

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday March 8, 2022 at the district office located at 211 Second Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Bork, Haugen, Meyer and Gillespie. Staff member present was Administrator, Amber Doschadis. Big Stone County Commissioner Wade Athey was also present. Members of the public in attendance were: Darrel Holtz (landowner) attending in person along with Drew Kessler and Lisa Odens who attended virtually from Houston Engineering.

Holker called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Minutes and Disbursements from February 2022 and January 2022 Disbursements were presented. A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Gillespie to approve as submitted. Motion Carried: 5-0.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Darrel Holtz was in attendance to submit permit #3-22, requesting to install seepage tile in his field in Browns Valley East, Section 7. The area where tile is being proposed happens to pass over the Beardsley Dry Lake Outlet Easement. The board discussed future maintenance, repairs and construction of the Beardsley Dry Lake Project within the easement area. A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Gillespie to approve the permit, allowing for placement of the tile noting that the applicant and any future owners/ operators of the property would be responsible for damages caused to the private tile within the easement area if/when the District would cause damage during repairing, replacing or maintaining of the Beardsley Dry Lake Outlet Tile. Motion Carried: 4-0.

Darrel Holtz left the meeting at 9:07 am.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Browns Valley, overview on current funding and Representative Backer's 2022 bonding bill for final expenses was given by Doschadis.

Jon Bork entered the meeting in person at 9:12 am.

2. Beardsley Dry Lake. Doschadis reports that she's working with HEI on updated cost estimates and a future bonding bill with Senator Westrom's office to help alleviate some of the costs to the benefitting landowners of the system.
3. Big Stone Lake/ Minnesota River. Big Stone Lake has come up slightly and the silt barrier is now just under water. Doschadis opened one additional gate and will continue to watch for snowmelt/ runoff. Lake levels will be taken once the ice is no longer affecting the staff gate.
4. Remote Dam Operations and Televising of Dam Area. Doschadis states that Conroy Electric is waiting on a back-ordered part for remote operations. Conroy plans to coordinate with the county to have the camera up and live feed going soon.
5. Whetstone River Restoration. Doschadis presented the current timeline for the EW/EAW process and states that the permit is on schedule for a public informational meeting this summer.
6. One Watershed, One Plan. The deadline for consultants to respond to our Request for Qualifications is March 14<sup>th</sup>. Doschadis has scheduled a local partner staff meeting to review the proposals and will schedule an interview with the Policy Committee in April.
7. Marsh Lake- Doschadis attended a recent multi-agency meeting and reports that the group is working

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on an OMRRR. The board consensus was to use the OMRRR to pass District ownership and interest of any Marsh Lake project components to the DNR or Corps.

8. Kleindl Wetland Bank- Doschadis reviewed purchases #10 and #11 with the Wetland Credit Agency and asked for a 60-day extension to the previously approved agreement, while the applicant works through the permitting process. A motion to allow the 60-day extension was made by Holker, seconded by Gillespie. Motion Carried: 5-0.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis. No action was needed on the report.
2. DNR Public Waters Work General Permit #1997-4241 is set to expire in July. Doschadis reports that she will work with DNR on any revisions and extensions to the GP.
3. Task Order 2022-1. Houston Engineering – Lisa and Drew attended virtually to discuss the benefits of collecting additional water quality data/ modeling of the Whetstone River Restoration Project on surrounding and downstream waters. A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Holker to approve Task Order 2022-1 as submitted. Motion Carried: 5-0.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

MAWD Legislative Meetings at State Capitol – March 16-17, 2022

UMRWD Regular Meeting – April 12, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Holker adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Approved by,

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Amber Doschadis, Administrator

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Gene Meyer, Secretary