

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday April 12, 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. No members of the public in attendance.

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

Minutes and Disbursements from March 2022 were presented.

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Gillespie to approve as submitted. Motion Carried: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Browns Valley. Doschadis reminded the board that Representative Backer is continuing to push final funding for the project through in this year's bonding bill.
2. Beardsley Dry Lake. Doschadis reported that she was working on an updated bonding bill with Senator Westrom's office, to which he is increasing our project funding amount to \$2 million. Doschadis stated that this amendment was approved by the committee on 3/23/2022 after she and Westrom testified on behalf of the project. This still must go through the bonding bill process.
3. Big Stone Lake/ Minnesota River. Big Stone lake is currently at 968.70 with gates open to reduce this elevation closer to 968 pd for summer pool.
4. Dam Operations. Doschadis stated that Conroy is waiting on a back-ordered part for the operations component but the Camera is up and live and can be found at the following link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlFrH4O3ZRk>
There have been issues with unleashed dogs and waste, Doschadis will order some signs for the area.
5. Whetstone River Restoration. Doschadis explained that the USA COE has a set budget for each quarter, to review project permits and they have run out of funds. The COE will continue to look at this permit in the new quarter, Doschadis will confirm those dates.
6. One Watershed, One Plan. Doschadis, Haugen and Bork were all in attendance for the 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, they updated the board on Houston Engineering's presentation and Doschadis stated that the Policy Committee gave a unanimous recommendation to have the District proceed with a contract with HEI for the Planning Process. A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Holker to approve the submitted HEI Job No 5304-0025 for 1W1P Services. Motion Carried: 5-0.
7. Kleindl Wetland Bank. Doschadis reported that several sales of credits are relayed for state or federal approval. Once the purchasers have approval these sales are ready to be finalized.
8. Marsh Lake. Doschadis will continue to work with involved parties on an operations and ownership guidance document that the board has instructed be completed to absolve the District from any future liabilities on maintenance or repairs/ replacements of the Project.
9. District's updated website is up and running and final logo options were presented. Doschadis will send additional options to the Board before finalizing the logo.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis. A motion to approve as submitted was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer. Motion Carried: 5-0.
2. Doschadis met with Area Hydrologist, Ryan Bjerke on the DNR Public Waters Work General Permit. 1997-4241. They will work on an updated agreement over the next few months.
3. 2022 Policy Handbook was presented. A motion to approve was made by Holker, seconded by Gillespie. Motion Carried: 5-0.
4. 2022 Big Stone Lake/ Whetstone Dam Groundskeeping Estimates were presented.
A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Bork to contract Spring/ Fall Clean Up and Lawncare Services with Pheasant County Lawncare of Clinton, MN.
Doschadis reports that Paulson Tree Service will spray rip rap, late April early May depending on frost to get a head start on weeds and will spray voluntary trees along the dike road 1 time per year.

Manager Updates and Staff Correspondences

Drainage Registry Portal and Waters of the United States were briefly discussed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMRWD Regular Meeting – May 10, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

UMRWD Regular Meeting – June 14, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Holker adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Approved by,

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary