

December 18, 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. **December 18, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski and Lein Schiller were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Danny Omdahl, Kyle Schломann, Dillon Nelson, Rolland Miller and Tony Nordby were also present. Jared (guest), and Jeff Hane were in attendance virtually.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the Meeting Minutes from the December 4, 2023 Board of Managers Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following bills: Payroll checks #7041-7050 & 7057-7059 in the amount of \$22,475.37; from Administrative Funds check # 19830-19852 inclusive of ACH withdrawal and service charge in the amount of \$27,845.01; from Project Funds Check #3466-3478 in the amount of \$86,791.58; From RRWMB Funds check #221 in the amount of \$146,460.14; From Ditch Funds check #3660-3669 in the amount of \$60,869.17. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Joey McGregor joined the meeting (virtual) at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Bill Peterson to appoint Mr. Lein Schiller as the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Motion unanimously carried.

Manager Brad Blawat was appointed to the Swift Coulee PWT. Manager Keith Szczepanski was appointed to the Lilac Ridge PWT.

The following permit was Administratively Approved and reviewed:

Permit (23-120) Tim Olson to remove a failed 18" culvert, install a new 18" culvert at the same elevation and location, in the SW corner of the E2 SE4 of Section 21 New Folden Township.

Amy and Van Hapka joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

An update was provided on the sediment removal on JD #25-2 and JD #14.

There was a discussion of JD #20 Br A sediment removal in the summer of 2023. A landowner in the NE4 section 23 Vega desired to move the spoil himself. However, no work occurred into November. The owner later stated he applied fertilizer in the fall and requested to leave the spoil until the fall of 2024. The Board directed staff to have the spoil dozed in the spring of 2024.

A brief discussion was held on the reconsideration of Permit (23-103) Tim Mortensen and Van Hapka, to remove a failed 18" CSP, install a new 18"x60' CSP in the field crossing, to grade the crossing's vicinity to allow for water to drain west into and away from the culvert in the north 250th St NW ditch, on the quarter line of Section 13 Comstock Twp.

Mr. Mortenson contacted staff prior to the meeting to say he was unable to attend the meeting. He asked for the matter to be rescheduled.

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The Reconsideration hearing was rescheduled for Monday, January 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The Board instructed staff to let all parties know that a decision will be made at the January 22 Board Meeting. If they are unable to attend, to encourage them to submit a written statement to be reviewed at the hearing.

Mr. Joey McGregor left the meeting (virtual) at approximately 9:39 a.m.
Amy and Van Hapka left the meeting at approximately 9:51 a.m.

Operations Manager Danny Omdahl provided an update on the new crossing east of AO #4. He had marked the borrow pit that the clay for the crossing was supposed to be hauled from, but no material was removed. He will provide more information when it is available.

An update was provided on the following Capitol Projects:

Nelson Slough - An additional \$700,000 will potentially be available from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage council pending approval from the Legislature. The DNR is still reviewing the Joint Powers Agreement.

Lilac Ridge - The DNR is not in favor of the Fen Community being altered. Maher will draft a proposal for a potential solution with the help of Engineer Tony Nordby and MNDNR Red River Coordinator Andrew Graham.

Newfolden - Still waiting on the MNDNR Dam Safety Permit. Maher has a meeting with the Army Corps on Wednesday to discuss and answer questions. Discussion was held on current Zoning for the city, potential improvements and development expansion.

Swift Coulee - An additional \$2.3 million was secured from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The funds are to be used for construction and must be spent by December 31, 2024.

Jared (Guest) left the meeting (virtual) at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Manager Bill Peterson, and Administrator Maher provided an update of the Border Township Associative Group (BTAG) meeting. A discussion was held on how the current draft of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) focuses on Transportation and not water management or flood mitigation. Discussion was also held on Marshall County potentially being included in the JPA. Attorney Hane will work with the BTAG attorneys to submit the District's comments and provide an update when available.

After a review, there was a Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the 2023 Revised Personnel Policy. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to give all employees a 7% COLA increase effective January 1, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen requested for Managers to sign checks on December 29 for the year end as well as payroll checks prior to the January 12, payroll date. Managers Bill Petersen and Keith Szczepanski agreed to do it.

Administrator Maher and Technician Larson will be at the Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting on December 19, 2023 to present on JD #75 and JD #1.

The One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee will be meeting at the Marshall County SWCD office on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

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Information on the County Drainage Conference to be held in Alexandria, MN February 7-8, 2024 was provided to the Board. Manager Bill Petersen, staff members Omdahl, Schlomann, and Larson will be attending.

Regarding a previous inquiry of Bryan Bolstad's hay rental contract at the Off Channel Storage Site, Attorney Jeff Hane advised that the land is rentable, so Mr. Bolstad's contract will continue.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB Board Meeting December 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada MN.
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, January 22, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District office in Warren, MN.
3. RRWMB Regular monthly meeting & Legislative update Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in Moorhead, MN.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary