

**Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District
Ruby Rupner Center – Hormel Nature Center
March 19, 2008**

President Regner called the monthly meeting for the CRWD to order.

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

Members Absent: Harlan Peck

Others Present: Bev Nordby, Administrator
 Steve Penkava, Engineer
 Justin Hanson & Matt Taylor, Mower SWCD
 Dave Livingston, Advisory Committee

Gebhardt made a motion and was seconded by Layman to approve the agenda.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Public Input

Regner asked if the public had any comments or concerns. None was given.

Action Items

Secretary's Report

Kraushaar presented the February board minutes. Kording made a motion to approve the February minutes. Gebhardt seconded it.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Treasurer's Report

Jones presented the Treasurer's report for March that included payables and finance information.

Regner made a motion to approve and was seconded by Kording.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Move Meeting Location

Due to the high demand for the commissioners room at the Courthouse, the board opted to seek out another location for their monthly meetings. Bev made a formal request to the Park and Recreation Board for the City of Austin for the Ruby Rupner Auditorium at the JC Hormel Nature Center. They approved the request with a \$600.00 a year cost to offset utilities cost. Jones made a motion to approve the official monthly meeting place at the Ruby Rupner Auditorium and was seconded by Layman. The board discussed the benefit and the excellent location that the facility had to offer.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant

Nordby explained this opportunity for a grant. This grant is funded through the Clean Water Legacy through BWSR. 3 to 4 watersheds in the state will be selected to implement feasible and practical practices to restore water quality in a small watershed. The grant is in three phases with the first being submitting a proposal. Dobbins Creek Watershed with the existing data rises to the top as the subwatershed to apply for. Barr Engineering has offered to write the first phase at no charge. Kraushaar made a motion and was seconded by Jones to submit a proposal to BWSR working with the Barr Engineering staff.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Loan Request

Jones talked about the WD funding level and the challenge to spread the dollars out until we receive the levy funds. Nordby talked about the willingness of the SWCD to loan dollars to the CRWD. The board directed Nordby to draft a note similar to the County's loan for the next meeting.

Printer

Nordby stated that the SWCDs printers are not economically practicable to print the volume the CRWD needs for educational materials. Regner made a motion to purchase a laser color printer and was seconded by Jones. The board also directed Nordby to look at extended warranty if the price wasn't too high.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Discussion and Updates

Boundary Update – Table for next meeting. Steve Penkava was unable to attend.

Insurance

The board received two bids for insurance, one from MCIT and the other from John Hoffman. Jones made a motion to purchase insurance through MCIT at \$2400.00.

A resolution is requested from MCIT affirming that officials are covered for workers compensation purposes. Jones made a motion and was seconded by Regner to approve the following resolution:

The Board of Managers for the Cedar River Watershed District does hereby resolve that pursuant to the requirements of Minn. Stat. 176.011 subd.9(6), that all officers of the Cedar River Watershed District who are appointed to a regular term of office, or to complete the unexpired portion of a regular term, shall be included within the definition of "employee" as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. 176.011, subd. 9 for purposes of coverage under the Workers Compensation Laws of the State of Minnesota.

Legislative Day at the Capitol

Layman gave a report on attending Day at the Capitol. He discussed the 3 million dollars in RIM money earmarked for the Cedar River and Turtle Creek Watersheds. A joint meeting after the legislative session between the CRWD, City of Austin and County Commissioners with the legislators would be beneficial in working together for joint funding instead of competing for funds. Layman also talked about the public access/landing that is proposed at the Ramsey Mill Dam.

Brochure

Nordby talked about the need for a well put together brochure. She asked ideas from the Managers and Kraushaar brought up the need for a mission statement. Nordby will bring a draft brochure to the next meeting. Livingston stated that the Dodge SWCD went through this process and it was well worth it. Nordby will contact Extension staff that will facilitate a meeting to come up with a CRWD mission statement.

PAG & Planning Discussion

The board discussed the next PAG meeting on the 24th of March.

Manager's Report

President's Report

Regner talked about how the highway department will be assisting staff to install rain gauges along the Cedar and its tributaries.

He informed the board of an excellent EPA website educating people on watershed management.

Regner also discussed the possibility for a rain garden demonstration. Livingston had stated that there could be funding at the RC&D level.

Others

Kraushaar talked about the reappointment of managers that is coming up next month. Regner stated that the Mower County had requested to come to the Board of Commissioners with an update. Nordby will work on making appointments in all 4 Counties and provide a handout of the work the CRWD has done since it has been established.

Gebhardt talked about the Feedlot meeting that was sponsored by the all three WD, SWCDs and Counties. It was well attended and very informative.

Regner made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Kording.

Affirmative: Regner, Gebhardt, Kording, Layman, Kraushaar, Jones

Opposed: None

Submitted by

Steve Kraushaar, Secretary