

April 6, 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.

April 6, 2026

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Lein Schiller, Joey McGregor, Brad Blawat, and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schломann, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Tony Nordby, Zach Green, and Rolland Miller were also present. Jeff Hane, Dillon Nelson, and Michael (unknown) were also in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, to approve the agenda with the addition of Zach Green permit violation as item #2 under Administrator. Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following checks: From Administrative Funds check #20329-20330 in the amount of \$504.00; from Project funds check #3748 in the amount of \$745.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided information on the PCD #175 bond that was sold by Polk County in 2019 for the improvement of the ditch. A 20-year bond was purchased for \$750,000 for the improvement. After the project was completed there was \$155,979.35 remaining that was to be used to pay off the ditch balance so it would not be in the red. The resolution that the Watershed District adopted in 2019 regarding the bond stated the remaining funds cannot be used for maintenance until the bond is paid off in 2039. Discussion was held regarding paying off the bond early and interest being charged to PCD #175 for a deficit account balance. No action was taken at this time.

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

Discussion was held regarding the operation of the impoundments over the past few weeks with the spring thaw.

Engineering Technician Tyler Larson provided information regarding water issues around Rick Confer's ring dike and the North Inlet of the Brandt Angus Coulee Impoundment. Discussion was held regarding some potential fixes to prevent water from coming into his yard through the pipe in his ring dike.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to purchase a screw gate for the culvert going through Rick Confer's ring dike to prevent water from seeping into his yard. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the seed cost for seeding Phase I of Swift Coulee. The RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) program will only be covering ~\$52,000 of the cost with the Watershed District responsible for the remaining balance. The seed cost alone is ~\$150,000 not including the cost to do the seeding. Administrator Maher is going to pursue other funding sources to assist in covering the cost of the seed mix and the seeding for Phase I.

There was discussion on the communication breakdown with the RIM program on what was required for the program and what seed mix was provided to Houston Engineering from BWSR (Board of Water and Soil Resources). Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering and Administrator Maher will work together to rectify this for Phase II of the project.

Administrator Maher reviewed the Audit process and asked the board if they wanted to be more involved in the review or if they were comfortable doing their review once the audit was completed. It was the consensus of

APPROVED

the board to review the information once the Audit is completed and any questions they have will be asked when the Auditor presents their report to the Board.

There was discussion over the alleged permit violation concerning permit 25-042, Zach Green to install drain tile in parts of sections 32 & 33 of West Valley Township. Neither Mr. Green nor Field Drainage Inc provided the required notice of intent to proceed and did not coordinate with District Staff, pursuant to the conditions of the permit.

It was reported that Field Drainage Inc had been notified of the violation and had been invited to attend the Board Meeting to discuss the matter. While no representatives from Field Drainage were in attendance, a letter from Field Drainage that acknowledged the violation was received by the District and shared with the Board.

Mr. Green expressed his apologies for his oversight of the permit conditions. There was further discussion of the provided as-built drawing, the potential of unauthorized drainage of wetlands, and the contractor's shared responsibility to comply with District rules and permit conditions. To ensure future compliance with District Rules and permit conditions and to protect the District's water resources, the Board decided to take the following action:

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski that Administrator Maher and Attorney Jeff Hane draft a notice to Field Drainage Inc. stating that they are being considered to be placed on probation and that their future projects within the District may require a bond or financial assurance as a condition of the permit. Motion unanimously carried.

Zach Green left the meeting at approximately 10:41 a.m.

The 2026 Equipment Rental rates that were received and opened on March 31st were distributed to the board along with a list of contractors that submitted rates. Discussion was held regarding how rates compared to last year.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the 2026 Equipment Rental Rates that were received and plan on using the lower numbers in maintenance projects as much as possible. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen asked the board if the full 2026 property taxes could be paid in April for 2026 so that she could work with Polk County and Marshall County to get parcels combined to increase efficiency. It was the consensus of the board to pay all of the Districts property taxes in April instead of splitting payments between April/May and October/November.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday, April 20, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District office in Warren, MN
2. Nelson Slough Improvement Project final hearing reconvened Monday, April 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
3. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
4. MSTRWD regular board of Managers meeting Monday, May 4, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District office in Warren, MN
5. MSTRWD Amended Rules Public Hearing Monday, May 4, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN

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

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

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary