

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday May 10, 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.

April 2022 Minutes were presented. A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Meyer to approve as submitted. Motion Carried: 4-0. April Disbursements will be presented at the following meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Browns Valley. Doschadis continues to work with Representative Backer on a bonding bill for the final phase as well as maintenance plans for previous projects.

Manager Bork entered the meeting at 9:15 am.

2. Beardsley Dry Lake. Bonding Bill Update was given by Doschadis. Doschadis has been working with landowner and contractor on another sink hole that has developed along the system. More information will be presented at the June Meeting.
3. Big Stone Lake/ Minnesota River. The lake is currently at 968.60 project datum, with gates open to discharge as much water downstream as possible.
4. Dam Operations. The new dam YouTube link is dam.umrwd.org, this should resolve any YouTube issues we were having with links automatically updating causing visitors to receive an invalid link notice. Conroy's has received word that the final part for operations is available and should be shipped to their office soon.
HEI Task Order 2022- 002 was presented by Doschadis, for support through future Dam Rehabilitation. A motion to move forward with the task order was made by Holker, seconded by Bork. Motion Carried: 5-0.
5. Whetstone River Restoration. Doschadis continues to work with HEI on the COE Permit. Update emails have been sent and Doschadis continues to work with SD on possible funding options.
6. One Watershed, One Plan. Steering Team Meeting is scheduled for the 11th. Staff are working to secure a venue for a Public Kick-Off in late July.
7. Kleindl Wetland Bank. Wetland Consulting Agency, Purchase Request #11 revision, request to decrease the purchase amount to 2.5 acres was presented by Doschadis. A motion to approve the purchase amount was made by Haugen, approved by Bork. Motion Carried: 5-0.
8. Marsh Lake- Doschadis continues to work with COE and DNR staff on operations and ownership agreements. A ribbon cutting is set for May 17th.
9. District Logo and Email. Doschadis presented the final logo and is working on signs and printing set up for apparel. Matt at the county assisted in setting up an additional email of admin@umrwd.org. Doschadis reports that this will be used on publications, signage and permits so if any personnel or contact changes are made the transition can be much smoother.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis. A motion to approve was made by Bork, seconded by Holker. Motion Carried: 5-0.

Manager Updates and Staff Correspondences

Manager Haugen presented images on the current runout of high water from Swenson Lake, downstream through Pheasant Forever property into Olson Lake. Discussion took place on concerns for downstream infrastructure and public safety if high water causes the washout to grow. If requested, Doschadis will offer support to agency staff and landowners if there is interest in a future project.

Manager Holker reported that the MAWD Board is looking at responses to the Strategic Plan survey and plans to hold a follow up board meeting in late June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

MAWD Summer Tour – August 23 – 25, 2022

Holker adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Approved by,

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary