

May 1, 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. May 1, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Eric Johnson, Brad Blawat, Lein Schiller and Joey McGregor were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Danny Omdahl, Katrina Haugen, Tony Nordby, Dean Danielski, Jerome Hoper, and Gunnar Bowman, were in attendance. Jeff Hane, Scott Peters, and Dillon Nelson attended virtually.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the agenda, as amended, to include OCSS Repair as item #5 under Projects, IT Contract as item #2 under Administrator, Office Upgrades as Item # 2 under Other, and 2022 Audit schedule as item #3 under Other. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Eric Johnson, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat, to approve the following Permit with an 18" high flow culvert:

Permit (23-014) Comstock Township to add a culvert TBD under 230<sup>th</sup> approach to CSAH #36 in NW4 32 Comstock Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the following Permit with a 36" culvert and flapgate:

Permit (22-015) Comstock Township to install a high flow culvert nest to an existing culvert through 230<sup>th</sup> St NW outleting to MCD#22 on Section line 27/34 size TBD.

Motion unanimously carried.

Scott Peters left the meeting at approximately 8:48 a.m. (virtual)

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson, to table the following Permit to research a better solution for the relief of flood water:

Permit (23-018) Doug Schindele to reinstall a 24" CL, under 340<sup>th</sup> Ave NW ~533' North of the ½ ML on Section line 36 Sinnott & Augsburg Townships. Said culvert was removed by Permit (18-118 to Augsburg Township and to remove the 24" culvert under approach to CSAH #5 to reuse prior location.

Motion unanimously carried.

Randy Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Jerome Hoper left the meeting at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to table the following Permit for more information and a staff recommendation:

Permit (23-013) Randy Nelson to regrade the East 120<sup>th</sup> Ave NW ditch in the SW4 of Section 26 New Maine Township to drain water south, and to install a culvert (Size and Elevation TBD) through 120<sup>th</sup> Ave Approach to Marshall CSAH #30.

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Motion unanimously carried.

Nathan (guest) joined the meeting at approximately 9:38 a.m. (virtual)  
Randy Nelson left the meeting at approximately 9:39 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following Permit contingent on the 2.6 acres being successfully Petitioned into the Benefited Area of JD #16

Permit (23-019) Tim Sedlacek to install 322 acres of drain tile in the S2 of Section 25 and the NW4 of Section 36 with ¼" drainage coefficient; 20' and 40' tile spacings; 15-hp (1514 gpm) VFD pump to outlet into the East Ditch of US Hwy 75.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Eric Johnson to approve the following Permit:

Permit (23-020) Ken Johnson to install 125 acres of drain tile with ¼" drainage coefficient, 40' tile spacings in the E2 E2 of Section 23 Big Woods Township with 3 gravity outlets to the Snake River.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the following Permit:

Permit (23-021) Johnson Farms to install 234 acres of drain tile with a gravity outlet, ¼" drainage coefficient, and 44' tile spacing to outlet into JD #1 and SD #5 (Snake River) in Section 16 Sandsville Township.

Motion carried with Mr. Eric Johnson abstaining.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the following Permit:

Permit (23-022) G&G Farms to install 132 acres of field drain tile in the NW4 of Section 24 Wanger Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 100' tile spacings; to connect to an existing drain tile system (Permit 20-086).

Motion unanimously carried.

The following Permits were Administratively approved and reviewed:

Permit (23-016) Marshall County Hwy Department to remove a failing 6'X8' (48 sq ft) poured in place culvert and install a new 5'X10' (48 sq ft) concrete Box culvert in S2 halves of Section 36-31 McCreary-Comstock Townships.

Permit (23-017) MNDOT to mill & overlay MN State Hwy 1 and to repair and pave the road shoulder and in-slope, as necessary, between Industrial Park Rd and Marshall CSAH #17 (S.P. 4501-53)

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 10:07 a.m.

Operations Manager Omdahl provided a review of JD #16. Sediment removal was started in 2021 but was not completed in 2022. Another contractor has agreed to complete the work in 2023. There are scours at some

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centerline culverts that need repair. Volunteer trees are in the ditch that need to be removed. Discussion was held regarding locations where the spoil bank is higher than the road. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the sediment removal and remove the trees growing in problem areas. Staff was directed to review spoilbank elevations and bring their recommendation to the Board at another date.

Omdahl provided an update on the north spoilbank height on CD #44 in the SW4 Section 19 Angus Twp. He spoke to the landowners, told them a short reach is too low and they agreed for the spoilbank to be raised.

Eric Johnson left the meeting at approximately 10:31 a.m.

Administrator Maher provided updates on the following Projects:

**Swift Coulee:** Maher is still working with landowners on filling out applications for RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota). There is concern from a landowner on the payment amount, due to their CRP Contract being near the end, they feel the payment is not sufficient.

**Newfolden:** Construction is scheduled to resume the week of May 8, 2023, weather permitting. The required wetland credits needed have been reduced for a savings of approximately \$89,000.

**Nelson Slough:** Maher has been in contact with Attorneys Jeff Hane and John Kolb. The discussion focused on if a Petition is needed regarding impounding, rerouting, or diverting drainage system waters from JD #19. Attorney Hane recommended the district prepare and present a Petition to the Joint Ditch Authority.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor, to have Attorney Jeff Hane draft the Petition to the Joint Ditch Authority and authorize Mr. Bill Peterson to sign it. Motion unanimously carried.

Nathan (guest) left the meeting at approximately 10:36 a.m. (virtual)

Jared (guest) joined the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m. (virtual)

Operations Manager Omdahl discussed the dike inslope repairs that are still needed at the Off Channel Storage Site. At this time, the District is still waiting for Repair Plans from NRCS. Administrator Maher stated the Plans should be completed in June. Tree spraying and removal at the Off Channel Storage Site, Agassiz Valley, Brandt Angus Coulee, and Angus Oslo #1 was also discussed.

Danny Omdahl left the meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m.

The Board Managers attended the Project 60 meeting held in Thief River Falls at the Red Lake Watershed District Office and briefly recapped the meeting.

Manager Bill Petersen discussed some potential office upgrades including new Board Meeting chairs, purchasing computers/tablets for Board members, additional TVs, a bigger meeting room, and Bathroom upgrades. Maher mentioned digitizing historical documents. A discussion was held on improving the Permitting process as well.

Dillon Nelson and Jared (guest) left the meeting at approximately 11:16 a.m. (virtual)

Administrator Maher provided the Board with financial information including a cashflow chart to demonstrate the district's ability to place \$1.5 million into CD accounts to collect interest until the funds are needed. Attorney Jeff Hane reviewed the requirements the District must follow from the MN State Auditor on investments and FDIC coverage.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to invest \$1.5 million into CD accounts for 6 months after receiving direction from the State Auditor. Motion unanimously carried.

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Administrator Maher provided an update on the transition from TechOne as the District's IT contractor to Garden Valley, Maher also transitioned internet providers from Sjoberg's Cable TV to Garden Valley for more fluid service. Technician Schlomann is working with Garden Valley to secure a new computer.

Information was provided to the Board on the 2023 Summer Tour to be held June 20-21 in Albert Lea, MN

Manager Joey McGregor provided an update from the One Watershed One Plan meeting held on April 25, 2023. Mostly on RIM payments and an incentive structure for the Swift Coulee Project.

The 2023 Helgeland Township Policy was provided to the Board of Managers along with a letter from Marshall County Emergency Management regarding 2023 flood damages.

Joey McGregor left the meeting at approximately 11:59 a.m.

Technicians Larson and Schlomann provided information to the Board on the purchase of a new Trimble unit for which a quote was received from Frontier Precision for \$41,191.71. There was a discussion on making sure what is purchased will be sufficient for staff needs and will not be outdated in a few years.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the Quote from Frontier Precision for \$41,191.71. Motion unanimously carried.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, May 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Warren, MN
2. RRWMB Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, June 5, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in Warren, MN.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:06 p.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Assistant Secretary