

Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District
1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN 55912
Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Managers Present: Jim Gebhardt Mike Merten
 Kevin Kiser Sue Olson
 Jason Weis

Others Present: Bev Nordby, Administrator
 Jeanne Crump, Mower SWCD
 Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD
 James Fett, Mower SWCD
 Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD Supervisor
 Adam King, Dodge SWCD
 Nels Rasmussen, City of Austin Water Quality Specialist
 Jeanine Vorland, MN DNR

Chairman, Jason Weis called the board meeting to order.

Agenda

Gebhardt made a motion to approve the August agenda. Olson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Public Input

None

Action Items

Secretary's Report

Merten presented the minutes from the July 15, 2015 board meeting. Dave Livingston needs to be added to the Others Present section of the July minutes. Weis made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the July 15 board meeting. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

2014 Audit

The board received the 2014 Audit that was completed by CliftonLarsonAllen. The board held discussion. The total cost of the Audit was \$2600.00. Olson made a motion to approve the 2014 Audit. Kiser seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Vision 2020/Hormel Foundation

Hanson updated the board on the approval of the Vision 2020/Hormel Foundation funding. There will be a total of \$3,000,000 project funds and \$272,003 for staff from the Hormel Foundation over a 5 year period. There will be matching funds from CRWD and the State of MN through CWF dollars.

DNR Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Application

Hanson explained the grant application. This is a habitat project grant for \$150,000 through DNR Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) funding. The CRWD would be responsible for a \$15,000 match for staffing. Merten made a motion to approve the \$150,000 CPL grant application with a \$15,000 match. Weis seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Weis

Opposed: None

Abstained: Olson

Clean Water Fund Application

Hanson and Fett informed the board of the CWF application that they are working on. The application is for a total of \$650,000 with a 25% match, which will come from the Hormel Foundation funding. Kiser made a motion to approve the CWF application with the 25% match from the Hormel Foundation fund. Merten seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Treasurer's Report

Nordby reviewed the Treasurer's reports and the Payables with the board. Olson made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports and the payables for August. Weis seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Public Hearing for Levy

Weis adjourned the board meeting and opened up the public hearing for the 2016 Levy.

Nordby went through the 2016 proposed budget and talked about the 2016 Levy. The board held discussion on the budget and keeping the \$250,000 Administrative Levy.

No public input.

Weis closed the hearing and re-opened the board meeting.

Set Proposed Levy

Weis made a motion to keep the 2016 Administrative Levy the same as 2015 at \$250,000. Olson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Discussion and Updates

Permit Update

Fett updated the board on permits.

Ramsey

Hanson talked with the board about the Ramsey Dam and its ownership. Hormel owns the dam and is looking at letting go of that ownership. Hormel is looking to the City of Austin and CRWD for possibilities. Hanson explained that this is just in the early stages and will bring further information to the board when it becomes available. The board held discussion.

Manager's Reports

Manager's Report

Olson- talked about the informational signs that were placed along the Cedar River in Iowa.
Talked about other options for signage in the Cedar River Watershed in Minnesota.

Merten-thanked staff for work with the Hormel Foundation grant.

Livingston talked about Lynn Schmeling, a CRWD CRP Incentive landowner, being nominated for Dodge County Outstanding Conservationist.

Kiser made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Olson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

Submitted by,

Mike Merten, Secretary, jkc