24 deadline to spend approximately \$55K grant. The steering committee has recommended spending the funds on an updated culvert inventory and reassessment. There is a meeting scheduled for 3/21/24 to visit the plan of action.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Malung Dam: Administrator Halstensgard and Engineer Dalager updated the board on the changes to the design for the Dam removal. A **motion** was made by Manager Braaten, seconded by Chairman Diesen to approve the Spruce Valley Inc. change order to the City of Roseau Dam Site work to include the work at the Malung Dam. Motion carried.

WD 115 Final Hearing: (see attached list for attendance) A **motion** was made by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Voll to open the public hearing. Engineer Dalager discussed the final payment stating the recommendation is to wait to pay the final retainage until the vegetation is established and hold the contractor to any warranty work. Attorney Moren asked Administrator Halstensgard to clarify for the record that notice of the hearing was published in the newspaper. Administrator Halstensgard stated that notice was published in the Roseau Times-Region as well as mailed to the landowners in the WD 115 benefitted area. The final engineer's report is on file. Attorney Moren asked Administrator Halstensgard if any comments had been received in the office. Administrator Halstensgard stated she had received a phone call from Karolyn Eastman asking about the purpose of the hearing. When it was explained the purpose of the meeting was to authorize final payment, Ms. Eastman stated she had no concerns with issuing payment to the contractor. Administrator Halstensgard also stated she had received a written statement from Matt Magnusson and that he had requested she read the statement during the hearing. Administrator Halstensgard proceeded to read the statement into the record. Attorney Moren asked if anyone present had anything to add to the record. Douglas Erickson stated he had issues with the contractor's finishing work. Donald Lee also stated he feels he should have additional side water inlets and the culverts should be extended on the ones that were installed. A **motion** was made by Manager Voll, seconded by Manager Johnson, to close the public hearing. A **motion** was made by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Voll, to review the project and continue the public hearing to May 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Motion carried.

PROJECT UPDATES (continued):

CD 8 Update: Engineer Dalager updated the board on the model completion, and a preliminary meeting with David Dahlgren, Tony Brateng, and Tony Wensloff. The landowners confirmed that the model accurately reflects what they see on the ground. Administrator Halstensgard discussed the clearing and snagging needed on the outlet and coordinating a meeting with the landowners on the outlet. A **motion** was made by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Johnson, to have HDR Engineering move forward with putting together quote material for the outlet and landowner meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator Halstensgard mentioned a presentation at the County by H2O Viewers explaining their viewing process and the products they provide.

Whitney Lake: Administrator Halstensgard stated that a landowner has contacted her about selling the property. The Board discussed options to acquire land and what would happen if the project did not move forward. The board directed Administrator Halstensgard to set up a meeting with the landowner and the land use committee.

SD 69: Administrator Halstensgard updated the Board on a subcommittee that was formed to address the proposed work in SD 69 area of the Juneberry Project area. A meeting has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. March 21st at the RRWD office. This will be scheduled as a Board work

session. The goal of the meeting will be to come to resolution on some of the larger issues and agree to proceed with a funding application to LSOHC.

River Restoration: Manager Braaten spoke about the people at the meeting who were in favor of the project. There was additional discussion of the concerns raised by those who oppose the project. Engineer Jones spoke about his conversations with individuals at the open house. There was good attendance at both the Open House and CAC meeting.

Roseau Lake: There was discussion on the Operating Plan. After review, Manager Voll made a motion to approve payment of Spruce Valley Payment Application #01-06, seconded by Manager Braaten. Motion carried.

Norland Turnaround: The Board reviewed the three quotes received. After discussion, Manager Diesen made a **motion** to hire Halverson Sand and Gravel with the change order for a deeper subcut of peat materials, seconded by Manager Johnson. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

RRWMB: Manager Braaten stated that he will be visiting the DNR headquarters to meet with Matt Bauman during the MN Watersheds Legislative Event in St. Paul.

Technician: Technician Broten discussed quotes for WD 3 Lateral 2 culvert replacement. A **motion** was made by Manager Voll, seconded by Manager Braaten, to approve the quote from Beito Repair and replace the driveway culvert with an aluminized arch pipe. Motion carried. Technician Broten updated the board on the attempt to burn the SD 51 cutoff brush pile and recommended hiring R&Q Trucking to remove the remaining debris. A **motion** was made by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Voll, to hire R & Q Trucking to remove the debris pile. Motion carried.

The online permit application is available to the public.

Administrator: A landowner has contacted the office and Manager Braaten about potential projects on Bear Creek. The Roseau River Joint Powers Board (RRJPB) will review the area for potential water quality projects.

March 14th at 10:00 a.m. to RRIW will be meeting in Gardenton. Engineer Jones will be presenting on the River Restoration project. We will also be presenting on the dam projects. There is also a Juneberry Project Team scheduled for the 14th at 2 p.m. Administrator Halstengard discussed the \$18,000 committed to the Project Team and the need for the board to approve payment to the County as the fiscal agent.

The Board reviewed a contract from HDR for smaller task items. A **motion** by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Voll, to approve the contract. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be held April 4th at 8:00 a.m. After a **motion** by Manager Braaten, seconded by Manager Voll, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laverne Voll, Secretary



Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator

Comments on Roseau River Watershed Ditch #115

I am strongly opposed to the assessments to the ditch 115 "benefited area". After the original assessment it was determined that the costs outweighed the benefits. The project should have stopped there!

Why is it that certain lands were able to be brought in to the drainage area and reevaluated after the initial assessment, but lands already in the area were not reevaluated when there was clearly a need to be reassessed? Land that the petitioners' farm, has major flooding issues, while others have no issues. How can it be that the land with all the water problems get assessed the same amount as land that has no issues with water problems?

Two board members assured me that the project would not go through because of its excessive costs @\$400/acre. My assessment with interest for 20 years will be \$580/acre or (\$386/month) or (\$29/acre/year) or (\$92675.18 total) for 20 years. This is a ridiculous amount to be paid for not receiving any actual benefits! When the interest is added to the dollars of "benefits" over the payoff period, the costs must once again outweigh any possible benefit amounts.

Having to almost rebuy your farmland (because of these assessments), so others can raise the productivity on their property should be considered stealing.

None of these viewers have ever gave any logical explanation to how these lands were assessed, nor has anyone else!

Matt Magnusson

March 2024 Bills & Receipts

Checkbook Balance as of February 22, 2024	\$1,003,332.83
Receipts:	
Citizens State Bank -- interest 2-19-23	\$ 318.44
State of Minnesota -- Roseau Lake reimbursement; LSOHC PR #4	\$ 350,694.40
Total:	\$ 351,012.84
Bills:	
Tracy Halstengard -- Salary, Ins stipend & cell reimbursement	\$ 5,796.23
Blaine Broten -- Salary, Ins stipend & cell reimbursement	\$ 3,087.92
Tawni Wensloff -- Wages	\$ 2,371.62
Jason Braaten -- per diem & mileage	\$ 390.53
Carter Diesen -- per diem & mileage	\$ 136.88
Tracy Halstengard -- mileage	\$ 369.84
James Johnson -- per diem & mileage	\$ 283.01
LaVerne Voll -- per diem & mileage	\$ 394.55
Elan Financial Services -- credit card	\$ 2,163.29
City Of Roseau -- utilities	\$ 186.07
Marco -- Copier agreement & service	\$ 173.63
Patrick Moren Law Office -- Legal Fees	\$ 2,650.00
Roseau Times Region -- Meeting Notice	\$ 382.50
Roseau Electric Co-op -- Int/phone --	\$ 126.74
Northern Resources Cooperative -- gas for vehicle	\$ 57.62
Verizon Wireless -- Trimble	\$ 40.01
Minnesota Energy Resources -- natural gas bill	\$ 259.93
SuperOne Foods -- supplies & meeting expense	\$ 218.68
Sjoberg Cable TV -- email service	\$ 6.00
Houston Engineering -- Inv # 69389, 69587, & 69601	\$ 26,039.43
Marco -- Inv 12155680 system assesment	\$ 9,500.00
North Pine Services -- snow removal	\$ 672.00
Spruce Valley Corporation -- Payment application 01-06	\$ 191,387.00
HDR -- Inv #1200595003 & #1200595004	\$ 1,178.00
HDR -- Inv #1200595005 & #1200595007	\$ 12,153.45
HDR -- Inv #1200595011, #1200595018, & #1200595019	\$ 1,311.70
Minnesota Energy Resources -- natural gas bill	\$ 13.21
Total:	\$261,349.84

2-29-24

RRWD WD 115 • Final Hearing •
Meeting

— Sign In —

Emmet Zee

Donald Sel

Lawrence E. Eickman

Derek Edouard