

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 March, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., for its regular monthly business meeting.

The following managers were present:

Larry Kramer
Chad Stuewe
Don Belter
Matt Melberg
Kevin Lindeman

The following managers were absent/excused:

Also attending the meeting were:

John Kolb, Attorney
Larry Phillips
Lisa Odens, HEI
Fred Muelleners
Fern Albers
Gary Albers

Doug Krueger, McLeod County
Joel Cohrs
Darrell Luthens
Justin Luthens

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 February 28, 2023. Motion by Manager Melberg seconded by Manager Lindeman to approve the minutes for the meeting held on February 28, 2023.

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

February Financials:

3/28/2023		Bills approved to be paid	
Larry Phillips - Permit Consultant	\$ 850.00		
mileage-45 miles	\$ 29.47	\$	879.47
Mary Henke - Permit Viewer - 6.50 hrs @ \$25 per hr	\$ 162.50		
Mary Henke - Monthly Service Fee	\$ 350.00	\$	512.50
Linda Phillips - Monthly Service Fee	\$ 425.00		
Houston Eng. General Eng Services	\$ 4,126.00		
ECM Publishers, Inc - JD 15 Br Q	\$ 117.45		
Bolton & Menk - JD 15 Br Q	\$ 4,391.00		
Steve Johnson - Viewer - JD 15 Br Q	\$ 2,510.87		
Mike Karg- 13 beaver trapped @ \$50 ea.	\$ 650.00		
League of MN Cities- Workers Comp Insurance premium	\$ 200.00		
Rinke Noonan - JD 15 Br Q	\$ 3,246.75		
Rinke Noonan - 1W1P	\$ 395.00		
Rinke Noonan - General Administrative Advice	\$ 630.00		
Rinke Noonan - Retainer Fee	\$ 750.00	\$	5,021.75
SUBTOTAL		\$	18,834.04 ***
Board Managers			
Don Belter \$ 75.00 - 5.74 = 69.26 + 9.27 = 78.53	\$		78.53
Chad Stuewe \$ 75.00 - 5.74 = 69.26 + 3.93 = 73.19	\$		73.19
Larry Kramer \$ 75.00 - 5.74 = 69.26 + 49.78 = 119.04	\$		119.04
Matt Melberg \$ 75.00 - 5.74 = 69.26 + 33.40 = 102.66	\$		102.66
Kevin Lindeman \$ 75.00 - 5.74 = 69.26 + 14.41 = 83.67	\$		83.67
	\$		457.09 ***
		\$	19,291.13 *****

Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Lindeman 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:

Permit 2023-03, Cobalt Storage Solutions: Section 31, Township 115 North, Range 29 West, Sumter Township, McLeod County.

Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Lindeman to consider. After discussion, and by unanimous vote, the Board of Managers approved the consideration of the permit.

Larry Phillips presented the permit application details. The Cobalt Storage Solutions project includes constructing a retention area and stormwater management for commercial site development. The application has been reviewed by the Board's engineer. Phillips recommends approval with a condition that an as-built drawing be filed for the permit folder when construction is complete.

Motion by Manager Kramer seconded by Manager Melberg to approve the permit with the condition recommended. After discussion, and by unanimous vote, the Board of Managers approved the permit.

President Belter next called for discussion of old business:

One Watershed, One Plan. Melberg reported on the last meeting of the planning committee. The committee believes the process may be completed by summer 2024. The committee is working on measurable goals for drainage partnerships. The committee also discussed plan implementation and the engagement of the plan coordinator. Phillips updated the Board on a meeting of the technical committee.

Bid opening/contract award for Br. Q, JD 15 Improvement. Kolb reported to the Board about the schedule for bid opening (April 11) and suggested earliest date for a contract award (April 13). The Board consulted its calendar. April 13, 0900, Glencoe. Motion by Melberg, seconded by Kramer to call a special meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the Board's regular meeting location to consider the bids and award a contract. Passes unanimously.

Bid advertisement for JD 8, Branches 12 and 13 Improvement. Odens presented the plan for construction and for inspection of the pipe in advance of construction. The current plan, because of timing, does not include televising. Manager Melberg strongly recommended televising before construction starts. Phillips reported that the County previously attempted to televise but was not able to access much of the system. The televising is required to document connection locations. Odens stated that it would be possible to camera before initiating construction. Motion by Managers Melberg, Seconded by Manager Stuewe to authorize the advertisement of bids and allow the President to execute the advertisement documents. Passes unanimously.

President Belter next called new business:

Buffer reminder letter. Phillips reviewed the draft letter to landowners regarding buffer compliance.

President Belter next called Manager/staff reports:

Channel maintenance/tree removal: Phillips reported about Ed Picha's availability to perform some channel maintenance near the City of Glencoe. The work would be performed under the Board's existing approval of channel maintenance and be paid from the channel maintenance fund.

Tabled Permit 2022-7 Update: Phillips reported that Renville County has changed its timeline related to the tile project and its connection to the public system. There remains some issues with adjacent landowner easement issues.

Commissioner Krueger reported on working with City of Plato on stormwater management issues and asked if Phillips can participate in some of the discussions as they related to water management within the District.

Melberg reported on continued deterioration of Buffalo Creek and the impact on a public road in Collins Township. Kolb updated the Board on the District's obligations, or lack thereof, related to the condition of the creek bank and the Township's road.

Phillips reported on a wetland restoration. The District's engineer is reviewing to determine whether a permit is required and what rule requirements might apply.

Phillips reported on several anticipated permits.

Phillips reported on correspondence from Minnesota Watersheds. Melberg recommended waiting a year to see how the organization has changed. The Board took no further action.

Phillips reported the continued work on the Branch P, JD 15 improvement.

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, April 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in person, in the Board's meeting room in the Glencoe City Center.

Matt Melberg, Secretary