

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Kremer called the regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 in the Council Chambers at the City of Chaska, Chaska, Minnesota.

2. ROLL CALL

Managers Present: Len Kremer, Ed Schlampp, Larry Samstad, Kent Francis

Managers Absent: None. There is one vacancy on the Board.

Also Present: Cathy Larson, Metropolitan Council, Jeff Davidman, Best & Flanagan, District's Attorney, Bruce Malkerson, District staff member Terry Schwalbe

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the meeting agenda, as amended to delete the September 17, 2008, Minutes from the Consent Agenda. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the November 19, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes, November Treasurer's Report and payment of bills. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.

5. OPEN FORUM

No one asked to speak.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a. Minnesota River Model.

Cathy Larson of the Metropolitan Council discussed a handout titled "Lower Minnesota River Model Project Update." She described the six year project schedule, to be completed in 2009. She stated they did not complete the field study as to the effect of barge traffic on water quality. She responded to questions from the Managers.

b. Legislative Update and Discussion.

Jeff Davidman, an attorney from Best & Flanagan, distributed and discussed a handout titled "Legislative Presentation." Terry Schwalbe noted the budget for lobbying in 2009 was \$10,000.

7. PRESENTATION FOR BOARD ACTION

a. Dakota County SCWD 2009 Proposal for Services.

Laura Jester answered questions from the Managers related to the results of past data collection. **It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed service contract. Vote: Ayes 4; Nays 0.**

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

President Kremer stated he had listened to the tapes of the meeting and he thought the changes to the draft Minutes were warranted. Terry Schwalbe explained the changes. **It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes as amended.**

Vote: Ayes 4; Nays 0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of MAWD annual meeting.

President Kremer stated that Staff should gather information related to the justification of the proposed increase in dues and that a decision should be made later.

b. 2009 WCA Rules Change Resolution.

President Kremer reported that the District's proposal for a rule change was approved with a few changes. The District may be asked to make a presentation concerning the proposal in January.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

a. Seminary Fen/Assumption Creek Update

Terry Schwalbe reported on a meeting last Friday with the Staff of City of Chanhassen, DNR and several citizens concerning the Fen Management Plan. The DNR will right a stewardship plan. The DNR asked if the District would help put together Friends of the Seminary Fen group. Terry Schwalbe stated he would like to expand that group to include the trout streams and other Fens in the District. Joan Ellis is working on developing such a group now. As to the expansion of the protected Fen area, Terry Schwalbe stated that their Managers desire to work with three other property owners in the area and all agreed that was important. Terry Schwalbe reported on

his contacts with those other property owners. Manager Samstad asked if the District is talking about doing any projects. Terry Schwalbe said they are just talking about being facilitators as to discussions with adjacent Seminary Fen owners and said the DNR would later ask the District to help apply for grants for the upgraded Fen.

b. Dredge Sites

Terry Schwalbe reported on a meeting with Dick Lambert from MnDOT who told Terry Schwalbe that MNDOT Waterways has a grant program and that we should submit for a grant to complete the road into the site. Terry Schwalbe said the DNR is concerned about erosion along the river at the site. He inspected it and said there is no unique erosion at that location. He would like to obtain a grant for the construction of a facility to off load materials there to eliminate erosion in the future. He stated that the District does have plans and specifications for the proposed road access. President Kremer suggested that we have plans available for the unloading facility and then the District could ask the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop that plan so that we could submit it for a grant. Terry Schwalbe stated that he was at a river resources form and spoke with Steve Tapp and asked him what could happen if the District did not have the funds to provide the dredge sites with the dredge materials and Steve Tapp said then the Corps would not dredge the river and there would be no 9-foot channel. Terry Schwalbe said that he had been looking again at the amount of dredging in the past in the area of the potential Air Force dredge material site, but it has only been dredged in that area three times since the channel was built and Steve Tapp said he would consider taking that material to an existing dredge disposal site in the City of St. Paul instead of promoting a new site at this location.

c. Trunk Highway 41 Update

Terry Schwalbe stated that at a recent meeting they discussed the choice of the C-2 corridor. The City of Chaska is upset with it and wanted to readdress the possible crossing locations. The advisory committee said that they would recommend C-2 to the State for approval.

Plaque honoring Ron Kremer service to the District. Terry Schwalbe stated he has talked to former Manager Kremer and noted to him that the Board would like to present the plaque to him. There will be further discussion as to the appropriate manner of doing so.

d. Potential Expansion of the Boundaries of the District

Terry Schwalbe passed out maps showing existing Water Management Organizations and Watershed Districts along the Minnesota River.

12. ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. VOTE: Ayes 4; Nays 0.