

## **Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

**Heron Lake Watershed District office**

**Heron Lake, MN**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Paul Pietz, Julie Lopez, John Shea, Dave Dieter, Katherine Pekarek-Scott, Jerry Ackermann, Allen Jensen, Mona Henkels, Matt Widboom, Jim Eigenberg, Jan Voit, and Catherine Wegehaupt

#### **1. Call to Order**

Paul Pietz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the September 18, 2018 HLWD Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Allen Jensen and seconded by Mona Henkels to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **3. Letter of Support for Gary Ewert**

Paul Pietz read a draft letter of support for Gary Ewert's reappointment to the HLWD Board. Discussion was held and changes were made to the document. Allen Jensen made a motion to unanimously approve the letter of support. Julie Lopez seconded this. Matt Widboom abstained. Motion carried.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

Jan Voit gave an update on HLWD activities.

#### **HLWD**

##### *Watershed District Manager Position Description*

Jan Voit was a member of a committee that was tasked with revising the manager position description. The draft document was sent to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrator's (MAWD) Executive Committee for review and comment.

##### *BWSR Academy*

Jan Voit and Catherine Wegehaupt attended Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Academy from October 29-31 at Breezy Point Resort. This is an annual event to provide training for watershed district, Soil and Water Conservation District, and county staff throughout the state of Minnesota.

##### *Viewers Meeting*

On November 1, 2018, Harvey Kruger and Jan Voit attended the Viewers Meeting in Morton.

##### *Heron Lake Duck Summit*

On November 18, 2018, Jan Voit attended the Heron Lake Duck Summit. Following introductory comments by Michael Mooney and Tony Thompson, six presentations were given. Brian Nyborg, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided an introduction to Heron Lake: history, hydrology, and brief summary of previous management actions. Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited spoke about Shallow Lakes

Management for Waterfowl. Todd Arnold, University of Minnesota conveyed Przemek Bajer's information about New Perspectives on Carp Management. Todd Arnold then gave an overview of the Derivation of Duck Harvests in Southwest Minnesota. Tom Kerr, US Fish and Wildlife Service explained landscape potential for duck production and wetland restoration in the greater Heron Lake landscape. Frank Rohwer, Delta Waterfowl spoke about Tools for Increasing Recruitment. The event concluded with round table discussion and identifying next steps. Michael Mooney will compile the ideas for moving forward. He will also share the presentations.

One of the next steps will be to develop a grant application for carp research particularly connectivity that allows carp movement from streams and lakes. Todd Arnold will lead that effort.

#### *Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) Meeting*

Jan Voit attended the MAWA meeting on November 28, 2018. Updates were given by Kevin Bigalke, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Glen Skuta, MPCA; Rob Sip, Red River Watershed Management Board, and Emily Javens, MAWD. MAWD committee updates were provided. Margaret Johnson, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District (WD) gave a presentation regarding project tax levy. Tera Guetter, Pelican River WD spoke about water management districts and basic water management projects. Andy Henschel, Shell Rock WD presented an overview of the sales tax funding. Mark Doneux, Capitol Region WD explained the bonding process.

#### *MAWD Pre-Conference Workshops*

On November 29, 2018, Bruce Leinen and Jan Voit attended the Minnesota Drainage Seminar. Harvey Kruger attended the HR and Personnel Management Workshop.

#### *MAWD Annual Meeting*

Jim Buschena, Gary Ewert, Harvey Kruger, Bruce Leinen, and Jan Voit attended the MAWD Annual Meeting from November 29 through December 1.

#### **Grant Applications**

- Minnesota Conservation Corps. The MCC grant application was submitted on November 26, 2018. If funded, the HLWD intends to stabilize 600 feet of streambank in Nobles County using a cedar revetment method. The HLWD also intends to do maintenance on two restored prairies.
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. Todd Arnold, University of Minnesota, is drafting a carp research proposal for the Heron Lake watershed. The application deadline is December 21, 2018. The HLWD has been asked to serve as project sponsor and provide in-kind time for HLWD staff for grant administration, stakeholder outreach, and meeting organization.
- Apprentice Academy Program. Through the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, the HLWD and North Heron Lake Game Producers Association (NHLGPA) have an opportunity to hire summer interns.
- Minnesota Corn Growers. Working with Larry Liepold on an application to conduct research on the possibility to side dress corn and put down enough

fertility for the next year's bean crop. He is proposing tissue and soil samples every two weeks, as well as water sampling.

### **Public Drainage Systems**

#### *Jackson County Judicial Ditch (JD) 3*

The Jackson County Commissioners discussed transfer of authority for Jackson JD 3 at their meeting on November 20, 2018. No action was taken.

#### *Jackson County JD 19*

ISG and the HLWD are working with HLWD Legal Counsel on issues with the windfarm representatives.

#### *Jackson County JD 30*

A landowner within the JD 30 system contacted the HLWD regarding bank sloughing on the system. After speaking with ISG, a letter was written to Hutton Drainage giving them a January 10, 2019 deadline to respond with a plan of action to address this.

### **5. Talking Points**

Small group discussion was held regarding the following topics as they related to the HLWD: important items, how to share information with the public, and next steps. Paul Pietz and Jan Voit will take the information provided and present a draft document at the March meeting.

### **6. Adjourn**

Following the discussion, the group enjoyed a meal by Jean's Catering.

Paul Pietz thanked members for their participation in today's meeting and throughout 2018. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Allen Jensen, Secretary