

May 18, 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.**

**May 18, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Robert Kovar, Managers Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Joey McGregor, Lein Schiller, and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Tony Nordby and Jim Duckstad, were also present.

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

Rolland Miller joined the meeting at approximately 8:31 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following checks: Payroll checks #7416-7425 in the amount of \$21,790.57; From Administrative Funds check #20350-20365 in the amount of \$72,362.01 including ACH withdrawal; from Project Funds check #3756-3769 in the amount of \$288,064.70; Debit card transactions including check #3076 in the amount of \$2,635.12; From Ditch Funds check #3843-3845 in the amount of \$19,117.55. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor to approve the following permit:

Permit 26-007 Brandt Township to remove and replace an existing 36" culvert in kind, under 250th Ave NW, approximately 700-ft North of the quarter line, on the section line common to Sections 32 & 33 of Brandt Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher provided an update on concerns that the DNR had with the proposed JD #14 repair after a meeting with them. Engineering Technician Tyler Larson provided information on erosion from this spring that happened where JD #14 was cleaned in 2025. Larson asked for authorization to fix the erosion and hydro seed the areas where the side slopes were too steep for traditional seeding.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to authorize using a hydro seeder to seed the portions of JD #14 that are too steep for traditional seeding. Motion unanimously carried.

Olivia Morton joined the meeting at approximately 8:41 a.m. (virtual)

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 8:51 a.m. (virtual)

Olivia Morton from Brady Martz presented the 2025 Audit report to the board of Managers and answered questions.

Olivia Morton left the meeting at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to accept the 2025 Audit report prepared by Brady Martz. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson of HDR Engineering and Administrator Maher provided an update on the Newfolden project

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Administrator Maher updated the board on the pre-construction meeting that was held for the Nelson Slough project.

Engineering technician Kyle Schlomann provided an update on Right-of-Way staking that had been done along the Warren Diversion Ditch at the request of one of the neighboring landowners. It was reported that there are some areas within the Right-of-Way and along the in-slope of the Warren Diversion Ditch that require grass seeding.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to authorize seeding of the RoW and the sparsely vegetated portion of the Warren Diversion Ditch. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering provided an update on the Swift Coulee project. Seeding on Phase 1 of the project will potentially start next week weather permitting. Construction on Phase 2 will tentatively occur in 2026/2027. Administrator Maher asked the board how active they wanted him to be in securing RIM easements with landowners on Phase 2 of the project.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize Administrator Maher to take an active roll in securing RIM easements with landowners on Phase 2 of the Swift Coulee Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher informed the Board that a PRAP grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has been secured for \$10,000 to assist with the expense of the accounting process review being conducted by Brady Martz.

An update on the Letter of Credit for the Improvement Petition on JD #75 was provided. Administrator Maher is waiting to hear back from the Financial Institution after requesting more clarification.

Motion by Mr. McGregor seconded by Mr. Blawat to authorize Administrator Maher to give Pribula Engineering notice to proceed if a satisfactory Letter of Credit is received before the next Board of Managers meeting, motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding Administrator Maher's trip to St. Paul to meet with state representatives along with Rob Sip from the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB).

Jeff Hane joined the meeting at approximately 10:06 a.m. (virtual)

Manager Brad Blawat asked about the State's permitting process if landowners were interested in having the Melgaard Coulee cleaned. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the landowners should be advised to contact the DNR area hydrologist, as the coulee is a public watercourse within the State's public waters inventory.

It was reported that Administrator Maher and Manager Lein Schiller plan to attend the May 19, 2026, RRWMB meeting where the Nelson Slough agreement is scheduled to be signed.

Administrative Assistant Haugen updated the board on the upcoming One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 10, 2026 and the final 10% of the 2023-2025 grant funds have been approved for payment by BWSR.

Administrator Maher asked Attorney Jeff Hane if he would draft what the next steps are for the District to close the Newfolden Projects open accounts regarding the Katheryn Smith house in Newfolden as well as CPKC contract as the Newfolden Project is coming to an end.

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There was some brief discussion on the Staff Report. It was reported that Lyle Wilkins had been hired to install field drain culverts in Section 15 Angus Twp, pursuant to MSTRWD Permit 25-070, as well as doing some touch-up work in the vicinity on the Brandt-Angus Coulee and Polk CD #43. Staff also provided an update on beaver activity from this Spring.

Jim Duckstad left the meeting at approximately 10:47 a.m.  
Dillon Nelson left the meeting at approximately 10:48 a.m. (virtual)  
Jeff Hane left the meeting at approximately 10:51 a.m. (virtual)

A brief video on Watershed Authorities Boards and Policies was shown.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday June 1, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, June 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN

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

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

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Katrina Haugen  
Recording Secretary

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Brad Blawat  
Secretary