

August 19, 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. August 19, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Keith Szczepanski, Brad Blawat, Jared Sands and Lein Schiller were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Larry Nyblad, Brent Halfmann, John Field, Nathan Wesolowski and Jeff Hane were also present.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the Agenda as amended to include PRAP under 10. Administrator, JD #21 under 8. Ditches, and Hunting Permit question under 16. Other. Motion unanimously carried.

Joey McGregor joined the meeting at approximately 8:31 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The Treasures Report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to pay the following checks; From Payroll checks #7157-7167 in the amount of \$21,103.88; from administrative Funds checks #19974-19984 including ACH in the amount of \$25,406.93; from RRWMB funds check # 266 in the amount of \$13,795.83; from project Funds check #3529-3537 in the amount of \$1,091,087.78; from ditch funds checks #3712-3723 in the amount of \$255,932.10. Motion unanimously carried

Brian Opsahl from Brady Martz was in attendance to present and review the 2023 Audit Report.

Kaitlyn Bjornson joined the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m. (virtual)
Brian Opsahl left the meeting at approximately 8:46 a.m.

Nathan Wesolowski was in attendance to ask for assistance with replacing a 24" and 36" flapgates on the JD #75 system with Waterman flapgates, and asked to upsize a 18" culvert to a 24" culvert on the WD #6 system.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to cost share 50% on two Waterman flapgates with the landowner being responsible for the cost of installation. Motion unanimously carried.

The board directed staff to come up with a policy that the board could adopt on how to address landowners requesting cost share on flapgates.

Discussion on WD #6 culvert was tabled until Mr. Robert Kovar could be in attendance. Nathan was advised to fill out a permit application for upsizing the culvert so that the board could act on it.

Nathan Wesolowski left the meeting at approximately 9:18 a.m.

The following permit was withdrawn

Permit 24-046 Bob Wesolowski to install a new field approach on the North side of 250th St NW, crossing the Melgard Coulee in the SE SW of Section 18 McCrea Township. Culvert size TBD.

John Field was in attendance to discuss the following After the Fact permit that was denied at the August 3, 2024 board meeting.

APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to table consideration on permit 24-052 for more information.

Permit 24-052 Field Bros Farms- After the Fact Permit to clean the East 330th Ave NW Ditch along the West line of the SW4 of Section 29 Wanger Township, and to remove and replace an existing field crossing culvert with a new 30" CSP in the NW4 SW4 of Section 29 Wanger Township

Motion unanimously carried.

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

Permit 24-055 Minnesota Dept. of Transportation to remove and replace an existing 42" CSP driveway crossing culvert in kind, in the West US Highway #59 ditch, near mile post 375.489 in the SE4 of Section 16 New Folden Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to approve the following permit under the condition that Halfmann provide a photo showing the size of the removed culvert.

Permit 24-056 Halfmann Farms- After the Fact Permit To clean the East 330th Ave NW Ditch along the West line of the S2 NW4 of Section 29 Wanger Township, and to remove and replace an existing field crossing culvert with a new 30" CSP in the SW4 NW4 of Section 29 Wanger Township

Motion unanimously carried.

The Following permit was Administratively Approved and Reviewed

Permit 24-050 Cedar Township to remove and replace an existing 18" CSP centerline culvert through 180th Ave NE in-kind, on the North side of the intersection with 360th St NE, on Section Line 20/21 Cedar Twp.

Richard & Clifford Nelson and Loren Johnson joined the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Rob Sip joined the meeting at approximately 9:39 a.m.

John Field and Brent Halfmann left the meeting at approximately 9:39 a.m.

Rob Sip from the Red River Watershed Management Board provided a review of the approved 2025 Operating, Program, and Project Budget and provided an update on the continued legislative progress.

Kaitlyn Bjornson left the meeting at approximately 9:45 a.m. (virtual)

The Regular Board Meeting was recessed at 9:58 a.m. for the Petition Hearing on the Partial Abandonment of PCD #175.

The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

Richard & Clifford Nelson and Loren Johnson left the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED

Administrator Maher provided an update on the resolution on State Agency. Operations Manager Omdahl shared some suggestions on proposed resolutions for consideration.

Administrator Maher provided information on the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) and his intent on applying for the grant with the Board of Water and Soil resources (BWSR).

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to authorize Administrator Maher to apply for the PRAP grant with BWSR. Motion unanimously carried.

Updates on ditch repairs and cleaning were provided on JD #21, CD #43, and JD #75.

Joey McGregor left the meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Dillon Nelson from HDR was in attendance to provide an update on the progress of the Newfolden Impoundment construction. Davidson Construction is asking for an extension to the schedule to finish milestones 2 and 3 until October 31, 2024. Administrator Maher reviewed potential cost overrun, and his intent on presenting this at the Minnesota Watersheds annual conference with HDR.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to extend Davidson's schedule to complete milestone 2 and 3 until October 31, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on Nelson Slough. The Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) hearing is will be August 28th in St Paul. Maher and Tony Nordby will be attending. Maher updated the board on the progress of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The JPA has been signed by East park Township along with the Easement application with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Road. Lary Nybladh from Marshall County also informed the Board that the Joint Ditch Authority (JDA) meet on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 and signed the JPA.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the Swift Coulee boundaries, and progress. Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering will be presenting this Project at the Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference.

Tony Nordby provided information on PL-566 Off Channel Storage Site and the bypass ditch after meeting with Dave Jones from NRCS. Discussions with landowners on applying for a permit to install a culvert and then doing some modeling are the next steps.

The proposed 2025 budget was presented to the Board for review.

Administrator Maher provided an update on 1W1P funding, and the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2024.

Attorney Hane provided information on SD #3 grass strip Easements and has been is working on the Findings and Order for the PCD #175 petition.

Discussion we held regarding hunting Permits and if hunting bears using bate was allowable at the impoundment sites.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to allow bear hunting with bait at the impoundment sites with the condition that the person hunting follows the DNR requirements and there is no livestock present. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2024 in Ada, MN.
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
3. MSTRWD 2025 Budget Hearing Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary