

May 20, 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. **May 20, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Keith Szczepanski, Robert Kovar, Joey McGregor, Jared Sands and Lein Schiller were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Danny Omdahl, Tyler Larson, Jim Duckstad, and Tony Nordby were also present. Jeff Hane and Kaitlyn Bjornson attended virtually.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the Agenda with the addition of Brandt Angus Coulee culvert request. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the Meeting Minutes from the May 6, 2024 Board of Managers Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

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 checks; Payroll check #7115-7126 in the amount of \$21,293.21; from Administrative funds check #19938-19951 in the amount of \$48,677.44 including ACH withdrawals and service fees; from Project Funds Checks #3513-3518 in the amount of \$56,095.53; and from Ditch funds checks #3693-3699 in the amount of \$25,437.52. Motion unanimously carried.

The following Administratively approved Permits were reviewed:

Permit (24-028) Kevin Skjerven to install a new crossing, west of yard, with a 24" culvert in the North CSAH#7 Ditch in the SW4 of Section 28 New Folden Township.

Permit (24-029) Ryan Mathsen to install 5 acres of drain tile; 3/8" drainage coefficient; to gravity outlet, equivalent to a 35 GPM, to a 6" steel pipe in the NW4 & NE4 of Section 22 Esther Township

Permit (24-030) Johnson Family Farms to install 2 acres of drain tile in Tony's farmyard and connect it to the field tile installed (Permit 21-042 305 acres) with a 1/4" drainage coefficient; 50' spacing draining at 9GPM into the previous field tile in the SW SE of Section 8 Warrenton Township

It was announced that permit (24-031) on the agenda had been withdrawn prior to the start of the meeting by the applicant.

Technicians Larson and Omdahl discussed with the board the original outlet of CD #175. A landowner contacted the office last week to discuss a water ponding issue on their property. Staff surveyed the ditch and found that recent flooding events had deposited upwards of 5.5' of sediment in the channel. Due to the severity of the sediment, staff has lined up a contractor to begin sediment removal this spring.

Larson reminded the Board that this is the same area that had been discussed last year as still being part of the CD #175 system despite having been removed from the Benefited Area during the previous redetermination of benefits. A discussion was held surrounding the history of CD #175, the establishment of WD #5 and their overlapping benefited areas. Larson stated that last year, the landowners along the channel informed staff they desired for the ditch to remain as legal ditch. However, there has not been any communication or action from the landowners on a plan to resolve the lack of benefited area. It was the consensus of the Board to have the staff contact the landowners and report back to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

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Omdahl provided a brief update on the upcoming repair in Section 2 Tabor. The RoW stakes had been placed last week and due to a misunderstanding from one of the renters, the stakes had been knocked down and the RoW was seeded. Omdahl stated that the ditch will not be responsible for paying any damages to the renter as the landowners have already worked out an agreement with their renter. Omdahl stated that the property is co-owned by 3 siblings, in which 1 of the siblings live out of state. This has caused some complications with the easement process and information getting passed on to the 2 renters of the property. It was stated that one of the siblings was going to be meeting with staff this afternoon to work through the easements and other questions related to the project.

Nate Dalager joined the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Omdahl discussed the ongoing brushing at JD #1 outlet. He stated that once the contractor was done with JD #1, they would be moving down to CD #175 and JD #75.

Kaitlyn Bjornson left the meeting at approximately 9:48 a.m. (virtual)

Administrator Maher discussed with the Board the lack on any progress on the Lilac Ridge project. Maher stated that since the DNR discovered fens near the project site, the project has been at a standstill for the past 2 years. He stated that despite a number of proposals and other alternatives from Houston Engineering, the DNR has been noncommittal on any potential way forward. Maher asked the Board at what point should the District put the project on hold if there is no clear path forward. It was the consensus of the Board for Maher to draft a report and readdress the future of the project at an upcoming meeting.

Nate Dalager provided an update on the progress of the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project. Dalager stated that HDR and District staff will be meeting with Davidson to discuss construction progress later this week.

Administrator Maher shared an update that he received that the Governor signed legislation that included funding for the Nelson Slough project into law. Maher also mentioned that work on the easement for the District's ownership of the outlet structure is ongoing. Maher stated that the paperwork for East Park Township to reobtain the maintenance authority of the 425 St NW was nearly complete.

Tony Nordby updated the Board on the outlet structure for Nelson Slough. Nordby shared some preliminary numbers he received to get electricity to the outlet. He was waiting to hear back from a supplier to determine if 3-phase power would be required to operate automated gates. Nordby also stated that he has been in contact with DNR staff related to the Dam Safety permit and is working on the Engineer Report for the project.

Maher shared a cost estimate from Widseth to draft formal plans for the potential Office addition. Maher felt the proposal was far too high and has reached out to firms that have previously worked with other Watershed Districts.

It was announced that Brady Martz would be at the office later in the week to start working on the District's annual audit.

A discussion was held regarding an invoice that had been received from HDR in relation to the JD #1 study. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that the bill be included with the remainder of the Bills and paid by the District.

Attorney Hane provided a brief update to the Board regarding ongoing legal issues.

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Technician Schlomann provided an update on the status of Permit 22-128. The After the Fact permit application for a dike in Section 30 Helgeland has been perpetually tabled to see if the work done under Permit 22-127 would negate the effects of the unpermitted works. Schlomann stated that in the past 2 years, staff have not been able to observe a large enough flow event to provide a recommendation on what should occur with the dike. After discussion, the Board directed the staff to continue monitoring the location and to provide another update when more information is available.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN.
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, June 3, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN.
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, June 17, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN.
4. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN.
5. SD #3 Redetermination of Benefits Public Hearing Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Argyle Community Center

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.

Tyler Larson
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary