November 3, 2025 (a)

APPROVED
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN WARREN

8:30 a.m. **November 3, 2025**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Keith Szczepanski, Robert Kovar, Lein Schiller, Joey McGregor and Brad Blawat were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Tony Nordby, Jeff Hane, Jeremy Misselhorn, Ronnie Zutz, Loren Zutz, and Jim Duckstad were also present.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to pay check # 3698-3699 to the Strange Family in the amount of $4,406.24 for the adjustments to their Easements for the Newfolden Impoundment Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay check #3701 to Brink Lawyers Trust for the Klipping buy out in the amount of $240,000.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to pay check #3700 to the Marshall County Recorder's office in the amount of $835.00 for the Nicholls Family abstract for the Swift Coulee project. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Loren Zutz was in attendance to discuss MNDOT Offtake ditches and drainage related to JD #25-1 and the Agassiz Valley Impoundment. After Mr. Zutz addressed the Board, Attorney Jeff Hane asked Mr. Zutz to provide the Board with a list of his concerns so that they could address each one of them on their own as the discussion had moved in many different directions.

Jared Sands joined the meeting at approximately 8:42 a.m.
Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 8:43 a.m.

Loren and Ronnie Zutz left the meeting at approximately 9:24 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following permit with the same experimental automatic shutoff as drain tile Permit 22-009 (WJS Nelson Farms). District Staff to set the trigger elevations for the automatic shutoff:

> Permit 25-076 Rolland Miller to install 303 acres of field pattern drain tile in the N2 of Section 19 Warrenton Township with ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; (2) 7.5 hp pumps to outlet into JD #20 Br A.

Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski at amend Permit #25-067 for Robert Kovar to add an additional 10 acres to the approved tile system with the same drainage coefficient. Motion carried with Mr. Robert Kovar abstaining

Jeremy Misselhorn left the meeting at approximately 9:43 a.m.

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Engineering Technician Kyle Schlomann provided an update on the Polk CD #43 / BAC Mark Judovsky side water inlet culvert request. Mark was not interested in having a 36" culvert installed due to the 3-24" culverts upstream. Mark requested that the District move forward with installing a 42" culvert to match the upstream culverts or to address the 3-24" culverts under 290th Ave NW instead. The District's culvert sizing guidelines recommend the equivalent of 36" pipe for an approximate drainage area of 1100 acres. It was the position of the Board that even if a 42" pipe was installed, it would likely still function as a 36" culvert given the drainage area. It was the consensus of the Board to allow for a 42" culvert to be installed with the condition that Mark pay the material cost difference between a 36" and 42" pipe. The Board directed Administrator Maher to contact Mark and have him put his request in writing with confirmation that he is willing to pay the difference for the larger sized pipe.

Technician Larson provided an update on Sediment removal work that is taking place on JD #14, JD #15, and JD #28.

Technician Schlomann and Engineer Tony Nordby reported that Andy Anderson had completed work for the AO #1 Outlet Structure Repair. It was also reported that Houston Engineering will draft the construction inspection report for the DNR Dam Safety Permit, and that Andy's pay request will be submitted for the Board to review and approve during the next Board Meeting.

Dillon Nelson from HDR Engineering was in attendance to provide an update on the Newfolden Impoundment Project.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on the modeling for Phase II of Swift Coulee and an update on the Nelson Slough Rehabilitation Project. Some of the items in progress for Nelson Slough include finishing up the bidding documents, securing easements, and the Joint Ditch Authority approving the Findings and Order for their portion of the Project. Administrator Maher also discussed funding for the project and what some of the proposed grant agreements were asking for. The Board agreed to hold off on Bid letting until cash flow and Grant agreements are firmed up.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen and Mr. Brad Blawat to sign the presented Findings and Order for the Nelson Slough Improvement Project #5. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher updated the Board that the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy petition for more regulations on agricultural drainage projects by MPCA was denied.

Administrator Maher shared the cash flow projection of the office on a worst case scenario for incomes, this was to aid the Board decision on how to proceed with Nelson Slough bidding process.

Administrative Assistant Katrina Haugen discussed the office renovation and asked what the Board's thoughts were. Work is 99.9 % complete and the final invoice should be received shortly. Haugen was asked to purchase another table for the Engineer and Attorney to use. Haugen presented another option for covering up some of the brick work where the overhang was. It was the consensus of the board to just go with a black cover with no wording. The cleaning lady had also requested a cart so she can carry all her supplies with her around the office as she is cleaning.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to authorize Haugen to purchase a cart for $87.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Technician Schlomann asked the Board for direction on how and when to use the Landowner Maintenance Agreement for Private Work on Ditches Template that was drafted by Attorney Jeff Hane. It was the consensus

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of the Board that the intention of the document is to serve as a draft template for any formal agreement over certain works or structures located within the District's right of way. It will only be used for rare or extraordinary circumstances that warrant a formal written agreement between District and landowner. The agreement is not intended to serve as general policy. Any use of the agreement would be specifically directed by the Board of Managers.

Mr. Bill Petersen provided an update from the last Red River Watershed Management Board.

It was announced that there will be a One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Attorney Jeff Hane provided an update on works he is doing for the District.

Mr. Jared Sands reported that Bryan Murphy of H2Overviewers has been inquiring if the District is planning to hold any committee meetings on redetermining the benefits of its drainage systems. H2Overviewers is doing an evaluation on some of Polk County's drainage ditches and is currently working in the area. Technician Schlomann provided an update that he was in the process of putting some information together for a committee meeting, but the process has been slow due to the summer workload. Mr. McGregor stated that he would coordinate with the other members of the Redetermination of Benefits Committee on holding a meeting sometime soon.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, November 17, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at the Warren office.
2. MSTRWD Advisory Meeting Monday, November 17, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Stephen, MN.
3. RRWMB Meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
4. MSTRWD regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, December 1, 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 11:33 a.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary