



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2021

Attendance: Board: Buysse, Dritz, Briggs, Kamrath, Volstad
Staff: Overholser, Timm
Public: Gary Crowley, Gary Laleman, Patrick Flowers (Excel), Kyle

Call to Order

- 1.1 Set Agenda – **Briggs moved to approved the agenda. Volstad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 1.2 April Regular Meeting Minutes – **Volstad moved to approved the minutes. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 1.3 Treasurer's Report – Overholser gave the report. **Briggs moved to approved the report. Volstad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Permits to Approve

- 2.1 Tom Oftedahl 2020-024 – Oftedahl is putting in an 18" pipe with a less than 1% slope, this pipe will not exceed the ½" drainage coefficient. A discussion was had to adding the condition that the pump is not ran when the river is in flood stage. Ultimately the board would like to look at making this a condition in the rules so that every pump would have the same condition. **Buysse moved to approved the permit with the condition that the lift pump is not run when the river is in the top 10% flood stage. Dritz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 2.2 Ed Laleman 2021-042– Downstream landowners expressed concern over this project being done. The project would connect into existing tile on their land and they are worried about any increased water going through the system, but there is not indication that the current system is not able to handle the increase. The board looked at the proposed additions and felt that the outlet is adequate and there is not reason to deny the permit.

Ed Laleman 2021-046 – Overholser wanted the Board to look at the permit to make the approval or denial. Laleman received the signatures of the affected landowners. There were questions to if the Doom land would be considered an impacted property or not. After reviewing the permit application, LIDAR data and arial photos, it was concluded that the project should not affect the Doods to the south. A private ditch has been constructed at one point to route overland flow around the Doods.

Kamrath moved to approved the permits. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment and Reports

- 3.1 Public Comment – None
- 3.2 Manager Reports – Dritz gave a MAWD update
- 3.3 Administrator's Report – Overholser gave an update on the Audit, WRAPs, and daily business activities
- 3.4 Tech Report – Timm gave an update on permits and WRAPs

Old Business

- 4.1 Ag Impact Mitigation – Tabled

The goals of the Yellow Medicine Watershed Partners are to: (1) mitigate altered hydrology and work to reduce the potential for flooding; (2) minimize the transport of excess nutrients, sediment, and bacteria into our surface waters; and (3) preserve and protect groundwater quantity and quality.

New Business

- 5.1 Hearing for Blazing Star 2 9:30 – Patrick Flowers from Excel was present. Mr. Dritz removed himself from the table and was not part of any board discussions or voting as he was present as an impacted landowner and not as a Watershed Board Member.

Mr. Dritz brought a complaint that Excel was not meeting the permit conditions of repairing the tile lines within 72 hours of being reported. Mr. Dritz was also concerned by the quality of the repairs and the fact that a locator has not been used during repairs, just trenching.

Mr. Flowers recognizes that it has been difficult to meet the 72-hour time frame and that they can't get their contractor here that quickly. They have been unable to find a local contractor. Excel is willing to come up with a plan that will strengthen the repair work, allow landowners to approve repairs and set a feasible timeline for completing the work.

The watershed district will prepare a list of specifications to repairs that they would like to see included in that document. And will review the draft.

- 5.2 Biennial Summit (Food and Location) - Overholser was asking for recommendations on where we should hold the meeting and ideas to contact for catering.
- 5.3 Trees in River – It's been brought to the District that there are trees down in places in the river. An upstream landowner complained and was wondering what the district can do. There is nothing in Statute that allows the District or DNR to require someone to remove naturally sluffing debris/trees. The Board doesn't make it a policy to pay for or cost-share the removal of trees unless it impacts infrastructure. This will be considered on a case-to-case basis.
- 5.4 2019 Audit Letter – Auditor needed the commitment letter signed. Tim Dritz signed on behalf of the board.
- 5.5 2018/2019 WBIF mid Grant Reconciliation – The District went through a Reconciliation on the grant. There were a few training opportunities found regarding tracking time and ensure that all the documentation is clear. There was a noncompliant warning for not filling in a % number on two contracts. Actions will be taken to correct these oversights in the future.

YM1W1P Cost-Share Contracts

- 6.1 Steve Vizecky – Hendricks 13 - \$8,280
Briggs moved to approve the contract. Volstad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

YM1W1P Payments

- 6.2 Mark Sylt - \$12,807
Kamrath moved to approve the payment. Volstad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Dates to Note:

Regular Meeting July 19th 9:00 a.m.