

November 20, 2023 (a)

**APPROVED (As corrected 12-4-2023)**  
**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.** **November 20, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Lein Schiller, and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Danny Omdahl, David Nelson, Rolland Miller, George Feltman, Doni Loeslie, Don Loeslie, Russell Miller, Tony Nordby, and Jeff Hane were also present.

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

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the Meeting Minutes from the November 6, 2023 Board of Managers Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Joey McGregor joined the meeting at approximately 8:32 a.m.

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

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following bills: Payroll checks #7030-7040 & 7051 in the amount of \$19,820.17; from Administrative Funds check # 19801-19829 inclusive of ACH withdrawal and service charge in the amount of \$35,060.45; from Project Funds Check #3457-3465 in the amount of \$94,515.03; From RRWMB Funds check #220 in the amount of \$6,906.27; From Ditch Funds check #3650-3659 in the amount of \$54,205.74. Motion unanimously carried

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

Permit (23-115) Stacy Blawat to install a new 18" centerline culvert with a flapgate through 310<sup>th</sup> St NW, to drain a portion of the SE4 SW4 of Section 16 into 310 St NW ditch along the north line of the NW4 of Section 21 Marsh Grove Township.

Motion carried with Mr. Brad Blawat abstaining.

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

Permit (23-118) Jennifer Kovar to install 76 acres of field pattern drain tile in the E2 E2 NW4 and W2 W2 NE4 of Section 4 Northland Township with a 1/4" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; to gravity outlet (358 GPM) into Judicial Ditch #75 (~Sta 362+00).

Motion carried with Mr. Robert Kovar abstaining.

The following permit was Administratively reviewed and approved:

Permit (23-117) Jarod Peterson to remove an existing field crossing and 24" culvert in the SW4 of Section 11 Farley Township. To reinstall crossing and 24" culvert on the property line ~130 ft East of the existing crossing in the SW4 SE4 of Section 11 Farley Township.

This portion of the meeting was recorded by a member of the public.

As Directed by the Board of Managers, staff surveyed the current elevation of 230<sup>th</sup> St NW and the current JD #16 spoil bank elevation in Sections 35 & 36 Vega Township and Sections 31, 32, 33, 34 & 35 in Warrenton Township and provided the survey information to the Board. A discussion was held on the effects of the spoil bank height as well as the effects of snow being blown out of the ditch in select locations.

APPROVED

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting (virtual) at approximately 9:03 a.m.  
Mike Novacek and Mark Judovsky joined the meeting at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to adopt a policy that “No person or entity may remove snow from any Legal Ditch under the Jurisdiction of the Watershed District without first obtaining written permission from the District Office”.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that Administrator Maher contact JD #16 landowners in Section 35 Vega (~Sta 240+00-251+00) (Lane Iverson), Section 36 Vega (~Sta 310+00-337+00) (NELD Johnson LLLP), Section 31 Warrenton (~Sta 357+00-362+40) (Shirley Lundgren) & Section 34 Warrenton (~Sta 539+00-544+00) (Donald Narlock Estate) by phone and by letter asking them to lower the spoil height to 1' below the road elevation.

Motion carried with Mr. Joey McGregor voting Nay

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski that Administrator Maher issue Restoration Orders to JD #16 landowners in Section 36 Vega (~Sta 302+00-310+00) (Julie Rivard), Section 32 Warrenton (~Sta 389+00-415+00) (Stacy Loeslie) & Section 33 Warrenton (~Sta 415+00-442+00) (James Johnson) to lower the spoil height to 1' below the road elevation.

Motion carried with Mr. Joey McGregor voting Nay

Mike Novacek was in attendance to discuss with the Board resloping and re-establishment of the spoil bank height on JD #75 in the NE4 of Section 2 Tabor Twp. Operations Manager Danny Omdahl provided information on why this portion of JD #75 was not repaired in 2015 while other portions were addressed. Currently, this section of JD#75 has a 2:1 slope and has sluffing of the slopes.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to re-establish the ditch bottom and reslope to a 4:1 to reduce sluffing, balance the spoil by removing the spoil valleys in this reach of JD#75, in the NE4 of Section 2 Tabor Township based on the following findings:

1. JD #75, in the NE4 of Section 2 Tabor Township, is in need of Maintenance.
2. This is a continuation of a 2015 repair that addresses the same issues in the sections to the West and East of the proposed location.
3. The landowner is in support of the repair continuing through their property.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mike Novacek, Mark Judovsky, Russel Miller, George Feltman, Rolland Miller, Don Loeslie, Doni Loeslie left the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Tony Nordby, from Houston Engineering, provided a Project update and reviewed Project design changes for the Swift Coulee. Discussion was held regarding setting up a maintenance fund for the Project and current tasks being completed by Houston Engineering and District Staff. Administrator Maher has scheduled a Swift Coulee Project Work Team Meeting for Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Marshall County Courthouse in the Basement meeting room. Letters have been sent out to landowners and Maher encouraged Board members to attend, if able.

Don and Doni Loeslie joined the meeting at approximately 11:14 a.m.

APPROVED

Don and Doni Loeslie left the meeting at approximately 11:21 a.m.

Administrator Maher stated he has a Data Practice Request for a letter and Restoration Order that was originally sent to John Johnson regarding the 2012 ridge cut.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the Restoration Order for John Johnson regarding the Ridge cut. The cut has been filled in by a contractor that Johnson hired. There are still some finishing touches to be done but the majority of the work has been completed.

Administrator Maher and Technician Larson discussed the drainage in the NW4 Section 10 Comstock. They surveyed the apparent natural waterway, discussed the matter with the Morken family and Manager Brad Blawat. The contractor at the site ditched the waterway and it was resurveyed.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat that the baseline elevation for the southerly flowing natural waterway, approximately 120' east of the CSAH #14 30" centerline culvert, is set to 953.4' (NAVD 88) with a 0% grade to daylight, in the NW4 Section 10 Comstock.

Motion unanimously carried.

Board Managers reviewed the proposed resolution from Minnesota Watersheds (formerly Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts) to be discussed at the annual meeting next week. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Board Designees vote as recommended.

Manager McGregor asked for an affixable film to be purchased, if possible, so that laser pointers can be used with the TV monitor during presentations. Administrative Assistant Haugen will look into it.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB Regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
2. MNWD Annual Meeting November 28-December 1, 2023, in Alexandria, MN
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, December 4, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. at the District office in Warren, MN
4. Newfolden Flood Prevention Project Final Hearing Monday, December 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
5. Petition Hearing to Add Lands to the Benefited Area of WD #4 Monday, December 4, 2023 at 10:00 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 12:08 p.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary