

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Managers of Buffalo Creek Watershed District met on the 28th day of June, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., for its regular monthly business meeting.

The following managers were present: Don Belter
Chad Stuewe
Kevin Lindeman
Larry Kramer
Matt Melberg

The following managers were absent/excused: n/a

Also attending the meeting were: John Kolb, Attorney
Larry Phillips
John Mathwig
Randy Kramer, Renville County

President Belter called the meeting to order and announced the first order of business was the consideration of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Managers held on May 24, 2022. Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Lindeman to approve the minutes. After discussion, the Board of Managers, by unanimous vote, approved the minutes for the meeting held on May 24, 2022.

President Belter then called for review of the Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer, Manager Stuewe and Larry Phillips presented a written report which outlined income and expenses as follows:

Security Bank & Trust Co.	
Money Market Checking Account -	
Beginning Balance:	\$370,054.15
Income:	
Interest earned thru May 2022	\$65.03
Deposit from the City of Glencoe	\$20,071.57
Expenses:	
To checking to cover other checks issued	\$16,612.04
Rinke Noonan – JD 8, Laterals 12 & 13	\$2,628.00
Ending Balance:	\$370,950.71
Balance in Security Bank Now Account	\$1,008.93

Balance in Security Bank Savings Account - Projects \$461.79

Total for all bank accounts: \$372,421.43

Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Melberg to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. After discussion, and by unanimous vote, the Board of Managers approved the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

President Belter next called for the bills that had been presented to the Board since the last meeting. Larry Phillips reported as follows:

F.W. Hosting – Annual hosting service and domain name	\$378.10
Rinke Noonan – Various	\$2,207.50
Bolton & Menk – JD 15, Br. Q	\$8,237.00
Houston Engineering, Inc. – JD 8, Laterals 12 & 13	\$5,640.00
Larry Kunkel – Two beavers trapped at \$50 each	\$100.00
Peterson Company Ltd – 2021 annual audit	\$3,096.00
Larry Phillips – Permit Consultant (monthly fee & mileage over 50 miles)	\$1,013.80
Mary Henke – Monthly fee & permit viewer work	\$475.00
Linda Phillips – Monthly fee & mileage to Peterson Company Ltd for audit	\$472.96
Don Belter	\$77.55
Larry Kramer	\$113.72
Kevin Lindeman	\$82.13
Matt Melberg	\$112.55
Chad Stuewe	\$72.77
Total:	\$22,079.08

Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Melberg to approve the bills for payment. After discussion, and by unanimous vote, the Board of Managers approved the above bills for payment.

President Belter called any new permits:

No new permits were reported.

President Belter next called for public discussion:

No public discussion was offered.

President Belter next called for discussion of old business:

Laterals 12 & 13 of McLeod/Sibley Judicial Ditch & Improvement. Attorney Kolb provided an update. The Board is still waiting on the engineer report and viewing.

One Watershed, One Plan. Manager Melberg provided an update on the plan kickoff meeting. Melberg's impression was that the meeting was poorly attended and poorly presented/conducted. Melberg described the process of public input by placing "dots" on issue items. Renville County Commissioner Randy Kramer provided additional input. The concern being that an improper balancing or no balancing will occur between agriculture, economics, and ecological considerations.

Houston Engineering Projects. Manager Melberg provided an update on Branch M, JD 15. Melberg expressed concerns about the quality of construction supervision and observations. There were various issues with existing tile alignment and coordination between construction observers and project engineers. Melberg recommends an alternative process of construction observations coordinated with Larry Phillips, Seth Sparks, and the project engineer and eliminating the daily construction observers. The Board approved the alternative process. Phillips and Melberg further discussed a current bill from Houston including substantial engineering. The Board's guidance to Phillips is to hold the bill and discuss the bill with the project engineer to gather more details and explanation of the detail of the work performed. The bill will be held until the next meeting.

JD 15, Branch Q, JD 15 Improvement. Attorney Kolb updated the Board on the preparation of the final engineer report and initiation of work of the appointed viewers for the improvement.

JD 15 Branch Improvements. Manager Melberg and Larry Phillips both reported that Coreman and Litzau are both doing a great job with the drainage system improvements. Melberg reported on the contractor encountering a sand vein under the RR tracks. Litzau is recommending a small realignment and an alternative installation technique.

Manager Melberg reported on discussions with the successful bidder on the gravel pit purchase regarding a co-use of the pit with water storage. The owner is considering it but is concerned about how much bounce would occur within a storage area. The Board authorized further discussions and coordination with the engineers to determine water level issues. Melberg inquired of Commissioner Kramer regarding previously discussed County participation in storage projects. Kramer indicated that the funding, if any, will have to be approved by the County Board.

President Belter next called new business:

Financial Audit. The Board reviewed and discussed the audit report. Attorney Kolb explained that the report is clean, meaning there are no significant comments or observations and the books balance. Motion by Manager Lindeman seconded by Manager Melberg to accept the audit report and the audited financial condition of the District for FY 2021. After discussion, and by unanimous vote, the Board of Managers accepted the audit report.

Mileage Rate Increase. Larry Phillips reported on an increase of the federal mileage rate becoming effective on July 1, 2022.

President Belter next called for Manager/Staff reports:

Larry Phillips reported on continued discussions with Randal Thallman regarding an alternative drainage plan on his property. Thallman asked for further discussions with Phillips to determine whether Thallman can access his existing system at an alternative location. It was determined that an alternative existed that would not require a permit.

Larry Phillips updated the Board on a request for funds to address a washout in Section 4 of Melville Township. No action taken.

Larry Phillips updated the Board and provided a map of the area related to the ditch and potential pond north of Glencoe.

John Mathwig appeared and addressed the Board. Mathwig lives west of Glencoe off of 115th St. near the Marsh project ditch. Mathwig discussed a pond he dug many years ago. He described his neighbor discing a waterway shut and then reopening it. The activity is impacting Mathwig's property. When the neighbor excavated, he exposed an old (concrete) @6" tile. The tile appears to be draining overflow from his pond and would like it and the waterway documented as a valid installation. Mathwig discussed this with the McLeod LGU representative Telecky but without any outcome. The Board directed Larry Phillips to meet with Ryan Freitag regarding a possibility of documenting conditions.

Commissioner Kramer provided an update on activities in the drainage work group and encouraged the Board to engage on drainage issues being discussed in the drainage workgroup.

The Board authorized Larry Phillips to engage with contractors regarding mowing and spraying of projects within the District to manage weeds and tree regrowth.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board of Managers adjourned the meeting until the next regular meeting of the Board of Managers on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in person, in the Board's meeting room in the Glencoe City Center.

Matt Melberg, Secretary