

January 21, 2025 (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. January 21, 2025

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

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the agenda as amended to include under Managers #2, 2025 Mileage Rates and #3, MN Watersheds Membership. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2025, meeting as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to pay the following bills: Payroll checks #7215-7229 in the amount of \$25,217.77; from Administrative funds #20044-20059 including ACH withdrawal and Service fees \$161,689.85; from RRWMB funds #229 in the amount of \$10,259.40; from Project funds #3592-3602 in the amount of \$149,666.12; from Ditch funds #3758-3764 \$46,903.37. Motion unanimously carried

Jeff Steer joined the meeting at approximately 8:37 a.m.

Jeff Steer discussed obtaining an easement with the District to guarantee access to his family's property via the Angus Oslo 4 Bypass Ditch, on the West side of Sec 2 & 11 of Brandt Township. Steer is working with the MNDNR on a separate agreement to allow the MNDNR access across his land to their adjoining property.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the easement that had been reviewed by Attorney Jeff Hane and grant Jeff Steer the easement. Motion unanimously carried.

Jeff Steer left the meeting at approximately 8:47 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding how the Sharon Nicholls Easement payment was being processed for the Swift Coulee Stream Restoration Project. Administrator Maher indicated that as a mitigation for wetland impacts based on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the project through the 404 permitting process, the Watershed District needs to purchase 2.69 acres from an approved "Standard Bank" in the Area. He provided a proposal for 2.69 acres of wetland credits from Agassiz Wild Rice LLC. for \$53,872.63, he also mentioned, the criteria set forth by USACE qualified only two suppliers to whom he sent Requests for proposals and the presented proposal was the lowest by approximately \$5k.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 9:01 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the proposal for 2.69 acres of wetland credits from Agassiz Wild Rice LLC. for \$53,872.63. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Mr. Bill Petersen provided an update from the Red River Basin Conference that was held in Grand Forks, ND last week.

Administrator Maher asked for Board members interested in attending the February Legislative Event to let him know, so that they could get registered.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the 2025 IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.70 per mile for all millage reimbursement requests. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to pay the 2025 Membership Dues to Minnesota Watersheds in the amount of \$7,500.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Mr. Bill Petersen provided an update on the Red River Watershed Management Board meeting that was held on January 7, 2025. The Nelson Slough project is currently being reviewed.

Attorney Jeff Hane provided an update on the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruling in the Zutz Et. Al. vs MSTRWD, Erickson case.

Discussion was held regarding the District's rules, landowner notification, and downstream consent for proposed permits. The Permit/Drainage committee was directed to meet with staff to discuss if changes need to be made to the District's rules or application forms.

Discussion was held regarding what information should be included in the ditch inspection report and what the best way to go about organizing that information would be.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, February 3, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN.
2. Swift Coulee Channel Restoration Project Final Hearing Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN.
3. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN.
4. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers' Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025 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 10:56 a.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary