

April 1, 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.** **April 1, 2024**

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

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

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the Meeting Minutes from the March 18, 2024 Board of Managers Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Rolland Miller joined the meeting at approximately 8:35 a.m.

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

Permit (24-011) Yutzenka Farms to install 88 acres of field pattern drain tile in the NW4 of Section 25 Middle River Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' & 80' tile spacings; 5-HP (414 GPM) VFD pump to outlet to the South ditch along Marshall CSAH #19.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the following Permit:

Permit (24-012) Sharon Bring to install 83 acres of field drain tile in the W2 NW4 of Section 33 West Valley Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 50' & 100' tile spacings; 5-HP (423 GPM) VFD pump to outlet to 200<sup>th</sup> Ave NW ditch near the NW corner of the field.

Motion unanimously carried.

Neil Johnson joined the meeting at approximately 8:39 a.m.

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

Permit (24-013) The Warren Alvarado Oslo Public School to install 5 acres of drain tile with 3/8" drainage coefficient; 20' tile spacings, .05-HP (33 GPM) pump to outlet to a drainage ditch along Fletcher Avenue.

Motion unanimously carried.

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

Permit (24-015) Yutzenka Farms to install 5 acres of drain tile in the NE4 NW4 of Section 34 Wagner Township with 3/8" drainage coefficient; 50' tile spacings; to connect to an existing drain tile system (Permit 12-113) with a 5-HP pump that discharges to the South ditch along 350<sup>th</sup> St NW.

Motion unanimously carried.

The following Administratively approved Permit was reviewed:

APPROVED

Permit (24-014) Austin Porter to install a new field crossing with an 18" culvert in the West side of 200<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, approximately 250' North of the existing driveway crossing in the NE4 SE4 of Section 32 Lincoln Township.

Administrator Maher will be requesting quotes from contractors for the repair on JD #75 in Section 2 of Tabor Township. Deadline to submit quotes will be Friday, May 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding the Consolidation of CD #39 and CD #39 Improved. After discussion with Attorney Jeff Hane, he stated MN Statute requires a recent Redetermination of Benefits for a Consolidation to occur, but that hasn't been done since 1990 for CD #39 and 1995 for CD #39 Imp. Due to the cost of a Redetermination would not be cost effective as the purpose of the Consolidation is for administrative purposes and the current benefits are adequate for the system today.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the SD #3 Redetermination of Benefits (RoB) proceeding. A meeting was held at the District office with viewers Robert Wagner, Mike Baumgartner, Attorney Kaitlyn Bjornson, and District Staff. The Viewers were instructed to update their report to reflect current land values and to assess damages for the grass strip on ~2.5 miles along the constructed channelized portion of SD #3. The Viewers were also provided the draft proposed amended report that was prepared by District Staff. Maher requested that the Viewers try to have their deliverable ready by the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, so that it could be presented to the Board of Managers.

There was discussion over the seven points of concern that were raised in the Staff Report regarding the SD #3 RoB proceeding. Attorney Jeff Hane advised that while the Staff has been instructed to provide an alternative to the Viewers proposed assessments, amending the report is ultimately the Board's decision to make. Mr. Hane also advised that if due process is of concern, two separate hearings could be held over the Viewers' Report and the alternative proposal. Administrator Maher stated, for the record, that he is willing to review and sign off on the proposed amended report as his own.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Operations Manager Danny Omdahl discussed the current conditions of JD #14 and JD #25-2. A JD #14 concern is the sluffing along the Railroad and sediment removal. The Board asked for an inspection and updated photos of the sluffing along the Railroad. There was also discussion regarding the undercutting on Branch A.

Omdahl stated the upstream 5.3 miles of JD #25-2 has a lack of historical information on stationing and elevations. The staff is work with Houston Engineering for a future reestablishment of records hearing. Attorney Jeff Hane provided information on the process of setting the ditch bottom grade. Omdahl will contact Angus Twp regarding the erosion repair needed on the road inslope in the SE SE of Sec 1 Angus Township. Omdahl will follow up with the SWCD regarding installing SWI.

There is a JD #28 landowner meeting Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Middle River. The meeting is to discuss with landowners what their concerns are and what the District should be working to schedule as far as repairs and maintenance. A discussion on the Redetermination of Benefits was held.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to Rescind the order to perform a redetermination of benefits on JD #28 due to it not being economically feasible.

Motion unanimously carried.

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Dillon Nelson from HDR Engineering provided an update on the construction timeline for the Newfolden impoundment. Nelson also presented the LOMAR submittal and phase II Impoundment Construction Services proposal for the Board to review for approval at the next Board meeting. Maher also discussed the groundbreaking for the impoundment scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the impoundment site.

Administrator Maher provided Preliminary designs for the District office update. Discussion was held regarding adding on to the west side of the building instead of the South side. Maher will bring this up with the architect.

Neil Johnson left the meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the received 2024 Equipment rental rates.

Motion unanimously carried

Manager Bill Petersen provided an update from the 2024 FDRWG Joint Annual Conference that was held in Moorhead MN.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
2. RRWMB regular meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
3. JD #28 Landowner meeting Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Middle River, MN
4. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, May 6, 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 11:25 a.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary