

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday March 14, 2023 at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Haugen, Bork, Gillespie and Meyer. Staff member present was Administrator, Amber Doschadis. Wade Athey attended, representing Big Stone County and Lisa Odens and Dennis McAlpine attended from Houston Engineering. 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 Meyer, seconded by Bork to approve Minutes from the February Meeting as submitted, as well as authorize payment of submitted invoices, as presented by Doschadis. Motion Carried: 5-0.

MN Assoc of Counties. Drainage Conf	\$390.00
Discover Card	\$721.67
Houston Engineering 1W1P	\$17,436.75
Houston Engineering Dam Rehab	\$2,421.75
Big Stone Highway Department	\$320.00
Houston Engineering Whetstone	\$32,805.50

CORRESPONDENCE

Permit #53-44 and Permit #54-44. Downstream notices were sent, there was no one in attendance to speak against the proposed permits. A motion to approve permits #53-44 and #54-44as presented today was made by Holker, seconded by Bork. Motion Carried: 4-0 with Haugen abstaining from the vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Whetstone River Restoration presentation was given by Lisa and Dennis of Houston Engineering, timelines, permitting and funding were discussed.
2. Big Stone Lake/ Dam Operations
Update on Dam Gate. Doschadis and Dennis McAlpine report that all eight gates have been replaced, Minger will come out in the next few weeks to reset one gate that seems to be off alignment.
3. Browns Valley
Diversion Fish Passage was reviewed by Doschadis. Lisa provided feedback on the initial process and future design plans.
Toelle Coulee Phase 2. Doschadis will continue to work with Representative Backers office and Houston Engineering.
4. One Watershed, One Plan
Doschadis reports that there is a joint staff and policy committee meeting tomorrow.
5. Beardsley Dry Lake. Doschadis has been working with Representative Anderson, Senator Westrom and the City of Beardsley on wording for a future bonding bill.
6. Kleindl Wetland Bank. No updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was given by Doschadis. A motion was made by Haugen, seconded by Bork to approve as submitted. Motion Carried: 5-0.

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2. MAWD Legislative Event Update was given by Doschadis, Haugen and Holker who were all in attendance. MAWD has now been renamed Minnesota Watersheds, the organization will send routine updates through the legislative session.
3. Swenson Lake Communications. Landowners around Swenson Lake and downstream have expressed concerns of high water and impacts downstream if the channel at the outlet erodes further. Doschadis will reach out to MN DNR and Pheasants Forever to see where they are in the process of planning a project.

MANAGER UPDATES- NA

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMRWD Regular Meeting – April 11, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

UMRWD Regular Meeting – May 9, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Holker adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary