

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
February 21, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Clearwater River Watershed District was called to order at 6:02 PM, Wednesday, February 21, 2024 by Bob Schiefelbein.

Attendees:

Board: Schiefelbein, Uecker, Cole, Homuth, Tommerdahl

Staff: Rebecca Carlson

CAC Members: Greg Bartley, Wes Boll, Bill Langenbacher

Residents: Keith Ashfeldt, CD 20 Resident

2. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Homuth, second by Uecker to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion 24-2-1: carried unanimously

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. CD 20 Resident Discussion- Keith Ashfeldt expressed concerns over potential CD 20 obstructions downstream of 380th and asked if District staff were ticketed for trespass during the December field visit.

Background: Mr. Ashfeldt notified District staff November 30th of a potential beaver dam and tree obstructions in CD 20 south of CR 380th. Two district staff members conducted an inspection of CD 20 through the Leither/ Nistler parcels December 4, 2023. Mr. Ashfeldt joined them of his own accord, without the prior knowledge of District staff. Staff identified a beaver dam on the second parcel south of 380th. The beaver dam appears to have been in place for quite some time. Board of Mangers communicated the following to the landowner in response to his questions:

1. District staff have statutory ability/ authority/ requirement to inspect the drainage system under 103E. This statutory privilege does NOT extend to private residents.
2. Drainage system cleanout or any work on the drainage system requires permission/ permits/ approvals from the Drainage Authority, DNR, USACE, the WCA authority, the County and SWCD and possibly others. Any work on drainage systems requires these prior formal permits, approvals and permissions and must follow MN 103E. Any work done without these would be subject to

severe penalties. The District did not, has not and does not plan to authorize any work by private residents at this time.

3. District staff will continue to coordinate with Meeker SWCD and Meeker Drainage authority to determine system maintenance needs of the drainage system. Staff will prepare a technical memo with survey elevations of system condition, we plan to provide that at the March 2024 Board meeting. Inspections to date indicate that there is no obstruction on Leither's parcel and that section of the creek is in good shape in terms of conveyance of flow.

- b. Annual Water Quality, Planning & Annual Report- Carlson provided the managers with the Annual Monitoring Presentation, the Draft Annual Report, and a draft of the 2024 plan for discussion and comment. Motion by Uecker, second by Homuth to accept the annual water quality presentation and to approve the Monitoring Plan, **Motion 24-02-02** *carried unanimously*. Managers directed to make the following change in the 2024 Plan: clearly define a 2024 task for record maintenance to obtain, scan, file each easement, establishment order, as built, and other relevant documents for each District Project. The remainder of the plan will stay the same.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Staff Notes
- b. Correspondence
- c. January 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cole, second by Homuth to accept the consent agenda, **Motion 24-02-3** *carried unanimously*.

5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Windstream Presentation- Manager Tommerdahl provided information about Windstream billing. Managers directed staff to work with Windstream to delete the data/ phone line for Clearwater Harbor/ Hidden River and to optimize coverage and recover costs for any erroneous billing.
- b. Monthly Report- January 2024

Motion by Homuth, second by Uecker to approve all bills except the voided Chain of Lakes. **Motion 24-02-4** *carried unanimously*.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Clear Lake Update- Carlson updated Managers on USFWS go-ahead on plan set/ permitting with current plan of operable weir, and additional wetland restorations upstream.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CD 20 -Carlson updated board on inspection of County Ditch 20 in Watkins.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Manager addresses were removed from the District web site by staff. If a manager would prefer to leave their address on the web site please let staff know.

9. MANAGERS REPORTS Several managers commented on the Carp Solutions Report provided for review. This will be discussed in more detail at the March meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Homuth to adjourn. Chair Schiefelbein adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.



Chair Robert Schiefelbein



Secretary Dawn Cole