June 15, 2026 (a)

APPROVED (as corrected July 6, 2026)
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. **June 15, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Kyle Schlomann, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam, Jim Duckstad, Rolland Miller, Jess Determan, Gunnar Bowman, and Tony Nordby were also present. Jeff Hane, Jacob Narloch, Dillon Nelson, and Michael Miller were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2026, meeting as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

The Treasurer Report was reviewed and filed for the auditor.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to pay the following checks: payroll checks #7426-7435 in the amount of $21,790.60; From Administrative Funds check #20366-2037 in the amount of $14,031.47; From Project Funds check #3770-3781 in the amount of $126,498.68; From RRWMB Funds check #240 in the amount of $444,046.00; Debit card transactions in the amount of $1,673.77; From Ditch Funds check #3846-3850 in the amount of $5,308.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Jess Determan with Field Drainage Inc. was in attendance to discuss the notification issues with Permit 25-042. It was their interpretation that the permit holder was required to contact the District Office when they are commencing work for a permit. The Board and Administrator Maher explained that the responsibility is shared between both the permit holder and the contractor, as the contractor generally has a better understanding of the work schedule. Determan stated that he understands and will work it into their process while conducting business within the Watershed District in the future. There was further discussion on placing Field Drainage Inc. on Probation and the requirements were reviewed by Attorney Jeff Hane. No action was taken.

Jess Determan left the meeting at approximately 8:54 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the following permit:

> Permit 26-015 Sharron Bring to install 161 acres of field drain tile in the SE of Section 20 West valley Township with 3/8” drainage coefficient; 100’ tile spacings; a 15” CSP gravity outlet (1143 GPM) to the Middle River via a private ditch.

Motion unanimously carried.

Gunnar Bowman left the meeting at approximately 8:59 p.m.

The following Administratively Approved permits were reviewed:

> Permit 26-018 Tim Osowski to remove an existing crossing with a 30” culvert along 330the St NW in the SW SW of Section 4 Alma Township and install a new crossing with a 30” culvert along CSAH 34 in the SW SW of Section 4 Alma Township.
>
> Permit 26-019 Dean Peterson to extend an existing 24” crossing South approximately 20’ in the NW NW of Section 19 Helgeland Township.

APPROVED

Permit 26-020 Kent Benitt to extend a crossing to the West along Highway 14 in the NE NW ¼ of Section 12 McCrea Township.

Administrator Maher discussed the proposal that was received from H2Overviewers to serve as Viewers for the JD #75 Improvement proceeding.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to tentatively accept the proposal from H2Overviewers but no contract is to be signed until that step has been reached in the petition process. Motion carried with Mr. Robert Kovar abstaining.

There was discussion on who should be responsible for removing trees, brush, and other undesirable vegetation located on the roadside in-slopes of the ditches under the Watershed District's jurisdiction as Drainage Authority. The general policy is that the road authority or the landowner is responsible for maintaining the ditch slopes within public road right of way. It was reported that regular mowing maintenance of the road slope tends to be neglected on larger ditches where the road has been moved from a re-sloping project, or the slope is too steep for regular mowing. It was the consensus of the Board that the District should take care of any trees and brush on the ditch slopes to prevent bigger problems down the road, and that Administrator Maher contact the townships where there is a known issue.

A drainage issue in the SE4 of Section 33 of Sandsville Township was discussed. The Board directed Staff to survey the township road ditch and profile around the farmyard to explore potential options to get the water to flow better to JD #75.

Dillon Nelson from HDR Engineering and Administrator Maher provided an update on the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project and the punch list walkthrough that took place last week. Administrator Maher asked the Board to set a Final Payment hearing date for the project.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to set the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project's contract under Davidson Construction Inc. Final Payment Hearing date for Monday, July 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher shared information on the Nelson Slough Groundbreaking event scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2026, from 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on contractor mobilization and provided a progress report. A construction Services Agreement from PKM was presented to the Board for review.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the Construction Services Agreement from PKM Electric for Nelson Slough. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby provided an update on the Swift Coulee seeding on Phase I and landowner discussions for Phase II.

Mr. Joey McGregor left the meeting at approximately 9:56 a.m.

Administrator Maher stated that Mr. Loren Zutz would like to address the Board at a July Board Meeting. Maher was directed to request Mr. Zutz to provide in writing an outline of what he wants to discuss prior to the meeting in order to keep the discussion on track.

The MN Watersheds proposed resolutions were provided to the Board of Managers. Administrator Maher provided some information and commented on the resolutions that were most relevant to the MSTRWD. Maher

APPROVED

asked the Board to review the proposed resolutions and provide their comments and feedback to the appointed delegates.

It was reported that the demolition of the former Klipping property is now complete, and after inspection, the work appears to suffice FEMA guidelines. Administrator Maher asked the Board to adopt a resolution to transfer the property to Polk County.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to Adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, Kevin Klipping (hereinafter "Klipping") owned a 13.9 acre residential property with a property address of 18115 495th Ave NW Oslo, MN, located along the Red River of the North in Government Lot 2, Section Twenty (20), Polk County, which residential property was subject to devastating floods; and,

Whereas, Klipping was eligible for a property buy-out through the FEMA-HMF (Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Funds) Grant Program; and,

Whereas, no local government entity in Klipping's immediate area was willing to act as a conduit entity to receive and pass on to Klipping funds from said Program and administer the terms of a FEMA-HMF buyout; and,

Whereas, it is the mission of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (hereinafter "MSTRWD") to "[t]o conserve the natural resources of the state by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects by using sound scientific principles for the protection of the public health and welfare and the provident use of the natural resources"; and,

Whereas, while administering flood buyout funds for individual homeowners is outside of its regular mission of flood control and drainage regulation, MSTRWD offered to act as the local government authority for the administration of Klipping's buyout on the condition that said administration would result in no net cost to MSTRWD taxpayers; and,

Whereas, the ownership of flood buyout land is not within the mission of MSTRWD; and,

Whereas, it was always contemplated that the real property formerly belonging to Klipping would be transferred to another government entity whose mission aligns with the ownership and maintenance of open land for recreation and natural resource enhancement, and not remain owned by MSTRWD; and,

Whereas, Klipping elected to take advantage of MSTRWD's offer, and MSTRWD did act as a local unit of government for Klipping's application for a buyout under the FEMA-HMF Grant Program, and Klipping did accept a residential real estate flood buyout in exchange for the purchase by MSTRWD of Klipping's property; and,

Whereas, upon purchase of the same, MSTRWD did hire a contractor to remove all buildings and building materials from Klipping's former property; and,

Whereas, as a condition of said buyout, pursuant to the rules and restrictions of the FEMA-HMF Grant Program, Klipping's former lands are now permanently subject to a complete restriction on construction of buildings and structures, and are permanently dedicated to open public space, and now no occupation, use, or construction on the premises is allowed unless specifically authorized under the FEMA-HMF Grant Program rules; and,

Whereas, Polk County is a local unit of government whose specific mission includes the ownership of open land and the creation and maintenance of public spaces for parks and recreation;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that, in return for the sum of One Dollar and no/100's ($1.00), the District does transfer to Polk County the 13.9 acre tract of land located in Government Lot Two (2) of Section Twenty (20), Township 154 North, Range 50 West, identified as PID 37.00068.01, with a property address of 18115 495th Ave NW Oslo, MN, unto Polk County, on the condition that Polk County does accept the same, and agrees to maintain and enforce the restrictions and conditions of the FEMA-HMF Grant Program, specifically including a complete restriction on construction of buildings and structures and a permanent dedication of the land to open public space, and that no occupation, use, or construction on the premises be allowed unless specifically authorized under the FEMA-HMF Grant Program rules, and that said restrictions be placed in the

APPROVED

real estate records of Polk County so that any future owner, whether an individual, business entity, township, municipal corporation, or unit of government (whether state or local) shall be on notice of the same; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon agreement by Polk County with this Resolution, the District's President and Administrator together are hereby authorized to sign all deeds and documents necessary to effectuate said conditional transfer.

Motion unanimously Carried.

Administrative Assistant Haugen provided information on some of the current project balances and project accounting history. Haugen plans to review this information with the Board again when the full Board is present to answer any questions and provide additional information if needed.

Attorney Hane reported that following a conversation with the City of Newfolden attorney, it appears the quitclaim deed process would not work to transfer Kathryn Smith's property to the City. Mr. Hane will explore the hazardous building statute to see if that would be the proper proceeding than just waiting for tax forfeiture option.

Following up on a previous Board inquiry, Attorney Jeff Hane reported his findings as to what the legal requirements are for managers to be able to attend Board Meetings remotely and participate in a vote. According to Mr. Hane, there is no notice requirement, but all votes must be done by roll call, and all the voting managers must be able to see and hear each other through live video feed.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Petition for Improvement for JD #20 that was accepted by the Board of Managers. It was reported that the Petition had omitted the required language stating that the petitioners would bear the costs of the proceedings in the event the proceedings are dismissed and the petition fails to establish a project. The JD #20 Petition for Improvement proceeding is on hold until an updated petition or a written statement as such is received back from the petitioners.

The following meetings were announced:

1. RRWMB Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Ada, MN
2. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers meeting Monday, July 6, 2026, at 8:30 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.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Katrina Haugen	Brad Blawat
Recording Secretary	Secretary