

March 26, 2020

Unapproved

MORTON COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT

1. The Board of Managers of the Morton County Water Resource District met in regular session via conference call beginning at 1pm on Wednesday, March 26, 2020.
2. The following persons were present: Chairman Wade M. Bachmeier, Secretary Brenda Winckler, and Managers, Bruce Engelhardt, Jamie Wetsch Jim Schmidt, and George Saxowsky. Also present were Bryan Ziegler, Bartlett & West, Karen Garvie, MWWS, Jackie Buckley, MC Commissioner, Ron Sando, and Tom Bair, Legal Counsel.
3. Chairman Bachmeier called the meeting to order. Minutes: Mgr. Schmidt moved to approve the minutes for the February 26, 2020 meeting. Manager Saxowsky seconded the motion. MCU. The Chairman requested the original minutes to be filed with the secretary and that a copy be sent to the County Auditor, State Water Commission, and Legal Counsel, Tom Bair.
4. MWWS: The Board reviewed the income, totaling \$141,485 and expenditures, totaling \$104,472 of the MWWS for the month of February 2020. Mgr. Saxowsky made a motion to accept and place these reports in file. Second by Mgr. Engelhardt. MCU. Karen reported on the following items. Karen had approval from the Board previously and has hired SW Digital Services to scan all files. If the Board needs to search, they just need a password and they can get online to look. There will be folders with files in each folder. MCWRD will have its own folders. Karen has submitted reimbursement to SWC for cost share on the engineering fees totaling \$44,696.88. Karen has allowed MWWS to work remotely from pickups or homes until the Corona virus has been resolved. Bryan Ziegler, B&W did the bid opening on March 19th. 2 bids from Abbot, Arne, Schwindt, \$1,055,378. And Northern Improvement for \$1,065,386. Difference is only about \$10,000. \$1,175,000 was the upgraded engineers estimate after Bryan added for the uncertainty of the Corona virus factor. Bryan is happy with the bids. Abbot is ready to go, and went ahead and ordered materials before the ok and will be ready as soon as they receive word of approval. Other projects they have are under snow so they would do this first. DEQ notice was printed March 20th so will have to wait for the time frame even after the approval. Paperwork can begin in the meantime. Tom Bair approved all paperwork from bids. Mgr. Engelhardt moved to approve and grant the construction Contract 2019-1 to Abbot, Arne, and Schwindt at a cost of \$1,055,378. Mgr. Schmidt seconded the motion. MCU. Karen also reported that MWWS will have capacity for the southern development as long as they pay their membership and fees.

5. Wetzels Request: Lois and Clyde Wetzels, Almont, would like to rename the creek that goes thru their property as the JC Creek which is currently not named. Jackie Buckley would like approval from MCWRD to proceed. The creek would be named after JC Stevenson, a well known cattle buyer, and after their son, Jay C. Wetzels who was killed in a tragic 32 car accident,. Tom Bair does not know the legalities of naming the creek. Jackie reported that they got their information from the US Board of Geographic Names of the US Geological Survey who gave them instructions as to how to get it done. They need to get support from a local Gov. (Morton County Commissioners) and neighbors. Mgr. Wetsch moved to send a letter of support to rename the creek JC Creek. Mgr. Saxowsky seconded the motion. MCU. Tom Bair will prepare the letter to have Mgr. Bachmeier sign.

6. Whitetail Ridge Lot: An offer has been made to purchase the Whitetail Ridge lot owned by MCWRD for \$64,900. Other terms are straight forward; sellers agree but would like the sellers to provide buyers and all future owners of Lot 1A, an easement for ingress and egress across the sellers Lot 1B. They found an old telephone line thru the middle of the lot which the phone company has declared that it has been abandoned. At \$64,900 the Board would probably lose \$10,000, but we continue to have access to that side of Harmon Lake. Mgr. Schmidt moved to accept offer of \$64,900 to include a mutual reciprocal easement for the driveway which will be maintained by the owner of Lot 1A. Mgr. Engelhardt seconded it. MCU.

7. Harmon Lake: Mgr. Wetsch reported the drawdown has been opened for the last 3 weeks. Runoff has dropped enough; dropped the lake about 2 feet, volume is way more than that shows because the water level the first 2 weeks did not go down. As of the 25th, Tim closed the drawdown valve. The Health Dept. took a water sample before they opened and will have someone test it now that we closed it. Results could take about a month. MC Parks greased the valve. Water coming out as closing looked like we got a good flush on it. Park Board has voted no overnight camping or gatherings of over 10 at all parks until further notice. Will look at it at each monthly meeting.

8. Financial Reports: The Board will approve vouchers at the next public meeting.

There being no further business, motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.

Wade M. Bachmeier, Chairman

Brenda Winckler, Sec-Treas.