

**Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 6:00 p.m.**  
**Heron Lake Watershed District office**  
**Heron Lake, MN**

**ATTENDANCE**

Paul Pietz, Jerry Christopherson, Rod Sankey, City of Worthington; Marv Zylstra, Nobles County; Dave Thiner, Murray County; Naomi Hill, Allen Jensen, Mona Henkels, Murray SWCD; Julie Lopez, Erin Nordquist and Jan Voit, HLWD

**1. Call to Order**

Paul Pietz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the December 15, 2015 HLWD Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Marv Zylstra and seconded by Jerry Christopherson to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. HLWD Board of Managers Meeting Observations**

- December – The meeting was short and to the point. Most of the discussion was about the Engler property.
- January - The meeting was short. After the meeting, a member of the audience was hostile toward the HLWD President because he was not allowed to speak his mind during the meeting. The HLWD President was chastised for his inability to properly run a meeting. HLWD Advisory Committee members discussed Jackson County's lack of support for the HLWD and their apparent desire that the HLWD no longer exist; Jackson County's appointment process, their lack of consideration for the candidates qualifications, the fact that they did not ask any questions of the candidates, and a commissioner abstaining from voting before a motion was made; the strained relationships that Jackson County's appointees have caused and the affect this may have on other counties to find qualified people to serve on the HLWD board; and a possible open forum for the public.
- February – An explanation was given to let the audience know that they are only there to listen, not participate. The process for how to be on the agenda was given. If a request is made, it is not a guarantee that the time will be allowed because things that are not regulated by the HLWD will not be considered for discussion. HLWD Advisory Committee members discussed the response of an audience member wanting to be recognized by the HLWD President even though the ground rules had just been read. Discussion was also held regarding Jackson County's attitude toward the HLWD, the negative influence and its effect on the work and working environment, and what can be done to reduce the negativity.

**4. Discussion Items**

- *Engler property*  
The board accepted the Engler property on December 15, 2015. The transfer on death deed was mailed to the Jackson County Recorder's office on December 17, 2015.

- *Grant application – Minnesota Corn Growers Association*  
The project will conduct research and gather information about cover crops. No word on funding.
- *Grant application – Targeted Watershed Program*  
This application is for best management practices in the Jackson County Judicial Ditch 3, 14, 30, and 19 and County Ditch 3 subwatersheds. Not awarded.
- *Grant application – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant*  
The project will include two 35-acre fields. One with cover crops, one without. Soil samples will be collected and the Haney Soil test will be done. Yield data will be collected on the harvested crops and a simple per acre economic analysis will be done. Awarded.
- *Grant application – National Wildlife Federation Cover Crop Champions*  
A grant application was written for an opportunity to expand cover crop partners to include local farm cooperatives. Training is provided by the NWF. That techniques learned will be used in meeting with staff from each cooperative to determine the possibility of incorporating cover crops into their test plots in the fall of 2016. Awarded.
- *Summer Interns*  
Interviews for the summer intern positions were held on March 3, 2016. Interviews for the three candidates were conducted by Jerry Christopherson, Kristin Hovland, Jan Voit, and Catherine Wegehaupt. The committee unanimously recommends hiring Cole Sinnamon and Chloe Evenson.
- *Judicial Ditches*  
The bids for the Jackson County JD 30, Branch A-1, and Lateral were opened on March 9. The low bid was from Hutton Drainage & Excavating, Inc. from West Concord of \$719,286.75 for JD 30 Mainline and Branch F; \$72,274.80 for Branch A-1; and \$6,521.20 for Branch A-1 Lateral. The board will vote on acceptance at tonight's meeting. Accepting the bid authorizes the engineer to draft a contract, get bonding and insurance information from the contractor, hold a preconstruction meeting, and allows the contractor to start construction.
- *Nobles SWCD No-Till Drill*  
Nobles SWCD has requested a \$3,500 contribution from the HLWD to assist in paying for a no-till drill. secured contributions: OOWD - \$5,000, Nobles County Pheasants Forever - \$5,000; Nobles County Environmental Services - \$5,000; asking KLR for \$5,000; asking HLWD for \$3,500; Nobles SWCD commitment - \$8,903 or \$12,683

depending on which model is approved to purchase. The drill can be used by any landowner for seeding buffers, etc.

**5. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Allen Jensen and seconded by Naomi Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Allen Jensen

Secretary