

April 17, 2023 (a)

**APPROVED**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE**  
**MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS AND AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**8:30 a.m.** **April 17, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Eric Johnson, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski, Lein Schiller and Joey McGregor were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Danny Omdahl, Katrina Haugen, Jim Duckstad, Rolland Miller, Tony Nordby, Dean Danielski, Derek Peterson, Nathan Wozniak, and Mike Rosendahl, were in attendance. Jeff Hane attended virtually.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the agenda, as amended, to include Guests Derek Peterson & Mike Rosendahl for WD #4; under Ditches, SD #3 Redetermination of Benefits and Ice Dusting, and photos of OCSS Bypass Ditch under Other. Motion unanimously carried.

Gunnar Bowman joined at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the Minutes of the April 3, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to pay the following bills: Payroll 6946-6960 in the amount of \$21,153.45; from Administrative funds check #19611-19640 inclusive of an ACH withdrawal and service charge in the amount of \$27,443.24; from Project funds check #3389-3396 in the amount of \$837,394.08; from Ditch funds check #3588-3591 in the amount of \$35,124.29. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher stated Christian Erickson was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Erickson believes the control structure will be installed this week and will contact District staff once the shut off gate is installed.

Nate Dalager joined the meeting at approximately 8:51 a.m. (virtual).  
Ben Knott and Tom Stinar joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Tony Nordby provided his WD #4 report discussing if a repair of WD #4 would be sufficient to address the flow problems or if a ditch improvement would be needed. Mike Rosendahl, Derek Peterson, and Tom Stinar will share the report with other landowners. District staff will work with them.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 9:13 a.m.  
Tom Stinar, Mike Rosendahl, Derek Peterson and left the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, to approve the following permit:

Permit (23-010) Mike Beaudry to install 170 acres of field drain tile in the SE4 of Section 13 Oak Park Township with a ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; 5 HP (801 GPM) pump outletting into a tributary of the Snake River.

Motion unanimously carried.

Ben Knott left the meeting at approximately 9:27 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the following permit:

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Permit (22-011) Mike Borowicz to remove 2-18" crossing culverts on the south side of CSAH #30 and replace with 3-36' culverts in the S2 SE4 of Section 24 Tamarac Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, to approve the following permit:

Permit (23-012) Rolland Miller to install 41 acres of field drain tile in the W2 W2 SE4 of Section 3 Vega Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; 1 HP (193 GPM) VFD pump to outlet to JD #20 Br. B (~Sta 302+50) thru 15" dual wall pipe under 270<sup>th</sup> St NW.

Motion unanimously carried.

The following permit was Administratively approved and reviewed:

Permit (23-006) MNDOT to grade and resurface MN Trunk Hwy #220 in Sections 13 & 24 Esther Township (S.P. 6017-45). To remove and install two in-kind culverts, (18" CAS under driveway entrance and 18"RCP under 130<sup>th</sup> St NW approach).

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Operation Manager Danny Omdahl reviewed surveying and sediment removal that needs to be done on JD #15. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the surveying and cleaning as needed.

Omdahl reviewed maintenance needs on CD #43 and CD #44; there is some surveying that needs to be done as well as some repairs. Omdahl will calculate the cost estimates for the work and furnish his report.

There was a discussion on forming a Budget Committee for District's Project expenses. It was decided that that will be addressed after Administrative Assistant Haugen visits the Auditor in May.

Omdahl elaborated on the response he received from the DNR regarding Ice Dusting with sand to aid in melting the snow in short reaches of JD #75 and JD #1. The DNR is not in favor of Ice Dusting as there is concern with it affecting fish spawning on the Red River. Omdahl researched spraying of dyes that could be used, but the formulation of the dye may be detrimental. He will contact the DNR to see what is acceptable.

Omdahl provided a brief update on the impoundments and stated that all of the outlet gates were closed on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Technician Schlomann provided a brief update on the incorrect Viewers' Report that was submitted to Polk County for PCD #175. Schlomann forwarded data to Sam Melby, Director of the Taxpayer Service Center, in Polk County and is waiting to hear back from him on how to proceed.

Administrator Maher provided updates on the following projects:

**March Property** – The land renter (Nathan Wozniak also in attendance) had some concerns with the location of the crossing and being able to access the field. After discussions with the renter and Houston Eng. The crossing will be moved south ~600'-700'

**Swift Coulee** – Applications for Reinvest in Minnesota were submitted prior to the deadline, but there is more documentation/information needed. Darren Carlson, District Manager of Marshall County SWCD, is working on it now.

**Newfolden**- Dillon Nelson from HDR provided an update on the project including Wetland Credits and resuming construction on the bridge when the flood water is gone.

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**Nelson Slough-** Maher received the joint permit application and will review and submit to the agencies. Some discussion was held regarding how it will be operated once the project is completed.

Nate Dalager left the meeting at approximately 11:44 a.m. (virtual)  
Dillon Nelson left the meeting at approximately 11:46 a.m.

Administrator Maher provided information on a QuickBooks Training that is available for Administrative Assistant Haugen to take.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to have Administrative Assistant Haugen take QuickBooks training for \$675.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher asked Board members if they have contacted Legislators regarding the 2023 Bonding Bill that includes several of the District's Projects. Maher encouraged all Managers to do so.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided the letter of compliance for the 2023 Pay Equity Report.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller that all Board Managers be paid the full \$125 Per Diem for Board meetings regardless of length. Any other meeting or District business will follow the \$40 per hour up to 3 hours or \$125 per day. Motion unanimously carried.

The Managers were provided a copy of the 2023 Equipment Rental Rates tabulation from the contractors.

There will be a 1W1P Policy Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2023. More information will be provided once the date has been set.

Brad Blawat left the meeting at approximately 12:21 p.m.

Manager Joey McGregor presented his photos of the OCSS Bypass Ditch and discussed his concerns regarding the maintenance and adequacy of the Snake River in the vicinity of the Bypass. The discussion led to what is the District's maintenance responsibility at the rivers where legal drainage systems drain into as well as funding options for the maintenance. Mr. Bill Petersen will bring up the matter for feedback at the upcoming Red River Watershed Management Board.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB Regular Monthly Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN.
2. Project 60/Grand Marais Joint Board Meeting Thursday, April 27, 2023 9:00 a.m. in TRF, MN.
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Warren, MN.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:33 p.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Assistant Secretary