

REDWOOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

MARCH 15, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room in the Government Center, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Present for all or portions of the meeting were Commissioners Rick Wakefield, Jim Salfer, Dave Forkrud and Bob VanHee; County Administrator Vicki Kletscher, Human Resource Coordinator Peter Brown; Auditor-Treasurer Jean Price; Economic Development Coordinator Briana Mumme and Highway Engineer Anthony Sellner; Planning and Zoning Supervisor Nick Brozek; Environmental Director Scott Wold; Property Appraiser Kim Wee Sit; Accountant Rachel Woelfel; Recorder Joyce Anderson; Ditch Inspector Brent Lang, Ditch Technician Matthew Mumme; Human Resource Coordinator Peter Brown, Highwater Ethanol CEO Brian Kletscher, Jana Graney and Edith Graney. Commissioner Groebner was absent.

Chair Salfer called the meeting to order asking for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup> revised agenda.

Chair Salfer asked the Board members to identify any areas for which they had a Conflict of Interest. Commissioner Wakefield identified a conflict in the abstract of bills.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- On motion by Van Hee, second by Forkrud, and excluding the bills from Rick and Lori Wakefield in the amount of \$130.00 each, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.
- On motion by Forkrud, second by Van Hee, with Wakefield abstaining due to a conflict of interest, the Board voted to approve the bills from Rick and Lori Wakefield in the amount of \$130.00 each.
  - March 1<sup>st</sup> minutes.
  - Payment of bills as follows:

General Fund	\$ 83,623.55
Ditch Fund	\$ 13,954.66
Building Fund	\$ 18,695.13
Insurance Fund	\$ 651.32
Soil and Water Fund	\$ 8,834.85

- **Bills exceeding \$2,000:** A.C.E. of SW MN \$15,973.50; Bjorklund Compensation Consultation \$8,500.00; Marco \$5,250.92; Morris Electronics \$12,905.00; MEND Correctional \$4,123.69; Redwood County Hwy. Department \$5,358.52; Tersteegs Holiday Market \$6,833.90; Maas Construction \$3,150.00; Frontier Precision \$6,795.90; Integrated Protection Systems \$13,491.90; WOLD Architects \$5,203.23; TNT Construction \$12,733.60; Great River Greening \$8,834.85.

### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- The Board recognized Nick Brozek, Environmental Department, for 10 years of service to Redwood County.
- The Board recognized Kim Wee Sit, Assessor's Office, and Rachel Woelfel, Auditor/Treasurer's Office, to 5 years of service to Redwood County.

### AUDITOR/TREASURER

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following: Cash Balance Report, Investment Summary, Budget Reports and February Disbursements in the amount of \$1,412,436.39.
- Bills exceeding \$2,000.00: Great Plains Natural Gas \$5,950.52, \$3,787.74; Redwood Falls Public Utilities \$9,720.07, \$5,153.21; Paycom \$2,494.57; Preferred one \$2,285.10, \$34,239.39, \$9,619.29, \$4,152.31, \$33,115.55, \$9,962.15, \$6,136.25; Further \$8,559.46, \$8,359.46, \$5,019.36, \$2,070.98; BCBS of MN \$2,286.00; MN Dept. of Revenue \$37,168.98; Redwood County License Center \$2,732.60; \$2,771.06; Greg Anderson \$28,078.00; Bonnie Bloemke \$6,986.00; Ross Bloemke \$3,460.00; Heidi Fink \$4,856.50; Dan Herfurth \$2,934.00; Holli Hoffman \$4,856.50; Jensen Heiderscheidt \$14,064.00; Mark Nelsen \$6,786.00; Patrick Nelsen \$6,187.00; Edna Petersen %15,103.00; Kara Platz \$3,526.00; Alan Plotz \$6,654.00; Leo/Janet Plotz Trust \$9,780.00, \$9,780.00; Potter Enterprises \$9,647.00; Barbara Potter \$5,656.00; John Reiner \$3,859.00; Russel Rohlik \$6,254.00; Thorston Family Farms \$5,456.00; Roy Tindeland \$10,246.00; Tim Vogel \$7,385.00; RT Anderson \$7,053.00; Fred Dauer Jr. Living Trust \$4,823.50; Kenneth Hemmingsen \$13,439.00; Karen Kuritz Family Trust \$8,916.00; James Nelson Trust \$7,018.50; Phyliss Nelsen Trust \$7,018.50; Kyle Reiner \$16,167.00; Delta Dental \$4,243.63; Joyce & David McConville \$6,996.00; Redwood County Auditor/Treasurer \$14,399.00; Sun Life Financial \$2,399.75; Blackstrap Inc. \$2,104.07; Brookville Twp. \$37,468.29; Charlestown Twp. \$32,297.09; Delhi Twp. \$39,953.42; Gales Twp. \$29,419.63; Granite Rock Twp. \$38,373.90; Honner Twp. \$6,884.06; Johnsonville Twp. \$31,200.00; Kintire Twp. \$32,377.25; Lambertton Twp. \$30,032.21; Morgan Twp. \$40,537.87; New Avon Twp. \$38,414.30; North Hero Twp. \$32,426.11; Paxton Twp. \$74,859.42; Redwood Falls Twp. \$28,701.50; Sheridan Twp. \$33,252.03; Sherman Twp. \$40,776.07; Springdale Twp. \$34,686.49; Sundown Township \$33,055.00; Swede's Forest Twp. \$17,253.00; Three Lakes Twp. \$35,443.30; Underwood Twp. \$34,245.77; Vail Twp. \$35,423.33; Vesta Twp. 34,905.00; Waterbury Twp. 32,089.73; Westline Twp. \$31,684.84; Willow Lake Twp. \$36,767.39; Bolton & Menk \$4,736.00; Zimmermann Maintenance \$8,290.26; Great Plains Natural Gas \$3,598.34.

**HIGHWATER ETHANOL – SUMMIT CARBON SOLUTIONS**

- Kletscher presented a project that Summit Carbon Solutions is proposing in Redwood County including Highwater Ethanol to capture CO2 produced from their fermentation process that will be transferred in a pipeline underground to North Dakota. Kletscher requested Minnesota Rural Energy Board to act as the responsible government unit for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet as well as having Minnesota Rural Energy Board taking on the role allows all aspects of the project to be considered at once and doesn't place the responsibility on any one county to act in this capacity.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE**

- On motion by Van Hee, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to award Bid #22-2 for SAP 064-599-113, SAP 064-599-117 and SAP 064-599-120 Bridge Replacement Projects to Everstrong in the amount of \$1,784,706.60.

## All Bids Received

Company	Bid Amount
Everstrong Construction	\$ 1,784,706.60
Structural Specialties	\$ 1,971,418.21
M & K Bridge Construction	\$ 2,073,078.88
Minnowa Construction	\$ 2,197,929.50
Duininck, Inc.	\$ 4,304,779.38

- On motion by Van Hee, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Board Chair and Administrator to sign the contracts with Everstrong for SAP 064-599-113, SAP 064-599-117 and SAP 064-599-120 Bridge Replacement Projects.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to award Bid #22-5 for SAP 064-030-017 Seal Coating Project to Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$991,634.30.

## All Bids Received

Company	Bid Amount
Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc.	\$ 991,634.30
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp.	\$1,020,721.87
Allied Blacktop Company	\$1,029,051.35
Pearson Bros., Inc.	\$1,166,492.70

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Board Chair and Administrator to sign the contracts with Morris Sealcoat & Trucking for SAP 064-030-017 Seal Coating Project.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to purchase a Felling Trailer from Titan Machinery in the amount of \$42,886.76 off State Contract #T-603-206478 less shipping costs of \$975.00, for a total purchase price of \$41,911.76. The trailer will be picked up by the Highway Department.

## All Bids Received

Company	Bid Amount
Titan Machinery	\$42,886.76 less shipping = total \$41,911.76
Ziegler Cat	\$58,319.40

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously the authorization to publish the Request for Proposal, with an amendment to the Step One, Discovery Phase, to conduct strategic planning for the Economic Development Authority.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agreement for Professional Services Agreement with Nationwide CLBC, LLC dba CCG Consulting pending County Attorney approval.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously the authorization to solicit bids for an Environmental Study as required by the CDBG-CV Program for the deployment of the fiber to the premise broadband project in the City of Sanborn and Charlestown Township.

**REDWOOD COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC HEARING FOR CD #64**

- At 10:00 a.m., the Board entered into Redwood County Ditch Authority for a Public Hearing for CD #64. Present from Redwood County were Commissioners Salfer, Van Hee, Forkrud and Wakefield, Administrator Kletscher and Environmental Director Scott Wold, Ditch Inspector Brent Lang, Ditch Technician Matthew Mumme, Administrative Assistant Heidi Wersal, Ditch Viewers John Schueller, Kevin Vickerman, Blake Garberich, Luke Olson, Landowners Roger Pabst, Dan & Mary Tauer, Tom Green, Ramona Kuehn and Daryl Kuehn.
- Chair Wakefield discussed the two reasons for the redetermination of benefits and consolidation of laterals for CD #64 are to bring in lands that are benefiting from the system, but are not paying benefits and to bring the value of the ditch system up to current dollar values.
- Wold presented the jurisdictional and notice documents. Wold noted that the affidavit of publication was not available at this time but provided the actual publication in the Redwood Gazette.
- Ditch Viewer Schueller presented the viewer's report.
- Wakefield opened the hearing for public comment. No public comments were offered.
- Wakefield closed the hearing for public comment.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Viewer's Report for the Redetermination of Benefits for CD #64 as presented.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consolidation of CD #64 and all Laterals as it is consistent with the redetermination of benefits of the drainage systems and provides for the efficient administration of the drainage system and is fair and equitable.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to set the repayment terms as presented.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to direct Environmental Director Wold to draft the Findings and Order for CD #64.

- Chair Wakefield closed the Public Hearing for CD #64.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR CD #52**

- At 10:31 a.m., the Board entered into Redwood County Ditch Authority for a Public Hearing for CD #52. Present from Redwood County were Commissioners Salfer, Van Hee, Forkrud and Wakefield, Administrator Kletscher and Environmental Director Scott Wold, Ditch Inspector Brent Lang, Ditch Technician Matthew Mumme, Administrative Assistant Heidi Wersal, Ditch Viewers John Thompson, Kendall Langseth and Robert Hansen, Keith Muetzel, Jim Weideman, Myron Jordan, Herb Panitzke, Doug Eiler, Larry Weidell and Fred Panitzke.
- Chair Wakefield discussed the two reasons for the redetermination of benefits for CD #52 are to bring in lands that are benefiting from the system, but are not paying benefits and to bring the value of the ditch system up to current dollar values.
- Wold presented the jurisdictional and notice documents. Wold noted that the affidavit of publication was not available at this time but provided the actual publication in the Redwood Gazette.
- Ditch Viewer Thompson presented the viewer's report.
- Wakefield opened the hearing for public comment. No public comments were offered.
- Wakefield closed the hearing for public comment.
- On motion by Forkrud, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Viewer's Report for the Redetermination of Benefits for CD #52 as presented.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to set the repayment terms as presented.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to direct Environmental Director to draft the Findings and Order for CD #52.
- Chair Wakefield closed the Public Hearing for CD #52 at 10:42 a.m.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR CD #20**

- At 10:45 a.m., the Board entered into Redwood County Ditch Authority for a Public Hearing for CD #52. Present from Redwood County were Commissioners Salfer, Van Hee, Forkrud and Wakefield, Administrator Kletscher and Environmental Director Scott Wold, Ditch Inspector Brent Lang, Ditch Technician Matthew Mumme and Administrative Assistant Heidi Wersal.
- Chair Wakefield discussed the two reasons for the redetermination of benefits and consolidation of laterals for CD #20 are to bring in lands that are benefiting from the system, but are not paying benefits and to bring the value of the ditch system up to current dollar values.
- Wold presented the jurisdictional and notice documents. Wold noted that the affidavit of publication was not available at this time but provided the actual publication in the Redwood Gazette.
- Ditch Viewer Thompson presented the viewer's report.
- Wakefield opened the hearing for public comment. No one was present for public comment.
- Wakefield closed the hearing for public comments.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Viewer's Report for the Redetermination of Benefits for CD #20 as presented.

- On motion by Forkrud, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to set the repayment terms as presented.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to direct Environmental Director to draft the Findings and Order for CD #20.
- Chair Wakefield closed the Public Hearing for CD #20 at 10:50 a.m.

**JD #36 AND JD #33**

- On motion by Van Hee, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bid documents for Phase 1 rip rap delivery and placement for JD #36 & JD #33.
- There being no further business, Chair Wakefield declared the Redwood County Ditch Authority adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

**RECONVENE**

- The Board reconvened into regular session at 10:51 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Forkrud, in a roll-call vote with Wakefield, Forkrud, Van Hee and Salfer all voting aye, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution to support a Cottonwood River Watershed  
One Watershed, One Plan project.**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D.401, Watershed Management Plan, authorizes Minnesota Watershed Districts to develop and implement a watershed management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Cottonwood River, Watershed #23, as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Redwood County recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Redwood County welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Cottonwood River Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Redwood County supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts within the Cottonwood River Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to award the Plum Creek Expansion Planning to TKDA in the amount of \$17,863.00.

#### Other Bids Received

Company	Bid Amount
TKDA	\$17,863.00
Bolton & Menk	\$20,238.00
Stantec	\$21,738.00
WSB	\$22,525.00
Sambatek	\$24,515.00
LHB	\$24,780.00
Asakura Robinson	\$61,309.00

#### ADMINISTRATION

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Forkrud, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the advertisement for bids for the demolition of the Courthouse and the Third Street House.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Wakefield, in a roll-call vote with Van Hee, Wakefield, Forkrud and Salfer all voting aye, the Board voted to adopt the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OF HF 2821/SF2670 AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, The County of Redwood is writing in support of this important public safety initiative, HF 2821 / SF 2670.

WHEREAS, Effective radios are the backbone of public safety in the State of Minnesota. Our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel depend upon this ARMER system to effectively perform their jobs. Radios save lives and serve every constituent of the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. They are costly to maintain and replace. In local government units, where budgets are tight, it is very difficult to plan for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure. Local government units would urge the state to fund a grant program that allows for the critical upgrade of radios. We would also encourage sustainable funding to support ongoing replacement costs.

WHEREAS, The cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact on our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source.

WHEREAS, In Redwood County, there are 430 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our small rural emergency departments. There are 28 emergency services departments who serve Redwood County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services departments.

WHEREAS, Redwood County has aging radios on the ARMER system, making it extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our emergency services departments rely on the ARMER radio system to provide the interoperability between the departments at the local, regional, State, and Federal levels. The replacement cost for the radios that are at the end of their life expectancy range from \$2,500 to \$4,800 each, not including the programming cost, additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the statewide radio system. That additional cost is approximately \$400 per radio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Redwood County supports the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of this public safety initiative.

- The Board reviewed the February 2022 Jail Population.

#### **Personnel**

- On motion by Forkrud, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to hire Benjamin Bauer as Full-Time Conservation Specialist at Grade 12, Step 1 of the AFSCME Scale at \$23.70/hour effective April 4, 2022.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to hire Roxanna Gutierrez as Full-Time Custody Officer on the 2022 LELS Custody Officer, Grade/Step 2 at \$20.93/hour effective March 16, 2022, due to experience.
- On motion by Forkrud, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to hire Josh Leach as Full-Time Highway Maintenance Specialist and Weed Sprayer on the 2022 Non-Union Salary Schedule at Step 1 at \$20.32/hour effective March 21, 2022.
- On motion by Forkrud, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to hire Roger Zollner as Full-Time Veterans Service Office on the 2022 Non-Union/Department Head Salary Schedule at Step 1 at \$25.59/hour effective March 21, 2022.

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

- The commissioners reported on meetings they attended:

Wakefield: RCRCA/Area II, Annual Township Meetings, Plum Creek Park Committee, Water Management Meeting, Lions Club Meeting in Lucan

Forkrud: Personnel Subcommittee, Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority

Salfer: Personnel Subcommittee, Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority, Economic Development Authority, Annual Township Meetings, Courthouse Walk Through

VanHee: Economic Development Authority, Prime West, Southwest Regional Development Commission, AMC Legislative Conference, Fair Board

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, Chair Salfer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Kletscher  
County Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Salfer, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners