

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday November 8, 2022 at the district office located at 211 Second Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Haugen, Bork, Meyer and Gillespie. Staff member present was Administrator, Amber Doschadis.

There were no members of the public in attendance for this meeting.

Holker called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Holker to approve Minutes from October Meeting, as well as the September Disbursements as submitted.

Motion Carried: 5-0. October Disbursements will be presented at the December Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. One Watershed, One Plan. Upcoming Advisory Meeting on November 16th in Clinton. A motion to approve payment of HEI Inv #62066 was made by Meyer, seconded by Bork. Motion Carried: 5-0.
2. Big Stone Lake/ Minnesota River. Doschadis reports that all dam gates are open and minimal water is flowing overtop of the silt barrier just upstream of the dam.
USFWS/ COE Meeting. Doschadis updated the board on a meeting that was held to discuss the historic MN River Channelization Project. The meeting was held at the Big Stone Refuge, visiting the dam, Whetstone Project and weir structures currently in the MN River downstream of the dam. Doschadis reminded the board that the District was the local sponsor on this large project in the 1980s. The board agreed that there may be an opportunity to revise previous components of the project but would like Doschadis to look further into liabilities and financial support options first.
3. Browns Valley.
Diversion. Conrad is going to check on mowing in the low flow channel of diversion.
Doschadis reported on previous fish passage concerns through the diversion and discussed the COE study on the area. SD GFP and MN DNR have been working with the district on options to design rock arch rapids to promote fish passage through the diversion channel. The Board agrees that this is a good project and asks that Rinke Noonan review the proposed JPA between MN DNR and the District for design work. Doschadis will also work with HEI on a task order for the design effort.
4. Beardsley Dry Lake. No feedback was received from the City of Beardsley on the groundwater study completed by HEI. Doschadis reports that she will work on a loss of production payment to Schwagerl once he submits a final number after the 2022 repair to system that were done in his field.
5. Dam Operations.
HEI Task Order- 2022- 002. Doschadis presented the Bid Tab and HEI recommendation for the dam maintenance project. Doschadis reports at Minger is the low bid and that she has reviewed the submitted required documents with HEI. Their individual insurance limits may be less than the noted amount from HEI, but their umbrella cap is significantly higher than what we required. A motion to award the project to Minger was made by Bork, seconded by Haugen noting that the increase in umbrella makes up the difference in individual caps. Motion Carried: 5-0.
6. Whetstone River Restoration.
COE Permit is near ready to submit. DNR LSOHC will need a letter from board before issuing the \$2.3 million for MN components, Doschadis would like to wait on this letter until we are able to note more definitely some financial support on the SD side.

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7. Kleindl Wetland Bank. Doschadis presented a small purchase request from Wayne Pelzel. Gillespie made a motion to approve the sale of .055 acres for a total purchase price of \$3,000, Bork seconded this motion. Motion Carried: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report. A motion to approve as submitted was made by Haugen, seconded by Bork. Motion Carried: 5-0.
2. MAWD. Annual Meeting Delegates. A motion was made by Haugen seconded by Bork to have Wanda Holker and Gene Meyer be the appointed delegates and Jon Bork as an alternate for the 2022 MAWD Annual Meeting. Motion Carried: 5-0.
3. Administrator. Planned Sick Leave was presented and accepted unanimously by the board.

MANAGER UPDATES – N/A

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMRWD Regular Meeting – December 13, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
MAWD Annual Meeting – December 1-2, 2022

Holker adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Approved by,

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary