

April 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.**

**April 20, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Lein Schiller, Brad Blawat, Jared Sands and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Rolland Miller, Jim Duckstad, Robert Mager, and Jared Kovar were also present. Jeff Hane, was also in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Tony Nordby and Joey McGregor joined the meeting at approximately 8:33 a.m.

The treasurers Report was reviewed and filed for the auditor.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to pay the following checks: Payroll checks #7402-7415 in the amount of \$24,151.49; From Administrative Funds check #20331-20349 in the amount of \$52,672.20 including ACH withdrawals; From Project funds check #3749-3755 in the amount of \$84,588.12; From RRWMB funds check #239 in the amount of \$6,855.26; Debit card transactions in the amount of \$1,299.14; From ditch funds check #3840-3842 in the amount of \$50,812.91. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 8:36 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following permit:

Permit 26-005 Chris and Russel Miller to install 59 acres of field pattern drain tile with ¼" drainage coefficient; 40' tile spacings; a 3-hp (277 GPM) VFD pump to outlet to a private ditch that drains South to JD #16.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Findings and Order for PKM to add lands to the Benefited area of JD #16 was presented and signed by Mr. Bill Petersen and Mr. Brad Blawat.

Jared Kovar was in attendance to present a petition for improvement on JD #75. Attorney Jeff Hane reviewed the process for the petition moving forward.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to direct District staff to review the JD #75 improvement petition considering the Pribula Engineering as the Engineer. Petition will be addressed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting following staff review. Motion carried 6-0 with Mr. Robert Kovar abstaining.

Jared Kovar left the meeting at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Robert Mager was in attendance to present a Petition for Improvement of JD #20 Main, Mager stated he is working on another petition for JD#20 Br. A but is needing a few more signatures. The Board of Managers instructed District staff and Attorney Jeff Hane to review both petitions once the one for Branch A has been received and it would be one project. The petition will be addressed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting pending the second petition being submitted to the District office to review prior to the meeting date.

APPROVED

Robert Mager left the meeting at approximately 9:03 a.m.

Technician Kyle Schlomann discussed the lack of access for future maintenance and inspections on WD #8 and the need to reseed the grass strip. It was the consensus of the Board that the Staff inform the landowner that the District may need to utilize the existing permanent right of way strip between the section line and the existing channel at times for access. The landowner can continue to farm through that upper reach, as they have been doing, but should be aware that any encroachment on ditch right of way may result in crop loss should maintenance be required during the growing season. Due to poor seed bed conditions along the ditch banks, it was the consensus of the Board to have the spoil banks worked up again throughout the growing season and to have the grass strip reseeded in the fall.

There was discussion on a proposed sediment removal project along a 2-mile stretch of JD #21 Br 3 and the need to acquire additional right of way for maintenance. It was reported that the existing ditch and road right of way do not allow sufficient room for the placement of spoil or the required grass strip. It was the consensus of the Board that the Staff pursue acquiring additional right of way that is needed beyond the existing highway right of way.

Technician Tyler Larson provided information regarding approved Permit 25-070 for Nicole O'Connor to install a side water inlet culvert and flap-gate in an open swale to prevent water leaving the Brandt Angus Coulee Impoundment from inundating the property in the S2 of Section 15 Angus Township. The board approved a 36" culvert to be installed but there was a concern due to the 3-24" culverts that currently run under the township road and feed water into Section 15. Mark Judovsky is asking if he can purchase an additional pipe to install next to the 36" culvert to help off set the 3-24" culverts under the township road and if any of them are removed he would remove the additional pipe and leave the 36".

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to authorize Mark Judovsky to purchase and give the District an additional 18" or 24" pipe to be installed next to the approved 36" culvert due to the existing 3-24" culverts that run under the township road. In the event that any of the 24" culverts under the township road are removed the additional pipe will be removed and the 36" culvert will remain in place. The additional pipe will become the property of the Watershed District once it has been installed. Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen and Mr. Brad Blawat to sign the Braff's revised Easement for the Nelson Slough project. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher discussed RFPs received through Houston Engineering for soil and concrete testing for the JD19/ Nelson Slough project construction. Three RFPs received: Veteran Testing: \$20,355, Terra Con: \$39,491 and AEI: \$31,975.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to authorize Veteran Testing to do the soil and concrete testing with Houston engineering as the contract holder. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on Swift Coulee phase I and phase II.

Larry Nyblad joined the meeting at approximately 9:53 a.m.  
Jim Duckstad left the meeting at approximately 9:53 a.m.

The regular board meeting was recessed at 9:54 a.m. for the Nelson Slough Improvement Final hearing.

The Nelson Slough Improvement Final hearing was reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED

This meeting was recorded

Those in attendance were Board managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski, Joey McGregor, Jared Sands, and Lein Schiller. Others in attendance included Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Tony Nordby, Rolland Miller, Larry Nyblad, Chuck Edgar, and Paul Anderson.

The board reviewed the bids for construction that were submitted April 16, 2026 as follows:

Name	Bid
Engineers Estimate	\$8,897,098.50
RJ Zavoral & Sons	\$9,236,464.00
Spruce Valley	\$8,410,273.97
Davidson Construction	\$8,883,614.15

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to proceed with the apparent low bidder Spruce Valley and direct Attorney Jeff Hane to confirm their bid bond. Motion unanimously carried.

Lincoln Township officials Chuck Edgar and Paul Anderson were in attendance to ask if the bridge crossing JD #19 could be removed as part of the project as it has been closed except for local traffic and is only used for hunting access and landowners have other access to the property's. The Bridge removal or replacement is not supported or required for the project, as such the request cannot be considered.

After no further comment the hearing was closed at 10:22 a.m.

The regular board meeting was reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

Administrator Maher provided an update on limiting bills introduced to legislatures. He referenced the House File 3466 and the letter he submitted OP-26-015 to the legislators objecting EAW requirement on drainage maintenance.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided an update on the Watershed Based Implementation Fund 2023-2025 Grant. Financial reconciliation is completed but still waiting on the final sign off from Matt Fischer and Henry Van Offelen at BWSR

Rolland Miller asked to discuss the March property and the damages from the spring melt and water leaving the river. Miller went out to the property with Technician Tyler Larson last week to view the damages. Some options were discussed. It was the consensus of the board to direct District staff to work with Rolland Miller and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering to come up with a potential solution. The field access for the parcel that is rented to John Copp has washed out and will need to be fixed so that he can get into the field.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
2. MSTRWD regular board of Managers meeting Monday, May 4, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District office in Warren, MN
3. MSTRWD Amended Rules Public Hearing Monday, May 4, 2026 at 10:30 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.

APPROVED

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary