

April 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 TEMPORARY DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**8:30 a.m. April 21, 2025**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski, Jared Sands and Joey McGregor were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schломann, Tyler Larson, Danny Omdahl, Tony Nordby, and Jim Duckstad were also in attendance. Katrina Haugen attended using Microsoft Teams.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat, to approve the Agenda, amended to include Board Manager appointment changes as item #3 under Administrator. Motion unanimously carried.

Gunnar Bowman and Jeff Hane (virtual) joined the Meeting at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2025, Meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Dillon Nelson and Randy Knott joined the Meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m. (both virtual).

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to pay the following bills: Payroll Checks #7256-7269 in the amount of \$25,111.28; From Administrative Funds checks #20091-20101 in the amount of \$59,777.05 including ACH withdrawals; From Project Funds checks #3628-3638 in the amount of \$68,240.65; and from Ditch Funds checks #3769-3773 in the amount of \$28,114.51. Motion unanimously carried.

Bryan Murphy, who was on the Meeting Agenda under Guests, was not able to attend due to technical difficulties.

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

Permit 25-012 Enbridge Energy LP to repair and restore depth of cover over an existing pipeline by placing permanent fill and installing articulated concrete mats in the roadside ditches along 220<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, in sections 1 & 2 of Comstock Twp.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following permit:

Permit 25-013 Stroble Farms to install 280 acres of field pattern drain tile in the N2 of Section 18 Angus Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' & 80' tile spacings; 1-15 HP VFD pump (1,316 GPM) to outlet to the South CSAH #23 roadside ditch.

Motion unanimously carried.

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

Permit 25-014 Zach Beaudry to install 10 acres of field pattern drain tile in the SW4 of Section 15 Middle River Township with ½" drainage coefficient; 50' tile spacings; 1-1 HP VFD pump (94 GPM) to outlet to the North 310<sup>th</sup> Street roadside ditch.

Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

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

Permit 25-015 Jared Sands to install 80 acres of field pattern drain tile in the W2 NE4 of section 20 Sandsville Township with 3/8" drainage coefficient; 50' tile spacings; gravity outlet into JD #1 (~Sta 354+00).

Motion Carried 5-0. Mr. Jared Sands Abstained.

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

Permit 25-016 Argyle Builders Supply & Misselhorn Tiling & Excavation to install 4 acres of drain tile within Lots 77-88 of the Auditor's Subdivision No. 1 and Lots 1-6 of the Culbertson's Addition within the city of Argyle; 3/8" drainage coefficient; 20' tile spacings; to outlet into an existing catch basin.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following permit:

Permit 25-018 Northern Plains Railroad to remove and replace two failed 36" RCP centerline culverts, in kind, through railroad crossing on JD #14 Branch B (~Sta 89+73).

Motion unanimously carried.

Jeff Hane left the Meeting at approximately 8:55 a.m. (virtual).

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

Permit 25-020 Arlyn Lind to install 76 acres of drain tile in the S2 NW4 of section 15 Higdeme Township with 40' tile spacings; 1/4" drainage coefficient; (2) – 10" steel gravity outlets into the Higdeme Subordinate Service Ditch.

Motion unanimously carried.

Gunnar Bowman left the Meeting at approximately 9:04 a.m.

The following Permits were Administratively Approved and reviewed:

Permit 25-011 Andrew Anderson to install a new crossing and culvert on JD #14 Br. B (Sta 188+00) with a 36" culvert.

Permit 25-019 Danny Gruhot to remove a failed 18" culvert and install a new 18" culvert in the South 380<sup>th</sup> St NW ditch, on the North line of the NE NE Section 15 West Valley Township.

Technician Kyle Schlomann provided the Draft Property Owners' Report for Watershed Ditch #8 that was prepared by staff and reviewed by Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering.

Jeff Hane joined the meeting at approximately 9:12 a.m. (virtual)

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to accept the proposed Property Owners Report on Watershed Ditch #8 as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to set a public hearing date on the Benefits of Watershed Ditch #8 for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alvarado Community Center. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the maintenance expense that has been charged to WD #8 for maintenance that was done in the fall of 2024. Because the sediment that was removed in the fall of 2024 had accumulated, was surveyed, and ordered to be removed prior to the establishment of WD #8, when it was still a part of the CD #175 drainage system. Whereas WD #5 serves as the outlet for CD #175 and the WD #8 landowners still are paying benefits to WD #5, it was the consensus of the board for WD #5 and CD #175 for one time only, to share in the costs for this sediment removal, each ditch system will be charged approximately \$7,099.21

Open Swales in Sections 1 & 2 of Viking Strip Township along the Main Branch of JD #14 were discussed. Administrator Maher was instructed to coordinate with Marshall County SWCD and the landowners to see if there is a possibility of participating in a cost share program to install Side Water Inlets.

Operations Manager Omdahl asked about seeding and establishing the remaining 6.5 miles of grass strip on the Main and Branch of JD #1. The Board directed Staff to draft and send letters to the landowners that the Right of Way will be staked and seeded in the fall of 2025.

Jared Sands left the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m.

A decaying 36"x64' CSP at the outlet of Angus Oslo #1 was discussed. Operations Manager Omdahl discussed potential alternatives for repairing / replacing the failing culvert, including the use of a liner. It was the consensus of the Board to consult with the DNR Dam Safety to determine how to best move forward.

Administrator Maher and Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an update on the Office renovation schedule and furniture for the new office.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the new deadline to submit resolutions to MN watersheds for consideration. Maher will draft resolutions and share them with the board prior to the deadline at the end of May.

Discussion was held regarding the date that Board Managers are appointed for Marshall County. Maher asked if the board had any objections to moving Marshall County's manager appointments to January 1st of each year to align with Polk County. It was the consensus of the Board to change Marshall County's manager appointment date to January 1st.

The Ditch Interest Rate to be charged to ditches with a deficit balance was discussed.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to set the 2025 Ditch Interest Rate for deficit balances at 6%. Motion carried 4-1, Mr. Brad Blawat voted Nay

Randy Knott left the meeting at approximately 10:34 a.m. (virtual)

Update on the Auditor coming to present the 2024 Audit report on Monday, May 5, 2025 was provided.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided information on insurance coverage and deductibles on the renovated office. The building will be covered for \$652,011 and the three options for the deductible are \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,500.

APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve a deductible of \$2,500 for an increase in Premium after the renovation of \$819.29. Motion unanimously carried.

Patty Fayette's contract for providing cleaning services was reviewed and discussed, due to the temporary office and the District's new office being larger spaces that take longer to clean.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to pay Patricia Fayette \$150 a week to clean the office two (2) times per week (\$75 per cleaning) starting April 21, 2025. Motion unanimously carried.

Attorney Jeff Hane asked for the current contract to be sent to him for review.

Manager Bill Petersen provided an update from the last Red River Watershed Management Board meeting held in Ada. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday April 22, 2025 to meet with Legislatures in Ada at 10:45 a.m.

Administrative Assistant Haugen reported that two representatives from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be at the District Office on Thursday, April 24, 2025 to perform a mid-contract Audit on the One Watershed One Plan grant Funds.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:45 a.m. in Ada, MN.
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, May 5, 2025 at 8:30 a.m., at 190 Marshall Street in Alvarado, MN.

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary