

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

Special Watershed Meeting #631.1

Thursday, September 22, 2022

A special meeting of the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lac qui Parle County Annex (west end elementary school), 422 5th Avenue, Madison, MN 56256 with zoom option, to discuss pasture rentals and spraying of noxious weeds.

Chairman Darrel Ellefson opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. **Managers Present:** Chairman Darrel Ellefson, Michael Frank, David Craigmile, and Andrew Weber via Zoom. **Managers Absent:** John Cornell. **Staff present:** Administrator Trudy Hastad. **Others present:** Attorney Jason Kuboushek via zoom.

Administrator Hastad reported the special meeting was posted for five days prior to the meeting and the meeting was called to discuss the Corey Hoffman pasture lease and possible spraying of noxious weeds on R-6 and Lazarus Creek.

Introductions were made and Manager Craigmile reported four of the five managers were present so a quorum was established for the meeting.

On September 17, 2022 Manager Craigmile took pictures of the Watershed property in section 16 & 17, Norman Township that Corey Hoffman leases from the Watershed District for hayland. Manager Craigmile gave a power point presentation with the recent photos showing corn and soybeans had been planted in the hayland property, and the 15-acre piece had some type of established rag weed and black medic which isn't really good for livestock or haying. We reviewed the current lease with Mr. Hoffman, along with the September 2021 meeting minutes #619 when Mr. Hoffman met with the Board to request an extension of the contract if he could work the ground and replant alfalfa. Discussion followed.

Hastad reported that the Watershed received a notice for non-compliance for HEI (Highly Erodible Lands) in section 16 & 17 Norman Township. Not sure of fines and/or fees but the ground must be put back into grasses ASAP.

Discussed the September 6, 2022 Board meeting that Mr. Hoffman attended. He was instructed to put the land back into alfalfa/grass mix.

Attorney Kuboushek asked if the Board was relying on him to provide direction on how to handle things legally or if they were looking to enforce the lease with Mr. Hoffman. Discussion followed.

Manager Andrew Weber had to leave the meeting at 2:00 p.m., but was in favor of pursuing enforcement action discussion with Attorney Kuboushek.

Manager Michael Frank motioned to close the meeting to pursue Hoffman enforcement action with attorney client position, seconded by Manager Craigmile. Upon vote, motion passed 3-0.

Manager Craigmile motioned to re-open the Watershed meeting at 2:25 p.m., seconded by Manager Michael Frank. Upon vote, motion passed 3-0.

Chairman Ellefson re-opened the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Manager David Craigmile motioned to hire Attorney Jason Kuboushekk, Iverson & Reuvers Law Firm as legal council for enforcement & correction action for the Corey Hoffman lease located in section 16 & 17, Norman Township and to also assist with the 2023 pasture/hayland leases used by the Watershed District, seconded by Manager Michael Frank. Upon vote, motion passed 3-0.

Hastad discussed the weed issue in a portion of Lazarus Creek and R-6 that is hard to get to and would be easiest to spray by plane. The Township weed inspector contacted us and they are hiring a plane to spray some areas for the Township in Yellow Medicine and estimate was \$12.50/acre plus the spray but was waiting for a confirmation on that price. Discussion followed.

Manager Michael Frank motioned to authorize staff to hire the plane to spray the Lazarus Creek, & R-6 area that is listed on the map (Exhibit A) as long as price is between \$12-\$20/acre, seconded by Manager David Craigmile. Upon vote, motion passed 3-0.

Manager Michael Frank discussed an idea that the pasture lease area's in the park should be more natural, particularly parcels West & South of the park, and was inquiring if the Board had ever thought of contacting Pheasants Forever to lease that land to grow up for habitat instead of haying the land. No hunting is allowed in the park, but maybe could do a controlled youth hunt. That would be good for publicity for the park and a good fit for Pheasants Forever. Discussion followed with no action taken.

Held a discussion regarding Watershed attorney, Ditch Attorney, MCIT insurance and possible Watershed web-site update. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Darrel Ellefson, Chairman

ATTEST:

David Craigmile, Secretary

Minutes prepared by Hastad