

May 19, 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.

May 19, 2025

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Keith Szczepanski, Jared Sands, Brad Blawat, Lein Schiller and Joey McGregor were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Rolland Miller, Thomas Thibodo were also present. Jeff Hane and William Fleishman were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby, with Houston Engineering, joined the meeting at approximately 8:33 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 meeting as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following bills: Payroll #7270-7279 in the amount of \$21,417.45; from Administrative Funds checks #20115-20132 in the amount of \$143,658.41 including ACH withdrawals; From Project Funds checks #3575-3583 in the amount of \$126,891.36; from Ditch funds checks #3775-3779 in the amount of \$20,728.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Danny Omdahl joined the meeting at approximately 8:36 a.m.

Operations Manager Danny Omdahl discussed a maintenance request from Adam Lokstad on JD #21 Branch 3, which is also the east ditch of CSAH #8. The 2.06 mile ditch is north of CSAH #30. The last maintenance on JD #21 Br 3 was in 1985. Discussion was also held regarding riprap obstructing the culverts. Staff were directed to meet with Engineer Lon Aune at the MCHD to come up with a solution for maintenance.

Danny Omdahl left the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m.

Thomas Thibodo addressed the Board concerning approved Permit 25-021 for Brent Aakre to install drain tile in the NE4 of Section 14, Fork Township. Thomas stated his concerns that the proposed drain tile would slow drainage off his land in the NW corner of the section, and that water tends to drain slowly along MN State Hwy 220, 1.5 miles West of the outlet. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Aakre coordinate with District staff on setting the elevation for the permitted air gap design prior to installation, as per the conditions of the permit, and that the Staff keep Mr. Thibodo informed of when the pump is going to be installed.

Thomas Thibodo left the meeting at approximately 9:04 a.m.

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

Permit 25-024 Enbridge Energy to remove a section of exposed, deactivated pipeline under Marshall CD #45 Branch 2 in the NE NW of Section 22 Sinnott Township.

APPROVED

Motion unanimously carried.

The following Permit was Administratively Approved and reviewed:

Permit 25-023 Carol Grochow to install a new crossing with an 18" culvert on the East side of 150th Ave NE, in the SW SW of Section 23 Holt Township.

Administrator Maher provided an update on funding applications for District Projects including Nelson Slough and Swift Coulee Phase II and setting up a Watershed Management District for Swift Coulee once the project is finished to cover the cost of maintenance. Maher was in St. Paul at the beginning of May with Rob Sip, Executive Director, with the Red River Watershed Management Board lobbying for additional funding for projects.

Discussion was held regarding the outlet pipe for AO #1 that is failing. Tony Nordby discussed the condition of the pipe and the importance of replacing it this year.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to replace the outlet pipe for AO #1 for no more than \$12,000.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Nate Dallager joined the meeting at approximately 9:50 a.m. Rolland Miller left the meeting at approximately 10:05 a.m.

A Proposal for additional Plumbing work for the office renovations was received and reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the plumbing proposal for \$4,100.50 and an additional 4 days and authorize Maher to sign the change order when it is prepared. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an update regarding MN Paid Family & Medical leave. Haugen will review this new requirement with the Personnel Committee and the Board of Managers once she receives more information and clarification on a few points.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an update on applications received for the Engineering Technician I Position. Haugen will meet with the Personnel Committee after the Board meeting to review the applications that have been received and start setting up interviews.

Attorney Jeff Hane introduced William Fleishman, a legal clerk working in their office for the summer.

Administrator Maher reminded the Board about the 2025 Summer Tour that will be held in Roseau Watershed District June 24-26.

Administrator Maher updated the Board that a DPA request had been received through an email.

Manager Joey McGregor asked to have a committee set up to discuss the District's needs to do a Redetermination of Benefits on the Ditch Systems within the Watershed District boundaries.

APPROVED

It was the consensus of the Board that Managers Joey McGregor and Jared Sands would be on the Redetermination of Benefits Committee with Engineer Technician Kyle Schlomann.

The Redetermination of Benefits Committee will look at each ditch systems drainage area and benefited area as well as the current benefits and when the benefits were set and then bring their recommendations to the Board.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada MN
2. Swift Coulee Groundbreaking May 21, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers' meeting Monday, June 2, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in Alvarado, MN
4. MN Watersheds Summer Tour Roseau, MN June 24-26

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Lein Schiller
Asst Sec/Treasurer