September 8, 2026 (a)

APPROVED (As corrected September 21, 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. **September 8, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Petersen, Managers Bill Petersen, Brad Blawat, Robert Kovar, Lein Schiller and Keith Szczepanski were present. Mori Maher, Tyler Larson, Katrina Haugen, Robert Adam 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. Keith Szczepanski, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2026, meeting as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Lein Schiller, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to approve the following permit:

> Permit 26-032 Thomas Widner to (1) construct a new field crossing with an 18" culvert and flapgate on the East line on the NE NE of Section 32 Tamarac Township and to (2) construct a new field crossing with an 18" culvert on the East line of the NE SE of Section 32 Tamarac Township.

Motion unanimously carried.

Jared Sands joined the meeting at approximately 8:39 a.m.

The following Administratively Approved Permits were reviewed:

> Permit 26-030 Oliver Urdahl to construct a new field access crossing with a 24" culvert on the West line of the NW4 NW4 of Section 24 Viking Township.
>
> Permit 26-031 Jordan Renfro to construct a new property access crossing with a culvert on either (1) the North line of the NW4 NW4 or (2) the West line of the NW4 NW4 of Section 26 Viking Township.
>
> Permit 26-033 John Buchner to remove and replace a longer 18" CMP in kind in the SE4 SW4 of section 8 Farley Township.
>
> Permit 26-034 Halfmann Farms to extend an existing crossing by 20' with a 36" pipe in the SW4 of Section 32 Augsburg Township.

Engineering Technician Tyler Larson shared information regarding some crossing culverts that need replacement on JD #29. Earlier this year, Neil Widner got a permit (26-016) to extend a crossing on JD #29 Lat 1. When it was time to install the culvert extension, it was discovered the remainder of the culvert had failed. Mr. Widner then reached out to District staff and enquired about who had responsibility over the crossing culverts on the ditch system.

In reviewing ditch records, it appears some culverts were replaced during a large ditch repair in the 1980s. Mr. Widner's crossing culvert was not installed during that repair but had been installed a couple years after it was completed. The District's records are not clear however who installed the culvert, with the District potentially having installed pipe after salvaging a culvert during a separate repair on JD 20 around the same time. Mr. Widner is asking for cost assistance in replacing the in-place pipe as he has already purchased the extension that was approved with permit 26-016.

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Technician Larson also explained that after staff inspection, it appears there are 3 additional culverts on the JD 29 system that need replacement that are the Ditch's responsibility to maintain.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Jared Sands to replace the 4 failing in-place culverts at the expense of JD #29 at their current length, with District staff reviewing the current sizing to ensure culvert sizes are adequate. If landowners want wider than current crossings they must pay for the additional footage. Motion carried with Mr. Lein Schiller abstaining

Larson provided an update on Sediment removal on JD #21 upstream of the Newfolden Impoundment.

Larson also provided an update on the crossing culvert that was installed in SE4 of Section 5 Northland Township on PCD #175 earlier this year. Larson stated the correct size culvert was delivered and installed this past week, with True North Steel taking the incorrect sized culvert back.

Technician Larson stated that Bob Honek contacted the District regarding the crossing culvert into his yard in the SE4 of Section 3 Northland Township on PCD #175. Honek believed the culvert was starting to fail, and upon inspection of the culvert District staff agreed with that position. Larson stated that after looking through records, it appears the existing pipe is original to the ditch system's construction in the 1960's. As such the Ditch system is responsible for any maintenance of the culvert.

Mr. Joey McGregor joined the meeting at approximately 9:03 a.m. (virtual)

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanski to replace the failing 40 ft 64"X43" CSPA pipe in the SE4 of Section 3 Northland Township at the expense of PCD #175.
Motion unanimously carried.

Bryan Murphy was in attendance to review the potential Redetermination of Benefits for certain ditches under the Watershed Districts jurisdiction. Discussion was held on the need of a Redetermination of Benefits on CD #43, CD #44, JD #25-2, and JD #75 due to inequities in the benefits as well as CD #43, CD#44, and JD #25-2 all contribute water to JD #75 and pay outlet fees to the respected ditch systems.

Rolland Miller joined the meeting at approximately 9:37 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Keith Szczepanksi to authorize a Redetermination of Benefits on CD #43, CD #44, JD #25-2, and JD #75 with the following findings:

1) The benefits or damages of record determined in a drainage proceeding do not reflect reasonable present-day land values
2) There appears to be inequities within the current benefited areas

Motion carried with Mr. Robert Kovar abstaining.

Bryan Murphy left the meeting at approximately 9:49 a.m. (virtual)
Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to authorize President Bill Petersen to execute contracts with H2Overviewers for the Redetermination of Benefits for CD #43, CD #44, JS #25-2, and JD #75. Motion unanimously carried.

Bryan Murphy left the meeting at approximately 9:49 a.m. (virtual)

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Administrator Maher provided an update on the 3 locations on SD #3 that he has been working with landowners on repairing. Maher will be requesting funds from the Red River Watershed Management Board as well as One Watershed One Plan to aid in the repair of these locations. Once Maher receives landowner buy in on the preliminary plans, he will make requests. Construction will be in 2027.

Administrator Maher and Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering provided an update on the construction and finances of the Nelson Slough project and the Permits and landowner meetings for Swift Coulee Phase II.

Technician Larson provided information about Boxville Township looking to have 210th St NW paved between County Road #15 to US Highway #75 through a MNDOT Local Road Improvement Program grant. With the road falling between the Richard P Nelson Floodway (Warren Diversion Ditch) and Watershed Ditch #4, the Township was seeking District input on the viability of the project before allocating additional time and resources towards a grant application.

It was the consensus of the Board to forward the information to NRCS to see if they have any input on the project affecting the Warren Diversion. Further discussion will occur at a future meeting.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the letter received regarding Jim Vansickel's Warrenton Sec. 11 and how/if Swift Coulee is impacting his drainage. A survey was provided to Mr. Vansickel as well as Administrator Maher and Engineering Technician Larson meeting with him after the 2" rain that occurred on 9/3/2026. Information was provided to Mr. Vansickel on who to contact to clean out sediment in the Highway 75 ditch which would improve drainage off his property. Maher also drafted a response letter to the one that was received on August 26th, 2026 and he is planning to mail it yet this week.

Administrator Maher provided an update on the accounting process review that is being performed by Brady Martz. It is in the final stages and Administrator Maher intends to develop a process map outlining the district's procedures and processes.

Administrator Maher informed the board that he nominated the Swift Coulee Project for the Project of the year Award through the Minnesota Watersheds. If accepted the award will be presented in December annual conference.

Administrative Assistant Haugen presented the 2027 Health insurance renewal information to the board. The change in rates from 2026 to 2027 is a 10.65% increase. 2027 rate for individual coverage is $844.30, and family rate is $2,532.94. The Watershed Districts contribution for Health insurance was also discussed. Currently the District covers up to $800 for individual Policy's and up to $1,800 for family policies.

Motion by Mr. Robert Kovar, seconded by Mr. Lein Schiller to approve and accept the 2027 premium rates of $844.30 for individual Policy's and $2,532.94 for Family Policy's. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar for the District to 100% cover individual health insurance policy premiums and 85% of family Health insurance premiums. Motion unanimously carried.

Haugen provided quotes from two contractors to remove a tree on the Northwest side of the Districts Office that has a hole in the trunk and is split. KB Enterprises provided a quote of $1,400 and Ethan Gunnarson provided a quote of $1,600.

Motion by Mr. Jared Sands, seconded by Mr. Robert Kovar, to hire KB Enterprise to remove the tree. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED

Discussion was held on the One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Watershed District Office

Mr. Bill Petersen provided an update from the Summer Tour in Detroit Lakes in August

Dillon Nelson left the meeting at approximately 11:18 a.m. (virtual)

Managers were updated on BWSR Academy scheduled for October 20-22 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd MN. Managers were asked to let Administrative Assistant Haugen know if they would like to attend so that she could get them signed up.

The following meetings were announced:

1. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday September 21, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office in Warren, MN
2. RRWMB Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Ada MN
3. MSTRWD Regular Board of Managers Meeting Monday October 5, 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 11:23a.m.

Katrina Haugen
Recording Secretary

Brad Blawat
Secretary