

**Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District
Ruby Rupner Center – Hormel Nature Center
Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

Managers Present: Dan Regner Al Layman
Mike Jones Steve Kraushaar
Harlan Peck Jim Gebhardt

Others Present: Bev Nordby, Administrator
Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD
Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD

Members of Public Present: Mary Lou Stursa, Charlie Peterson, Sara Sayles, Mark Owens, Marian Clennon,
Tom Oots, Tim Ruzek, Lon Baldus

President Steve Kraushaar called the board meeting to order.

Agenda

Regner made a motion to approve the agenda. Layman seconded it.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Kraushaar, Peck and Regner, Gebhardt

Opposed: None

Public Input

There was no public input.

Action Items

Election of Officers

Bev Nordby opened the floor for nomination of officers.

Kraushaar nominated Peck for President and was seconded by Regner. Nordby called two additional times for nominations.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Layman, Jones, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Regner nominated Layman for Vice President and was seconded by Gebhardt. After one call for nominations, Kraushaar made motion to cease nominations.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Peck then called for a vote on the previous motion to nominate Layman for Vice President.

Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Layman nominated Gebhardt for Secretary and was seconded by Kraushaar.

Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Peck nominated Jones for Treasurer and was seconded by Kraushaar

Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Action Items

Legal Paper

Bev Nordby explained to the board that they need to designate a Legal Paper for noticing. The board discussed the value in having both local papers notice the meetings. Nordby will communicate that both papers will be used. However, there needed to be one paper designated. Motion made by Layman to designate the Austin Daily Herald as the District's Legal Paper. Seconded by Kraushaar.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Secretary's Report

Layman presented the minutes. A suggestion was made by Livingston to change wording in under the heading of "MAWD Annual Meeting" from "is" to "on." Jones made a motion to approve the minutes with that change and was seconded by Peck.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Treasurer's Report

Jones reviewed the Treasurer's report for January. Jones noted that the District does not receive the full amount of funds that the Levy is for. Discussion shifted to MCIT insurance. Board expressed concern with the rates and need for workmans compensation. Bev suggested that board table the MCIT Insurance payment for one month, so it can be further reviewed and alternatives can be investigated. Jones called for the subject to be tabled and then offered to forward insurance information that he is familiar with as a Blooming Prairie Administrator.

Layman made a motion and was seconded by Gebhardt to approve the treasurer's report, with the MCIT insurance tabled.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Kraushaar, Gebhardt, Peck and Regner

Opposed: None

Jones reviewed the payables with the board. Kraushaar made a motion and was seconded by Layman to approve the payables for January, with the exception of Insurance.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Jones discussed the bid from Larson Allen to complete the 2009 Audit. He informed the board that the estimate they provided was very reasonable and made a motion to accept the bid of Larson Allen for \$2,300 to complete the 2009 audit. Motion was seconded by Gebhardt

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Motion made by Kraushaar to designate US Bank as the District Bank of depository. Motion seconded by Regner.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Jones asked Bev to provide to investigate area banks for money market savings rates.

Cost-Share Committee

Staff requested that the board consider a Cost-Share committee to provide input on the development of the new Cost-Share program.

Peck suggested Kraushaar as a member and asked the board for other volunteers. Layman and Gebhardt volunteered to serve on the committee. The committee will meet prior to the next meeting. If a plan can be in place before the February meeting, a workshop may be planned with the entire board. This workshop will likely be scheduled for the day of the regular February board meeting.

Petition to Withdraw Area from Watershed

Steve Penkava discussed the circumstances of the petition and provided an overview. He commented that the land is very flat and that the watershed is not definitively defined. The land may drain a different way, depending on the land use and tillage. The petitioner, Lon Baldus, addressed the board on this issue. He stated that the land drains into the "Murphy System". Baldus also stated that the water flows differently, depending on the direction in which it is cropped. The property in question is located in NE/SE ¼ of Township- 101N, Range-17W, Section 4.

Motion made by Regner not to contest the petition by Mr. Baldus and move forward with the process to remove the land in question from the Cedar River Watershed District. Motion seconded by Kraushaar.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Jones thanked Mr. Baldus for coming in and utilizing the petition process to accurately determine the legal status of his property as it relates to the CRWD.

Other Discussion Topics

Layman shared an article he read in the Rochester Post Bulletin. The article focused on Rain Gardens and how the City of Rochester hosts classes and provides funding grants to build rain gardens. He suggested that we consider the way Rochester does their program as the CRWD develops its own program.

Cost-Share Program

Justin discussed the Cost-Share program. A draft version of the program was provided to the board and Justin highlighted some of the programs and gave an overview of the material submitted in the board packet. The District has a unique opportunity to provide assistance to priority areas and needs that are not being met through current programs. Often times this will mean making small adjustments to existing practices, expanding eligibility and providing financial assistance to accelerate a targeted initiative.

2010 Work Plan

Bev went over the work plan for the upcoming year. The board did not provide any additions or suggestions for subtractions.

Tree Removal

Bev reported on the Royal Manor tree issues that were brought to the attention of the board at last month's meeting. Since that time, Bev met with the County to go over pictures and maps outlining the problem areas. The board expressed concern over starting a tree removal program, because of the citizen outcry that would likely result. The board recognized that the need is far greater than the resources available.

Rain Garden

Regner provided preliminary plans for the rain garden project on 4th St and 18th Ave. The county is planning to do some sort of project as part of the road work they are doing there. However, it would be an opportunity for the Watershed District to get involved in a good water quality project in a visible area. Dan suggested that the district could provide plants or other resources. He is currently awaiting a cost-estimate for the plants.

Motion by Jones to financially support the County's rain garden project for plant materials.
Motion seconded by Layman.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Policy Discussion

Bev initiated a discussion on the need and desire of having a district policy handbook. There have been circumstances where decisions need to be made in a timely manner and it is not practical to convene the entire board for one issue. A policy would provide guidance and latitude for which the district can administer the district on a day to day basis. Board recognized value having organized policy records and allowing the administrator latitude for day to day operations. No action was deemed necessary at this time.

Rules Update

Bev gave an update on the Rules committee meetings. The technical and advisory committee's have been and will be meeting on a regular basis, to expedite the process and keep things moving. She suggested that the first week in April may be a time to have an open house and talk about the progress and suggestions that the committees will have for the managers.

Al Kording

Mary Lou Stursa addressed the board and informed them that Al Kording would likely be unable to attend any further meetings. Al has recently been challenged with medical issues. She said that Al's position on this board was very important to him. The Cedar River Watershed Board and staff recognize Al's dedication to the board and his role in shaping the vision of the district as it is now and for many years in the future. Al is the first representative from Dodge County and executes that responsibility with great fervor and zeal. He actively sought input from his constituents and effectively provides a voice for them on the board. The board and staff wish Al the best in this trying time and offer their appreciation for his commitment and service to the district.

Motion made by Jones to adjourn meeting and seconded by Regner.

Affirmative: Layman, Jones, Regner, Peck, Gebhardt and Kraushaar

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17th 2010.

Submitted by,

Jim Gebhardt, Secretary, jth