

**Ash Creek Water Control District  
Board of Directors  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022  
7:00 A.M.**

**MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes: March 3, 2022
4. Audience Comments
5. Director Comments
6. Reports
  - A. Finance
    - a. Monthly Report
  - B. Phone
  - C. Nutria
  - D. Engineer's Report
  - E. Subcommittee Report: Outreach
7. Unfinished Business
  - A Mercury TMDL letter from DEQ
  - B. Ash Creek bank scouring
  - C. Website update
  - E. Policy Manual Update
8. New Business
  - A.
9. Miscellaneous Business/Information Items
  - A. Correspondence
  - B. Task Log
10. Adjourn

**Notice of Regular Meeting**

The Board of Directors of Ash Creek Water Control District will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. To provide comments in advance or to get videoconference attendance information, email the District Secretary at [DistSec@ashcreekwcd.com](mailto:DistSec@ashcreekwcd.com), no later than 5:00 pm, April 6, 2022.

**Ash Creek Water Control District  
Board of Directors  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, March 3, 2022**

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order via videoconferencing at 7:03 am by Chair Dan Farnworth.

2. Roll Call. Board present: Dan Farnworth, Tom Wilson, Andrea Melendy, Donna Schuyler, Madeline Hall, and Ed Matteo (arr 7:06)

Others Present: Todd Whitaker, Karin Johnson, Kristen Larson (LWC), Anne Scheck (Trammart News)

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes: February 3, 2022. Tom moved to approve minutes as submitted; Madeline seconded. Motion passed by all board present.

4. Audience Comments

a. David Beatley. Came to say thank you for the grant funds, school project at creek. Various types of birdhouses were designed and built.

(Ed arr. 7:06 pm)

Andrea shared newspaper article re: project. Dan thanked David for this project.

b. Catherine Underwood Bush. Mancil made most aware of the condition of the creek alongside her home; it is eroding as we speak. He suggested getting an engineer to do a report. Most won't do a smaller job; some have contacted the city. Engineers told her the city said not to work with her, that there were other motives. One came out, took a look at creek, took samples, but is now non-responsive. She wonders if someone is interfering; thought was ]Tom Pessemier, but it is still ongoing. Still can't get information. Not sure where to go from here. Tom W noted that the board has engineer we use. Catherine said when she spoke to him originally, he suggested she find an engineer. She will try calling him again. Tom W noted this is not unprecedented, not the first time the creek has eroded; we should be able to find out how it was addressed in the past. Dan thought it looked like a serious case of erosion, although the creek is doing what it has done in millennia, move back and forth. It is large, beyond our resources; will need an engineer solution. It will also require a combination of effort between various agencies; not only the city, but corps of engineers, etc. - permitting problem. More than a bureaucratic problem; she will have to work with various jurisdictions. Bush said she will work w/city; hopes she can work w/ the new city mgr. The bank is about 15 feet from her house. (Todd arr 7:14 am)

Bush said this is pretty serious, no one paid attention until she got ahold of Todd. Engineer hasn't been paid, feels would want to contact her, wonders if there is still interference from city. Dan asked Todd if he has any suggestions. Bush repeated statement about Pessemier, no

response from engineer. Todd/Bush discussion of engineer firms. Tom asked Todd if this could be in his purview as a private engineer. Tom says he lives at 8<sup>th</sup> and D, and is familiar with this type of problem. Tom asked if the problem is similar/related to the issue at Riverview Park. Anne S said she checked with city and got back an email saying that someone told the city administrator that it didn't look that bad; she has been unable to find the person that made that opinion. She would like to do a followup story if someone looks at the creek. Dan asked Todd if he would look at it. Todd will work w/ Bush on a time to visit.

## 5. Director Comments

a. Madeline reported: February, 2.19" precipitation, 5.28" last year. Had major impoundment in the field as usual. Received notice from city about major wetland that will be impacted by water and sewer lines that will be installed. She wrote to the city, asked about drainage. The city said there would be no impact, it would be restored to previous conditions.

b. Andrea noted a small water event. The road did not get blocked with water, but came under the bridge.

c. Dan noted we are getting SDAO weekly updates; cybersecurity recommendation. Because of Ukrainian problem, they are fearing Russian attempts to disrupt internet. We have website, email; he would like to communicate to them about security. Tom went to the SDAO conference; cybersecurity fascinating. Anything can be hacked. He will make contact; Streamline is already ahead of the curve. Since Covid, there has been a huge increase in cybercrime, especially for special districts; mostly schools, kids doing. Please be careful, he will followup.

## 6. Reports

A. Finance. Andrea presented the monthly report (Attachment #1).

Cash in bank: LGIP, \$377,755.85; PTB, \$7,075.49.

Checks: #2218, Streamline \$50.00; #2219, K Johnson, \$400.00.

\$328.69 invoice from Gloria; it will show up on next month's report.

We will be getting a \$50/month bill; she would like to see about paying for several months at a time. Dan said that seems like good idea; Tom says he will contact to see if it is okay. Board consensus. Donna also noted we have a district credit card. Dan would like to start transferring zoom cost; Karin suggested using the district credit card. Dan will submit invoice for prior month's costs. Discussion of signing up new zoom account. Discussion whether we can transfer writing checks to Gloria. Discussion of email account for zoom.

B. Phone. Dan reported that Mancil said no calls.

C. Nutria. Ed summarized the nutria report: 4 caught; 56 traps out. should start picking up more.

D. Engineer's Report. Todd reported nothing to report.

E. Subcommittee Report: Outreach

a. Tom suggested moving to end of unfinished business.

## 7. Unfinished Business

A. Invasive Plant Project: Bryan Dutton, Steve Taylor. Presentation by Dutton.

B. Mercury TMDL letter from DEQ. Dan reported he emailed all re: letter from DEQ. District is responsible for developing a plan for Mercury TMDL in Ash Creek. DEQ says we are way behind, have not responded. He sent letter; we have no equipment, ditches, conveyances. How do we respond? Madeline appreciates the response made. Todd – remembers TMDL plan several years ago. Don't recall if we made any official comment. Water control districts can be water suppliers; can impound water to make available for irrigation. We can't control what comes to us from all other systems that discharge. We will make a plan for just what we do – targeted weed control. Our nutria program is also an effective program. In the 10-year plan, we talked about our own best management practices; refer to state programs, can still do; will have to formalize a little more. Doesn't think will be quite as onerous as initially thought. Dan asked how to respond, so don't get fined; Todd said 6 months should be adequate for us. Question 13 – 10-year plan is maintenance program. Wish they would have reached out, consulted with us. Dan – how do we maintain communication with DEQ? Todd – letter initiated communication; we should hear back. Todd will be modifying documents, submit as required. Discussion about communication with DEQ; Todd will be our point person. Tom moved, Ed seconded to appoint Todd as our point person with DEQ. More discussion: Todd we want to look over table 13-22 that describes mgmt. strategies; not easily determinable for costs/time until visit w/DEQ. Tom asked about how Todd's contract w/district is structured; retainer/dollar amount. Todd reported he has an hourly contract for miscellaneous engineer services. Discussion of number of hours. Todd noted that 10 hours is probably enough to determine what we need to do; it will depend on what they want. Dan suggested a 20 hour limit.

Tom moved to allocate 20 hours to Whitaker Engineering to define the problem (DEQ TMDL) and offer a solution; Ed seconded. Motion passed by all board present.

Tom asked if we could do something similar w/ Bush - provide services to constituents to determine the problem; Dan reported Todd will go to the creek bank, get an idea of the problem and report back; these are general services as our engineer.

C. Ash Creek bank scouring at Riverview Park. Dan asked if Todd had chance to look at it. Todd said yes, it is a pretty big slide. Dan noted that 2 trees are now in the middle of the stream, will likely need to be removed. Discussion; he noted previous issue w/tree in stream. Not a problem. Kristen Larsen noted that if it is not collecting debris, etc., they like to take a wait and see approach. Maybe if not removed, but rolled toward the direction of the bank scour as a natural armoring. Discussion. Removal of trees would require a permit from DSL, Corps of Engineers. Dan asked if Todd had contacted the city; Todd - not yet. Kristen reported she got an email from Shawn (Irvine, Independence); he asked if there is any natural bank armoring that wouldn't compromise the trail. Todd suggested willow stakes when coming out of flood season may be an option without permit requirement. Kristen likes that idea; wrote to city, offered to put in stakes, would work up costs; he said no thanks. Dan – if Independence is to

do something, then the district could at least participate with some funds. Todd will call Independence, get an idea of what they have in mind. Ed asked if there is any idea on the cost of willow stakes; Todd said they are probably \$1-\$2 each, plus planting costs. Would think that for less than \$5k, could put in 100. Don't know if it is a long term solution, but it would hold temporarily. Dan noted that there are other trees that look like they could fall into the creek. Kristen will forward the city response to Dan and Todd.

D. Website update. Tom keeps putting stuff up; he able to hook up links. Puts zoom meeting link. Got information up, drone footage up.

E. Policy Manual Update. Tom – no update. Still on his docket to do. Got into the storage shed; found a lot of dust. Great documents there. Have a hard copy of manual; nothing strikingly out of date. Found many documents, took some boxes out, will return (more clean). Will make inventory of items. Tom has two keys; will get them to Karin and Andrea. Invoices for new lock, keys and getting into the unit will be forwarded to Andrea for reimbursement to Tom.

Todd excused at 8:38 am.

F. Outreach report: Donna reported she heard back from one of the Farmer's Markets; we can have a booth at no charge. The committee will work on the weekend prior to Mother's Day to try it out. If successful, we will look at June and/or July; also possibly at the Polk County Fair. Ed reported on finding holder & clippers; he will find out more about cost. Discussion. Looking at getting about 100 items to hand out. Tom reviewed other possible swag items. Sent out spreadsheet this morning. Discussion of brochures and cards. Clippers would be for district owners; bring in the postcard to get clippers. Tom – would display a poster of the district, other items. Donna would like to have everything together for May 7<sup>th</sup>. Would like \$2,000 for outreach expenses. Discussion. Tom asked if there is money in budget. (Miscellaneous.)

Roger moved to authorize \$2,000 for outreach; Andrea seconded. Motion passed by all present.

Donna asked, if successful, if anyone is interested in doing again in June or July? Andrea will volunteer. Discussion of particulars for the May weekend. Karin reported on budget for outreach.

Dan asked what we want to communicate; be thinking about this. Tom suggested to consider mission statement. Andrea noted we should have talking points. Donna is looking for new volunteers.

Roger excused at 8:58 am

Tom excused at 8:58 am

Donna noted the committee needs to set another meeting; she will schedule via email.

8. New Business. None.

9. Miscellaneous Business/Information Items

- A. Correspondence. DEQ certified letter.
- B. Task Log. Todd will do DEQ TMDL.

Anne will be emailing Dan and Karin re: this meeting.

10. Adjourn. Ed moved to adjourn; Madelyn seconded. Passed by all present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

DRAFT