August 17, 2026 (a)

APPROVED (as corrected 09-08-2026)
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. **August 17, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, Robert Kovar, Joey McGregor, Lein Schiller and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Matt Fischer and Tony Nordby were also present. Jeff Hane, Michael Miller and Bryan Murphy were 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. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Joey McGregor, to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Dillon Nelson joined the meeting at approximately 8:34 a.m. (virtual)

Bryan Murphy from H2Overviewers was in attendance via Microsoft Teams to discuss the potential of doing a Redetermination of Benefits for some of the ditch systems within the Watershed District as they are currently doing work in neighboring Counties. Current pricing will be ending October 1 2026 and their new rates will take effect. Murphy stated that he is not wanting to rush a decision from the Board so he would be willing to extend current pricing until the end of the first 2027 quarter if the board signs a contract for the JD #75 RoB relating to the current Petition for Improvement. Murphy suggests doing a Redetermination on CD #43, CD #44, and JD #25-2 at the same time as they all contribute water to JD #75 and pay outlet fees to the JD #75 system. The last time benefits were determined for all of the listed systems was 1989.

It was the consensus of the Board to direct staff to forward the information that Technician Kyle Schlomann put together for the RoB committee on each system to Bryan Murphy and have him prepare an assessment of what ditches would benefit from or need a Redetermination completed.

Bryan Murphy left the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m. (virtual)

The regular Board of Managers meeting was recessed at 9:30 a.m. for the Swift Coulee Phase 1 Final payment Hearing.

The Swift Coulee Phase I Final Payment Hearing was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by President Bill Petersen.

Those in Attendance were President Bill Petersen, Managers Brad Blawat, Robert Kovar, Joey McGregor, Keith Szczepanski, and Lein Schiller. Others in attendance were Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Tony Nordby, and Matt Fischer. Jeff Hane, Michael Miller and Dillon Nelson were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

This hearing was recorded.

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Attorney Jeff Hane reviewed the outline for the hearing.

Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided information on the project including his confirmation that the contract had been completed and it was his opinion that the final payment for the project be made.

Matt Fischer from the Board of Water and Soil Resources commented on how successful the project had been and hopes to see more projects like this in the future.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the contract and make Final Payment with the following Findings and Order and authorize Mr. Bill Petersen to sign the final pay request.

The above-entitled matter, came on before the Board of Managers of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E555 for a hearing for final acceptance of the Project contract at the District Offices at 453 N. McKinley St. Warren, Minnesota on Aug. 17th, 2026, at 9:30 am. The Board, having given due notice of the hearing as required by law, and having heard the testimony of all in attendance at the hearing, hereby makes the following FINDINGS:

a. The Project engineer has made a report to the Board showing the contract price, the amount paid on certificates, the unpaid balance, and the work that is completed under the contract.
b. Notice of the hearing by publication at least ten days before the hearing was made. The notice included a statement that the report is filed, the time and location for the hearing, and that a party objecting to the acceptance of the contract may appear and be heard.
c. The Board is satisfied that the contract has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications, with the following limited exceptions: NONE.
d. The Board determines that the following circumstances are relevant to the issue of liquidated damages accrued under the contract: NONE.
e. All the State Grants received and used for this phase of the Project have been reconciled by the issuing agency auditor/ supervisor and been closed.
f. Gladen Construction Inc. has already received their retainage following issuance of "Consent of Surety to Final Payment dated Sep. 15th ,2025.
g. The Engineer issued the Certificate of Substantial Completion on Sep. 30th, 2025, relating to all work under the scope of this Project.
h. Seed Mixture 34-266 and Seed Mixture 35-442 identified in the original contract are native seed mixes that warrant more than one year to establish. Planting of these seed mixes was performed to the satisfaction of the Engineer, Soil and Waters Conservation District, and Board of Waters and Soil Resources and future mowing needs to establish vegetation will be performed by the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.
i. The Contractor and Engineer have both signed the Final Payment document before the board for this hearing.

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THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Contract is deemed accepted, and that a draft shall be prepared to Gladen Construction Inc. for final payment in the sum of: Twenty-two thousand five hundred fifty-one and 00/100 dollars ($22,551.00).

Motion unanimously carried

The Final Payment Hearing for Swift Coulee Phase I was closed at 9:44 a.m.

The Regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 9:46 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to approve the following After the Fact permit.

> ATF Permit 26-029 Nelson Park Township to replace a centerline culvert under 430th St NW near the quarter line between Sections 16 and 21 Nelson Park Township with a new 18" culvert.

Motion unanimously carried.

The following Administratively Approved permit was reviewed:

> Permit 26-028 Jordan Urbaniak to install a new shared crossing and culvert on the Southerly Quarter line of Section 1 Bloomer Township.

Tony Nordby provided information on preliminary plans for repairs at three locations along SD #3 where sluffing is impacting occupied farmyards. Administrator Maher stated he would be looking for funding from the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) for these locations.

The Regular Meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m. for the 2027 proposed Budget Hearing.

The 2027 Budget Hearing was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Petersen. Board Members in attendance were Bill Petersen, Robert Kovar, Brad Blawat, Keith Szczepanski, Lein Schiller, and Joey McGregor. Others in attendance were Mori Maher, Kyle Schlomann, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Tony Nordby, and Matt Fischer. Jeff Hane, Dillon Nelson and Michael Miller were in attendance using Microsoft Teams.

This meeting was recorded.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to:

1) The Secretary certify to the Auditors of Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Kittson, and Roseau Counties an Administrative Fund Levy of $350,000.00.

2) Authorize The Secretary to certify to the Auditors of Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Kittson, and Roseau Counties, a Project Fund levy of 0.0003627 (75% times 0.04836) times the Estimated Market Value of all taxable property within the district.

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3) Adopt the 2027 Administrative and Project Fund Levies as follows:

Building Maintenance	$15,000	Legal/Profession/Administrative Services	$70,000
Utilities	$6,500	Managers Expenses	$10,000
Supplies/Equipment	$14,000	Association Dues	$8,000
Telephone	$11,000	Employee Mileage/Expenses	$15,000
Publication/Printing	$5,000	Vehicle Expenses	$15,000
Postage	$2,000	Employee Payroll/Fringes	$560,000
Miscellaneous	$1,000	Project Construction	$20,700
Insurance	$30,000	USGS Stream Gage & Cost Share	$10,000
Property Taxes	$100	Stream Maintenance	$5,000
			$798,300
		Less Estimated Project Expenses	$448,300
		Net Administrative Budget	**$350,000**

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat for:

1) The Secretary to certify the following Ditch repair and maintenance levies to the Auditors of Marshall, Polk, and Pennington Counties:

	Marshall		**Polk**		**Pennington**	
Ditch	**Levy Projected Receipts ($)**	**Percent (Benefits)**	**Levy Projected Receipts ($)**	**Percent (Benefits)**	**Levy Projected Receipts ($)**	**Percent (Benefits)**
JD #1	7,458	1.50%	47,532	1.50%		
JD #14	49,194	5.00%			16,471	5.00%
JD #15	53,748	3.50%				
JD #16	4,647	0.50%				
JD #17	435	1.00%	6,271	1.00%		
JD #20	47,098	2.00%				
JD #21	22,387	8.00%				
JD #24	2,474	1.00%	925	1.00%		
JD #25-1	7,773	2.00%	11,421	2.00%	1,081	2.00%
JD #25-2	5,665	8.00%	34,236	8.00%	21,605	8.00%
JD #28	40,000	71.4%				
JD #29	44,758	2.00%				
JD #68			6,203	2.50%		
JD #75			73,069	2.00%		
CD #39	7,541	6.00%				
CD #39 Imp	1,085	1.00%				
CD #43			64,688	5.50%		
CD #44			25,028	2.50%		
CD #175			51,104	0.75%		

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	Marshall			Polk			Pennington	
Ditch	Levy Projected Receipts ($)	Percent (Benefits)		Levy Projected Receipts ($)	Percent (Benefits)		Levy Projected Receipts ($)	Percent (Benefits)
SD #3	157,504	2.00%						
WD #2	1,621	4.00%						
WD #4	3,912	4.00%		1,423	4.00%			
WD #5				12,840	0.50%			
WD #6				9,704	0.50%			
WD #7	6,090	2.00%		681	2.00%			
WD #7 Imp	190	0.25%		2,983	5.50%			
PL566 Lien	27,260	0.23390%						
PL566 Maintenance	17,482	0.150%						
PL566 Rebuild	3,380	0.000290%						

Motion unanimously carried

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to accept the Red River Watershed Management Board Levy of 75% of the maximum allowable rate (.04836).

The Budget Hearing was closed at 10:10a.m.
The Regular Board of Managers Meeting was reconvened at 10:10a.m.

Tony Nordby provided an update on the Nelson Slough construction, and JD #19 planned maintenance. Administrator Maher provided a funding update including upcoming reimbursements from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen to sign Pay Request #2 for Nelson Slough in the amount of $1,162,689.77. Motion unanimously carried.

An update of Swift Coulee Phase II was provided by Tony Nordby on permits and construction time frame. Administrator Maher will be attending the LSOHC Hearings in St. Paul on August 26th requesting funding for this project.

Tyler Larson presented information on Jay Johnston's Side Water Inlet (SWI) in the NE4 of Section 29 Angus Township. Larson stated that this SWI has been an issue when releasing water from the Brant Angus Coulee Impoundment since the project was constructed. The culvert has had the flapgate worked on, sealed and reinstalled several times but it is not keeping water from backing into his field during the release of water from the project. Larson suggests raising the culvert 1' and filling part of Jay's field ditch in to reduce to alleviate the problem.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to raise the SWI culvert in the NE4 of Section 29 Angus Township approximately 1 foot. If the pipe appears to have failed when it is raised, a new pipe sized for the drainage area will be installed with the Brandt Angus Coulee Impoundment paying for raising the pipe and/or replacing the pipe. Any ditching within the field will be done and paid for by Mr. Johnston. Motion unanimously carried.

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The Treasurers report was reviewed and filed for the Auditor.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to pay the following checks: Payroll checks 7450-7460 in the Amount of $24,051.56; From Administrative Funds checks 20391-20402 in the amount of $28,054.63 including ACH withdrawals; From Project Funds check 3798-3811 in the amount of $1,480,741.54; Debit Card transactions in the amount of $3,201.09; From Ditch Funds check 3862-3873 in the amount of $106,360.73. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrator Maher provides an update of the final stages of the Klipping buy out, Demo and reimbursements from FEMA and presents the board with a settlement statement to distribute the remaining $134,697.99 from the Trust account.

Motion by Mr. Brad Blawat, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve reimbursement to the MSTRWD in the amount of $71,992.86, and a partial payment to Mr. Klipping in the amount of $50,000 with the remaining $12,705.13 to stay in the trust account until everything with FEMA has been closed out. Motion unanimously carried.

Engineering Technician Larson provided information on lands the District owns and rents out on each project. Discussion took place regarding an opportunity to purchase lands within the Newfolden Impoundment. It was the consensus of the Board to have Administrator Maher draft a proposal to purchase the lands for the Board to review at the next board meeting. Renting of the Dike for Hay starting in 2027 at the Newfolden Project was also discussed.

Motion by Mr. Joey McGregor, seconded by Mr. Brad Blawat to have District staff draft a Rental land bid notice and advertise for rent haying of the dike at the Newfolden Impoundment with bids to be opened September 28th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

The next Policy Committee meeting for One Watershed One Plan is September 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to authorize Mr. Bill Petersen to sign the Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Agreement for 2027-2029 in the Amount of $1,632,654.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Managers Bill Petersen and Joey McGregor and Administrator Maher attended a BWSR's listening session on August 5, 2026 on how One Watershed One Plan is working and what improvements can be made.

Administrator Maher stated he had received a Data Practices Request regarding Nelson Slough that he has not yet responded to.

The following meetings were announced:

1. Swift Coulee Phase I Final Payment Hearing Monday August 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
2. MSTRWD 2027 Budget Hearing Monday August 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
3. RRWMB regular Meeting Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 10:00 in Ada, MN

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4. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Tuesday September 8, 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 12:02p.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary