

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday June 13, 2023 at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Haugen, Bork, Gillespie and Meyer. Wade Athey attended representing Big Stone County Commissioners. Members of the public in attendance include Cal Leuthardt; along with Dennis McAlpine and Lisa Odens from Houston Engineering.

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

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Gillespie to approve Minutes from the April Meeting, as well as authorize payment of submitted invoices, as presented by Doschadis. Motion also includes an addition to the agenda, adding permit #29-23. Motion Carried: 5-0

Discover	\$603.52
Moore Engineering Permit 17-22	\$1,582.50
Moore Engineering Permit 13-23	\$1,578.75
Houston Engineering 1W1P #65176	\$15,299.00
Rinke Noonan Permit #17-22 Support	\$1,185.00
Sev's Gravel Emergency Dam Work #3587	\$14,246.25
Pheasant Country Lawn Care	\$120.00
Houston Engineering Dam Rehab Support #65110	\$2,679.91
Houston Engineering Drone and Survey after spring flooding	\$1,891.50
Conroy Electric Emergency Dam Electric Work #1151	\$2,434.50

9:05 am Permit #28-23. Downstream landowner, Cal Leuthardt, attended the meeting to voice concerns on drainage in the area and impacts he’s seen due to high water. The board tabled this permit and will ask the applicant to attend the July meeting to discuss possible revisions to the original plan.

9:20 am Permit #25-23. Request for Engineer Review. Doschadis presented the review done by Moore Engineering. Doschadis went over the conversation she had with the applicant, there is additional information that could be gathered, and possible revisions could be made to the project to minimize downstream impacts. Doschadis will wait to hear from the applicant on how they would like to proceed.

Permit #53-22 and 54-22. Downstream Concerns with work completed last week were discussed. The applicant was working on a drainage agreement with landowners along the proposed project. At install this agreement wasn’t finalized, therefore the tile company will return once the agreement has been finalized to place remaining tile. A revision was also made to tile that was to be placed down the township road ditch. This tile was placed just inside the property line on parcel #04-0034-000 but still ties into the main tile downstream as planned. The applicant will submit an as built after the project has been fully completed.

Permit #17-22. EconoLodge Permit. Doschadis worked with the city to identify existing city infrastructure in the area surrounding the permitted work. There is an 18-inch RCP that drains water from the City of Ortonville’s Airport, west into the Highway 75 ROW. Over time adjacent landowners tied into the 18-inch pipe with smaller HDPE pipe, to improve drainage on their properties. Holes were also punched in the 18-inch pipe where it intersects with a low area to the east of Econo Lodge. The drainage efficiency of the 18-inch pipe has not been identified. However, the city agreed that the adjacent landowners could continue to drain into this pipe, acknowledging that when the pipe is at full capacity from airport flows, the area around Econo Lodge and the storage units to the North may become inundated with water. The city did mention that the frontage road is the lower than any surrounding structures, water can overtop this road as a secondary outlet in high water situations. Doschadis reported that the city will likely repair the holes that were punched in the 18-inch pipe. While the applicant did not

complete the project as permitted, the primary concerns seem to be with complex drainage throughout the area in general. The board recognized that if the landowners wished to improve drainage beyond the current scope, the best approach would be to work directly with the city in the future.

The board discussed accusations that were made by the applicant against District personnel. The board unanimously feels these were unfounded accusations, made during what appeared to be a tense time for the applicant. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Holker, to approve a revised permit application for permit #17-22, as long as the revised plan includes sign-off from the City of Ortonville and Mike Hartman (adjacent landowner). Motion Carried: 5-0

Permit #29-23. Evan Holker. Otrey 16 NW ¼. A motion to approve the permit as submitted, pending the receipt of downstream landowner signature, was made by Gillespie and seconded by Meyer. Motion Carried: 4-0, with Holker abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Whetstone River Restoration

Dennis and Lisa of Houston Engineering gave a presentation on the permitting process and project updates. A 95% Task Order was also reviewed, the board will consider this task order at the July Meeting, pending the results of a future meeting with the COE.

2. Big Stone Lake/ Dam Operations

Doschadis and Dennis reported on the final work with Gate # 10 after concerns this spring. Conroy was able to identify an electrical malfunction and the gate is now fully operational and in alignment. Doschadis presented preliminary estimates for work to repair the riprap upstream of the dam and tree removal in the debris barrier. A motion to proceed with necessary work was made by Haugen, seconded by Bork. Motion Carried: 5-0

Doschadis reported that a mobile hotspot was necessary to allow for full remote operations of the four dam gates. A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Meyer to increase the monthly cell phone reimbursement for Doschadis to \$75 beginning in June 2023. Motion Carried: 5-0

3. Browns Valley

Little MN- Diversion. Flood update/ FEMA claims. Doschadis is working with Goodhart Excavating on tree removal in the diversion. Houston will complete a sediment survey in July and that information will be used to work with FEMA on a possible removal project.

A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Bork to move forward with a tree removal project in the diversion channel at this time. Motion Carried: 5-0

Diversion Fish Passage Update on Design was given by Lisa of Houston Engineering. Special attention is being given to the amount of sedimentation this channel experiences. Designing a future project to minimize this sediment maintenance will provide a cost savings in the future.

Toelle Coulee Phase 2 Bonding Bill Update was given by Doschadis. Representative Backer secured an additional \$3.2 million in this year's bonding bill. This will accompany the \$2 million from a previous bonding bill to provide all funds necessary for the future project. Doschadis will work with MN DNR Flood Damage Reduction on a grant, a public meeting will then be scheduled.

4. One Watershed, One Plan

Doschadis reports that there is an in-person Policy Committee and Staff meeting later this month.

5. Beardsley Dry Lake

Senator Westrom and Representative Anderson were successful in securing \$2 million for the project in this year's infrastructure bill. The 2020 estimate for a full replacement was \$3.5 million.

Doschadis is working with BSWR on securing a grant, a public meeting will be held later this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis. A motion to approve, as submitted was made by Haugen, seconded by Gillespie. Motion Carried: 5-0
2. Watershed Plan Extension Resolution was presented. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Holker, seconded by Haugen. Motion Carried: 5-0

**Resolution to Extend the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District
Watershed Management Plan**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, §103D.401 and 103D.405, require Watershed Districts to adopt a Watershed Management Plan and revise that plan at least once every ten years, and

WHEREAS, Upper Minnesota River Watershed District has a current state approved Watershed Management Plan that was adopted in September 2013, and

WHEREAS, Upper Minnesota River Watershed District has indicated its interest and desire to transition to Comprehensive Watershed Management planning through the One Watershed One Plan program, and is currently in partnership with the development of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in the Upper Minnesota River planning area, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Minnesota River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is expected to be completed, approved by the BWSR Board, and adopted by the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District no later than early in the calendar year 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §103B.3367;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District requests from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources an extension of the effective date of the current UMRWD 10 Year Plan until September 30, 2024, in order to complete the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan submittal, approval, and adoption process in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.301, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District will adopt the Upper Minnesota River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as its Watershed Management Plan in whole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAWD Summer Tour – June 20 – 21, 2023

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

Holker adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary