

# Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District

1408 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NW, Austin, MN 55912

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Hybrid meeting held at the Austin office, along with remotely via Zoom video

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

Others Present: Justin Hanson, Administrator  
Tim Ruzek, Mower SWCD  
James Fett, Mower SWCD  
Cody Fox, Mower SWCD-via Zoom  
Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD  
Guy Kohlhofer, Dodge County engineer  
Jensen Bigelow, Mower SWCD GreenCorps member

Chairman Weis called the board meeting to order.

## Agenda

Kiser made a motion to approve the November agenda. Weis seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

## Public Input

No public input.

## Secretary's Report

The minutes were presented to the board from the October 20, 2021, board meeting. Jones made a motion to approve the October 20 meeting minutes. Weis seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

## Treasurer's Report

The board reviewed the Treasurer's report for November. Weis made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Kraushaar seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

The payables were reviewed with the board. Merten made a motion to approve the payables for November. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

## Action Items

### Dodge County Permit

Hanson discussed plans for a culvert replacement in Dodge County. CRWD's engineers suggested more analysis, H&H modeling, to determine any negative effects on downstream flow. Board discussed the matter, with some saying there was enough information, and that further analysis would be unnecessary and costly. Olson made a motion to approve the permit without requiring H&H modeling. Merten seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

## **Partners Reports**

### **Mower County ditch**

Fett discussed a citizen's concerns with a ditch in Mower County. He will talk to the ditch's landowner.

### **Dodge SWCD, Dave Livingston**

Livingston complimented the board on its handling of the Dodge County culvert replacement.

### **Joint meeting CRWD and Mower SWCD**

Hanson said a joint CRWD-Mower SWCD meeting with dinner is set for Dec. 15 in Austin (site to be determined). SWCD's monthly board meeting will be 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. followed by the joint SWCD-CRWD meeting from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. CRWD's Board of Managers will have its monthly meeting from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## **Discussion and Updates**

### **Canoemobile Summary**

Ruzek showed a video he created on the week-long session of Canoemobile in September on the Cedar River State Water Trail at Ramsey Mill Pond. More than 1,100 students in 5th-8th grades paddled the Cedar with Wilderness Inquiry staff. Schools included Austin, Pacelli, Blooming Prairie, Lyle, Southland, Grand Meadow, LeRoy-Ostrander and Sacred Heart. Hayfield was invited but opted to wait for the May session.

### **House Bonding Committee**

Hanson discussed CRWD's presentation Nov. 9 to the Minnesota House's legislative bonding committee at Riverland Community College in Austin. Hanson and Merten spoke to legislators about CRWD's request for \$350,000 for upland-storage projects through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### **Hormel Foundation and Cost/Benefits**

Hanson updated the board on CRWD's funding request to The Hormel Foundation for constructing additional upland-storage structures in the Dobbins Creek Watershed.

### **PCA Designations**

In relation to recent news about "new" impaired waters, Hanson told the board that nothing has worsened in the watershed. Better information has led to the identification of more impaired waters by the state.

## **Manager's Reports**

Jones gave an update to the board.

Merten made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Jones seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Kraushaar, Jones, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Weis

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Submitted by,

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*Jim Gebhardt, Secretary, trr*