

July 3, 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. July 3, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Eric Johnson, Lein Schiller and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schломann, Danny Omdahl, Katrina Haugen, David Nelson, Rolland Miller, Jim Ducksted, George Feltman, Don Loeslie, Chris Miller, Russ Miller, Doni Loeslie, Benn Knott, Neil Johnson and Tony Nordby were also in attendance. Jeff Hane and Joey McGregor attended virtually.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the agenda, with the following additions: Under Approval of Minutes add June 30, 2023, Emergency Meeting; Under Guest and #4 Neil Johnson; Under Managers add #5 Per-Diem. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2023, Emergency Meeting as corrected. Motion carried with Mr. Eric Johnson abstaining.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen to accept and sign the Partial payment Request from Higher Ground for repairs taking place at the March Property. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to pay check #3414 in the amount of \$31,071.18 from Project Funds. Motion carried.

Don Loeslie, Doni Loeslie, Chris Miller, Russ Miller, George Feltman and Neil Johnson were all in attendance to discuss issues on the JD#16 including road elevation, spoil height, diking, and tree maintenance. A letter that was received from Richard Bergeron and was distributed to the managers for discussion regarding diking along JD#16, blocking culverts and ditches and flooding in sections 30 & 31 Warrington Twp. Chairman Bill Peterson Directed Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering to research the road height and levy/spoil height along JD#16 in Warrenton Township along Sections 32, 33, and 25.

Keaton Laymon joined the meeting virtually at approximately 8:53 a.m.  
Guest (virtual) joined the meeting at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to table the following permit while the Ellingson Representative continues to try and have discussions with the landowners.

Permit (23-032) John Anderson and Peter Hvidsted to install 70 acres of drain tile with ¼" drainage coefficient, 40' spacing, a 5 HP (337 GPM) pump outletting into 410<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, in portions of the NE4 and SE4 of Section 1 Parker Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Guest (virtual) left the meeting at approximately 9:43 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, to table the following to have Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering look at the permit and provide an opinion:

Permit (23-043) Lein Schiller to install a flapgate on the N.S. 51"x31" corrugated steel pipe arch culvert in the SW SW of Section 5 of Middle River Township.

APPROVED

Motion carried with Mr. Lein Schiller abstaining.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, to table the following permit for more information.

Permit (23-048) Jarod Peterson To )1 Remove an existing field crossing with 24" CSP in the East CR 104 Ditch 2) to reinstall the removed crossing and 24" CSP approximately 350' South from the existing location on the East side of CR 104 3) to remove an existing dry crossing on the North side of CR 104 4) to widen an existing crossing and replace an old 15' CSP with a new 18" culvert in the North CR 104 Ditch all in the SW4 of Section 21 Warrenton Twp.

Motion unanimously carried.

Gunner Bowman joined the meeting at approximately 9:56 a.m.  
Neil Johnson left the meeting at approximately 10:06 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller, to approve the following permit:

Permit (23-049) Daniel Haugen to install 427 acres of field drain tile in the W2 and W2E2 of Section 3 Oak Park Township with 3/8" drainage coefficient; 40" tile spacings; and 5 gravity outlets into the Snake River.

Motion unanimously carried.

David Nelson left at approximately 10:07 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the following Permit:

Permit (23-053) Hoff Farms to install 65 acres of field pattern drain tile in the S2 SW4 of Section 17 Oak Park Township with 1/4" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; and two outlets; one outlet to tie into an existing lift station in the NW4 of Section 20 Oak Park Township and the other outlet to gravity feed into Marshall County Ditch #44 Lateral 3.

Motion unanimously carried.

Ben Knott and Gunner Bowman left the meeting at approximately 10:16 a.m.

The following Permits were Administratively reviewed and approved:

Permit (23-051) Augusburg Township to remove a failing 33"X49" CSPA, and install a new pipe at the same location and grade in the N2 of S.L. 29-28

Permit (23-052) Ryan Eggen to install a new field crossing with an 18" culvert on the North side of Polk CSAH #22, in the SE4 SW4 of Section 28 Higdrem Township.

Geroge Feltman left the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Administrator Maher provided the board with a letter from Keaton Laymon requesting reconsideration of Denied Permit (23-030). The letter was accepted by the Board and District Staff will review the concerns stated in the letter and let the board know when they have had a chance to gather further information so that a hearing date can be set.

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Keyton Laymon (virtual) left the meeting at approximately 10:37 a.m.

An Update on the repair at JD#75 was provided as well as an update on the works being done on SD#3. Administrator Maher stated that he had applied for Clean Water Base funding for SD#3 in the amount of \$112,500 and it was approved at the last Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting on June 27, 2023.

Administrator Maher presented the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Watershed District for the Swift Coulee Project for approval.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for the Swift Coulee Project between BWSR and the Watershed District and authorize Mr. Bill Peterson to sign it. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher provided information on the following projects:

**Newfolden-** \$4.5 million has been allocated from Flood Hazard Mitigation, in addition to another \$0.95 million from the Red River Watershed Management Board from the Red River Basin fund.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to authorize Managers Bill Peterson and Keith Szczepanski to sign the State Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding Assistance Agreement for the Newfolden Project. Motion unanimously carried.

**Nelson Slough-** The Joint Ditch Authority held a meeting and reviewed the petition that was submitted by the Watershed District. They are waiting for a signed Joint Powers Agreement before they address the petition.

**March Property-** an update on the progress of the work taking place was provided, discussion was held regarding Rolland Miller wanting to install a new trap or a slues gate to help prevent water from backflowing onto his property. It was discussed to install a high flow 18" culvert and installing a gate on the 48" culvert to help reduce road damage and equalize flow. The board advised Miller to apply for a permit.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to authorize Administrator Maher to approve a permit per the District Engineers recommendation for Rolland Miller.

Discussion on the cleaning contract that the Watershed has with Arnie was held.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to increase the weekly payment to Arnie Bauer for cleaning the office twice a week from \$75 to \$100. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the amount of Bank Accounts the District has for funds and why some projects have their own accounts, but others do not.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to close the AGV and the AO#4 savings accounts and transfer the funds into the Administrative/Project savings account. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an Easement from Wikstrom Telephone Company for the board to review. The Easement is being requested in Section 6 in McCrea Strip for installing fiber optic telephone cable.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize Mr. Bill Peterson to sign the easement from Wikstrom Telephone Company. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

Discussion was held regarding the 2024 budget and the increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for the maximum Administrative Levy. Haugen asked for direction from the board on what they wanted to levy so that she could finish putting the budget together. It was the consensus of the board to let the Budget committee work with Haugen and Maher to provide a recommendation to the board at the next meeting.

Managers were reminded to turn in their per-diems to Haugen for payment at the next board meeting.

Mr. Bill Peterson provided an update from the last Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting.

Operations Manager Omdahl discussed the Diane Johnson Property in Warren that is sluffing. Omdahl is reaching out to others to see if there is any programs that are available to assist her.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, July 17, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Warren, MN
2. JD#16 Petition Hearing on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the MSTRWD District Office in Warren, MN
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, August 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Assistant Secretary