

March 18, 2024 (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. **March 18, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski, Robert Kovar, Joey McGregor, Jared Sands and Lein Schiller were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Danny Omdahl, Rolland Miller, Tony Pulkrabek, Tony Nordby, were also present. Jeff Hane was in attendance virtually.

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

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the Meeting Minutes from the March 4, 2024 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 check; Payroll check #7083-7093 in the amount of \$21,371.68; from Administrative funds check #19905-19919 in the amount of \$30,278.83 including ACH withdrawal and service fees; from Project Funds Checks #3496-3501 in the amount of \$65,678.16; and from Ditch funds checks #3685-3687 in the amount of \$16,792.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following Permit with the condition that Watershed District staff set the elevation and pipe size.

Permit (24-004) Damon Stroble to uncover and re-establish an existing crossing culvert through the dry crossing in the NE4 SE4 of Section 18 Angus Township and to install a new culvert through an existing dry crossing in the SE4 SE4 of Section 18 Angus Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to approve the following Permit contingent on Permit 24-004 being completed with a berm elevation to be set at 859.2'

Permit (24-005) Damon Stroble (After the Fact Permit) to construct a berm on the edge of the field west of an existing centerline culvert near the quarter line on the East line of Section 18 Angus Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Pulkrabek left the meeting at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following Permit with the Watershed District Staff setting the elevation for up to a 24" pipe.

Permit (24-009) Harlan Boman to install a diagonal high flow culvert into JD #20 Br. A in the NW4 of Section 24 Vega Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Johnson joined the meeting at approximately 9:24 a.m.

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Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to deny the following Permit due to the bridge being oversized compared to the upstream and downstream crossings.

Permit (24-010) BNSF Railroad to replace an existing 3-span 41' timber bridge with a proposed 3-span 58' prestressed concrete bridge on Polk County Ditch #43 in the NW4 of Section 9 Angus Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson, with HDR Engineering, joined the meeting at approximately 9:34 a.m.

Regarding the March Property land rent, on the north side of the Snake River, Danny Omdahl explained the history of the rental contracts. Tony Johnson addressed the Board with his suggested rental rate.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to rent 17.2 acres in sections 11 & 14 of Sandsville Township to Tony Johnson in the amount of \$2,236 per year. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Johnson left at approximately 9:54 a.m.

The following quotes were received, for works to be done on Polk County Ditch #43:

Higher Ground	\$95,952.58
Olson Construction	\$124,950.40
Andy Anderson	\$130,139.12
Spruce Valley	\$182,681.00
R.J Zavoral and Sons	\$207,274.00

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to accept the low quote of \$95,952.358 from Higher Ground. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided three alternatives on SD #3 repair designs with cost estimates to address the sluffing on the South side of the ditch/bank.

An update was provided on the status of the SD #3 Redetermination of Benefits. The Board directed Administrator Maher to contact the viewers and have them update their report and assess the damages for the grass strip for approximately 2.25 miles.

Dillon Nelson provided an update on the JD #1/JD #75 Meeting that was held in Alvarado on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. The discussion focused on improving the flows and capacities of the ditches.

Operations Manager Danny Omdahl discussed the current conditions at JD #15 and JD #28. The JD #15 Br B concern regards reseeding from repairs done in 2006 where the vegetation did not take well. Danny identified sluffing at the Main's outlet and recommended repair. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the repair. Surveying the remainder of the ditch will be completed.

Each year, JD #28 has numerous beaver dams that need to be removed. About 7 side water inlets should be installed. Danny identified a reach 1.25 miles east of CSAH #48, that lacks ditch information. The staff's 2024 plan is to survey and establish new data for this reach and other similar reaches. A discussion was held about holding a landowner meeting in Middle River to receive comments of their concerns.

Administrator Maher updated the Board on the DNR applying for a grant named America the Beautiful Challenge from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Nelson Slough Project.

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Maher will provide a letter of grant support and asked County Commissioner Rolland Miller if Marshall County could discuss doing the same at their next meeting. If the funds are secured for this grant, the Watershed District would be the fiscal agent.

Maher provided a brief update concerning the District's proposed building improvements and addition. Maher will be meeting with the architect, WSN, by phone after the Board Meeting.

Manager Joey McGregor provided an update from the One Watershed One Plan Policy committee meeting that was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the Marshall County SWCD Office.

Attorney Jeff Hane provided a brief update on the land purchases for the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project.

Omdahl provided information regarding the District's potential use of City Hall to hold meetings or hearings.

The following meetings were announced:

1. FDRWG 25th Annual Joint Conference March 19-20, 2024 in Moorhead, MN.
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024 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 12:21 p.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary