

January 20, 2026 (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.**

**January 20, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Robert Kovar, Managers Robert Kovar, Keith Szczepanski, Lein Schiller, Brad Blawat and Joey McGregor were present. Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, and Tony Nordby were also present. Jeff Hane and Dillon Nelson were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried

Managers Lein Schiller and Brad Blawat were presented with the Managers Oath of Office to sign and file for their three year term starting January 1, 2026 and ending January 1, 2029.

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to pay the following checks: Payroll checks 7366-7380 in the amount of \$23,507.17; From Administrative Funds check #20255-20273 in the amount of \$28,554.91 including ACH withdrawals; From Project Funds check #3719-3732 in the amount of \$365,547.58; From RRWMB funds check #237 in the amount of \$12,417.34; From Ditch Funds checks #3830-3835 in the amount of \$114,470.82. Motion unanimously carried.

Technicians Kyle Schlomann and Tyler Larson provided information on SD #3 locations that are in most need of repair. There was further discussion on the need for a comprehensive plan that will address the entire ditch system and help guide the process moving forward. It was the consensus of the Board that Administrator Maher and Staff work with Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering to develop alternatives for a potential SD #3 Repair Project and to hold a landowner meeting for public input.

Tony Nordby provided an update on Nelson Slough and reported on a meeting that was held with FHM Manager, Matt Bauman, concerning FHM grant funding. A comment was received from the MN Management and Budget with recommendations to amend some of the language in the Resolution that the Board of Managers accepted and signed at the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting. Administrative Assistant Haugen shared three easement documents concerning properties along JD #19 for the Board to review and sign.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize President Bill Petersen and Secretary Brad Blawat to sign a new resolution from Flood Hazard Mitigation for Nelson Slough, if one should be sent by MN Management and Budget. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen and Mr. Brad Blawat to sign the easements for JD #19 from Kevin Roppe, Jeremy and Melissa Braff, and Marla Braff. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson from HDR Engineering provided an update on the Newfolden Project and the ongoing Letter Of Map Revision process.

Tony Nordby provided an update on Swift Coulee Phase II.

APPROVED

A brief discussion was held regarding a proposal for Brady Martz to review the District's accounting processes and to provide recommendations. Manager Robert Kovar asked that all the managers review the proposal and to provide their comments, if any, to Administrator Maher.

It was reported that the contractor, Travis Johnson, had started work on the Klipping property demolition project. Johnson has been in contact with Administrator Maher, stating that the concrete slabs were unusually thick, and that the actual costs for hauling and disposal were going to be higher than what was originally submitted in his quote. Administrator Maher and Technician Robert Adam, after visiting the site, agreed that the concrete slabs appeared to be thicker than the usual standard. Administrator Maher recommended that the contract be increased by \$5,000 for additional hauling and disposal. The contractor did not agree and requested that his proposal for a total contract increase of \$9,300 be presented to the Board of Managers.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve a cost increase of \$9,300 to the original submitted bid of \$21,582 for the Demo of the former Klipping property. The District will withhold a 20% retainage & the additional \$9,300 until all demolition and post construction grass seeding work is complete. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided information on this year's Pay Equity report.

The following Designations were made for the year:

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, Seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to designate the following Depositories:

1. Old National Bank
2. Fransen Bank
3. American Federal
4. Others as may be designated by the Treasurer

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, Seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to Designate Official Newspapers as follows:

Watershed District- Warren Sheaf  
Marshall County- Warren Sheaf, Stephen Messenger,  
Polk County- Exponent  
Pennington County- Thief River Times  
Kittson County- Kittson County Enterprise  
Roseau County- Roseau Times

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, Seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to Designate the following Engineer

Houston Engineering

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, Seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to Designate the following Legal Council

Brink Sobolik PA  
Rinke Noonan

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Motion unanimously carried.

One Data Practices Act request was submitted to the District and was Responded to.

Engineering Technician Kyle Schlomann provided an update on the information that he was gathering for the Redetermination of Benefits Committee and stated that he was ready to meet with the Committee.

Schlomann also mentioned the proposed changes to the District's Rules had not progressed since the rules committee met last February. Following a brief discussion, the Board directed District Staff forward the proposed changes that were discussed in early 2025 for the Board to review and discuss at the February 2, 2026, meeting.

The Administrative Assistant asked the Personnel Committee if they would like to meet to discuss some of the concerns that were raised during the last Board Meeting. Haugen also mentioned that Administrator Maher is seeking clarification on the District's Hazardous Weather Leave policy. The Committee agreed to meet with Haugen following the Board Meeting.

The following meetings were announced:

1. Legislative Open House Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. Moorhead MN
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, February 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to adjourn the Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary