

December 2, 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. December 2, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Keith Szczepanski, Lein Schiller, Joey McGregor, and Jared Sands were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Danny Omdahl, Tyler Larson, Eric Larson Rolland Miller, Jim Duckstad, and Tony Nordby were also in attendance. Jeff Hane, Richard Meier, and Jenna Lawrence were in attendance online.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the agenda as amended to include under Managers item #4 MN Watersheds Resolutions. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried

Eric Larson was in attendance to discuss the Swift Coulee project and the land that the Watershed District would like to acquire for the project. Larson provided his requests to the board. Larsons requests are to have 340th Ave raised to ensure no flooding of the property, be able to use the property for his chickens and a burn pile, and Larson would like \$6,000 for the land not the \$3,578.76 the district has offered. The board expressed that they feel the offered payment is fair for the permanent easement as the land is not farmable. Maher has discussed with Larson that the burn pile should be moved so that flooding does not wash debris downstream. Based on Hydraulic Modeling there is no need to raise 340th Ave as the property would not be flooded during a 100 year summer event. Administrator Maher voiced his concern with the Marshall County Commissioners, deciding not to sign an easement requested by the district until all the other landowners have signed on in Phase 1. County Commissioner Jim Duckstad stated the discussed reasons for why the County Commissioners decided to delay signing the easement.

It was the consensus of the board to continue having discussions with Eric Larson regarding his concerns. A meeting with Eric was set with Manager Joey McGregor, Engineering Technician Tyler Larson for 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the District Office in Warren.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 8:36 a.m. (virtual)
Eric Larson left the meeting at approximately 9:14 a.m.

Richard Meier and Jenna Lawrence from YHR were in attendance to review the remodel design for the office. The Board of Managers and the building committee will review the plans and bid document and re address them at the December 16, 2024, Board Meeting.

Richard Meier and Jenna Lawrence left the meeting at approximately 9:30a.m. (virtual)

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

Permit 24-098 Rick Anderson to install 83 acres of field pattern drain tile in the SE4 of Section 26 West Valley Township with 1/4" drainage coefficient; 100' tile spacings; 3-hp (390 gpm) VFD pump to outlet to the North 350th St NW ditch..

Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to table the following permit so that Erickson can contact his neighbors.

APPROVED

Permit 24-100 Dennis Erickson to install 41 acres of field pattern drain tile in the NE4 of Section 36 Wanger Township with 1/4" drainage coefficient; 50' tile spacings; 2-hp (192 gpm) VFD pump to outlet to the South 350th St NW ditch.

Motion unanimously carried

Dillon Nelson from HDR Engineering provided an update on the close out of construction for 2024 on the Newfolden Project. Administrator Maher and HDR have a meeting scheduled for December 9, 2024 with Davidson Construction to review the differences in outstanding change orders 3 & 4.

Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on the Swift Coulee.

Maher provided an update on the Nelson Slough project. The America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) grant that was applied for was not approved so Maher will explore other options for the \$5 million.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve a 2025 COLA increase for District staff of 3% and an additional \$0.30 per hr. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to approve the 2025 Schedule of Regular Board of Managers Meetings as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The Board meeting was recessed at 10:18 a.m.

The Board Meeting was reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Administrator Maher confirmed with the Board that his way of communicating with them about State related matters and strategically positioning of the District on those matters has been sufficient.

Administrator Maher reviewed Resolutions to be presented at the MN Watershed Annual Conference. And the Board of Managers gave Representatives Petersen, and Schiller direction on how to proceed on behalf of the District.

Attorney Jeff Hane has been doing research on the Davidson Construction change orders and contract and has been working on Swift Coulee Easements.

Lein Schiller asked about the concern with the elevation of his driveway subject to an email from Operations Manager Omdahl sent out on Nov. 29, 2024. Discussion was held regarding the concerns that have been received by the Watershed District. The board asked for more information regarding elevation of the driveway in question prior to 2008 as well as investigate what is causing the water to leave the river and if there is a solution that would satisfy both parties by keeping the water in the channel. Discussion should be had with Middle River Township as well to get their opinion on this matter.

Jim Duckstad left the meeting at approximately 11:06 a.m

The following meetings were announced:

1. MN Watersheds Conference, December 3- 6, 2024 at Grandview Lodge in Nissawa, MN
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, December 16, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
3. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN

APPROVED

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

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary