

March 2, 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.**

**March 2, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, Robert Kovar, Lein Schiller and Joey McGregor were present. Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Tony Nordby, Craig Jones, Dillon Nelson and Gary Keiso were also present. Jeff Hane, and Mori Maher were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat, to approve the agenda with the addition of Authorization for expenses under 1W1P and acquisitions for ditch improvements under Other. Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

James Bergman joined the meeting at approximately 8:32 a.m.

Derek Gowan joined the meeting at approximately 8:37 a.m.

James Bergman, Craig Jones, and Derek Gowan provided an update and presented on the ongoing Oslo Access Project on behalf of the Border Township Associative Group (BTAG).

James Bergman, Craig Jones, and Derek Gowan left the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Administrative Assistant Haugen reviewed the 2025 Profit and Loss statements for the District's Administrative, Project and Ditch Funds. There was discussion regarding the PCD #175 bond that was obtained for the repair and if the bond amount included funds to cover a negative account balance prior to the improvement or if those funds were used for construction only. Haugen was going to look into the matter and provide an update at the April 6<sup>th</sup> 2026 Board Meeting.

Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering presented a preliminary design with an opinion of probable cost to repair the Main Branch of JD #14, going West of Lilac Ridge road. The proposed repair covers a 1-mile long reach that includes several grade stabilization structures, side water inlet culverts, and flattening the side slopes to a 4h:1v to help stabilize the channel. The preliminary opinion of probable cost was a little over \$500,000. There was further discussion over potential outside funding sources for some of the clean water features involved.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, that the Board make the following findings and order:

Whereas from the evidence presented by the Staff and the Engineer that the proposed repair is necessary for returning the drainage system to its legal grade and repairing significant sloughing and head cutting erosion, which are both impeding the effectiveness and stability of the ditch and causing significant water quality degradation; that Administrator Maher be authorized to pursue additional funding sources to help offset some of the repair costs to the ditch system.

Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Engineer Tony Nordby provided an update on Nelson Slough.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller that provided the agreement with Flood Hazard Mitigation has been agreed upon and signed by March 20, 2026, the District proceeds with advertising for bids and reconvening the Final Hearing to award the contract for the Nelson Slough Improvement Project. Bids are

APPROVED

to be opened on April 29, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the District Office in Warren. The Final Hearing will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the District Office. Motion unanimously carried.

Future maintenance and mowing needs for the Newfolden Impoundment and the Swift Coulee Project were discussed.

-The dike at the Newfolden Impoundment will be mowed in 2026 and Noticed for bids in August of 2026 for hay rental from 2027-2031.

-Swift Coulee will have to be mowed for the first two years for native grass establishment. Coordination between the landowners and the District is necessary for future maintenance needs and weed control.

Administrator Maher reported that he has started discussing potential collaborative opportunities with Ducks Unlimited. Maher also provided an update from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permitting meeting.

Administrative Assistant Haugen reported that the original public hearing date set for the proposed Amended Rules did not suffice the notice requirements under Minnesota Statute and requested that the Board set a new date for the hearing.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to set the Amended Rules Hearing for Monday, May 4, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher asked the Board for authorization to pay for a parcel's required document from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which is related to the Swift Coulee RIM process that would be reimbursed by One Watershed One Plan (1W1P).

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to authorize the district to pay for the document with the cost not to exceed \$2,000. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher inquired if the District might be willing to assist in covering the costs of the continuing education courses needed to maintain his Professional Engineer and Project Management Professional credentials. It was the consensus of the Board that Maher present those costs to the Board for approval prior to enrollment.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an update on the Watershed District's yearly Audit with Brady Martz. The Auditors were on site at the District Office on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and have had ongoing communications with Haugen since. The District's 2025 Annual Report will tentatively be done at the end of March, so that Brady Martz has time to review it. Once they are finished reviewing the Annual Report, the Auditor's will present there 2025 Audit Report to the Board at a Regular Board of Managers Meeting and share the audit report with the required State Agencies.

Mr. Robert Kovar asked about the District's process for acquiring additional Right of Way when doing a ditch improvement and wanted to know if an alternative method for paying damages could be considered moving forward. For example, applying damages as a tax credit against the bond or levy assessments rather than issuing a one-time check payment that is subject to capital gains tax.

The following meetings were announced:

1. Legislative Breakfast and RRWMB meeting with Agencies March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul, MN
2. MSTRWD Bord of Managers meeting Monday, March 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN

APPROVED

3. PKM Petition Hearing to add lands to the Benefited area of JD #16 Monday, March 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN.
4. FDRWG/RRWMB annual conference- March 17-18, 2026 in Moorhead, MN

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

---

Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

---

Brad Blawat  
Secretary