

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday May 9, 2023 at the district office located at 211 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Haugen, Bork, and Meyer. Members of the public in attendance include: Artie Arndt, Jon Hartman and James Sitter.

Holker called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Bork to approve Minutes from the April Meeting as submitted, as well as authorize payment of submitted invoices, as presented by Doschadis. Motion Carried: 4-0

Houston Engineering Browns Valley Fish Passage	\$12,451.75
Houston Engineering 1W1P	\$10,720.00
Houston Engineering 1W1P	\$2,685.00
Conroy Electric Dam General Elec. and Remote Ops	\$19,202.67
Ronglien Excavating 2023 Flood Mitigation	\$3,790.00
Ronglien Excavating 2023 Flood Mitigation	\$825.00
Discover	\$107.48
LMCIT Work Comp Coverage	\$684.00
Farm and Home Publishers 2023 Plat Book	\$65.25

CORRESPONDENCE

**9:05 am** Permit #12-23. Downstream landowner notification was sent. No one attended to speak in opposition of the permit or the completed Engineer’s Review that was also sent out. A motion to approve, noting the Engineer’s Review was made by Bork, seconded by Haugen. Motion Carried: 4-0

**9:30 am** Permit #17-22. Project deviated from permitted design. Permit Applicant, Artie Arndt was in attendance to give an overview of the drainage area surrounding his property, concerns that he has with historic projects done by the city and work that was completed by his contractors in 2022. The 2022 project, as constructed by the applicant’s contractor was not completed according to permit #17-22 and has caused concern with adjacent landowner and city infrastructure as water overtopped the road this Spring. Applicant notes that water has overtopped the frontage road several times in past years, and he has concerns with the city’s 18-inch pipe that lies close to his property line. Holes were punched into the side of this city pipe to drain adjacent lands; it appears that these holes could cause a backwater issue when water is high enough in the pipe. Discussion on options to restore capacity took place but no commitment was made by the applicant. Adjacent landowner Mike Hartman acknowledged the complexities of the area and high-water concerns. Mike noted that he’d like to work with the applicant on a solution and the board agreed that there is additional information that needs to be gathered before a plan can be made. An engineer’s review of the violation was completed by Moore Engineering, with a recommendation that the applicant restore the area to its original capacity. Board members discussed discrepancies in the original permit and what work was completed by Arndt. As well as room for error that was created with the 2022 application as it lacked information that would ensure this project didn’t impact the adjacent landowner as was portrayed to them by the applicant; therefore a motion was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer to hold permit #17-22, asking the landowner not to complete any additional work until UMRWD staff, applicant and adjacent landowner can discuss storm water concerns with the City of Ortonville. Motion Carried: 4-0

Permit #25-23. Request for Engineer Review. Doschadis presented a new request for review of a proposed project. Doschadis will work with the applicant and Moore Engineering on a review of the

proposed project and area drainage concerns.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Whetstone River Restoration. Doschadis reports that the BIL application for \$1million did not make the final list of approved projects. Doschadis has reached out to BIL staff to gather insight on improvements or additions that could be made to the application before next round.
2. Big Stone Lake/ Dam Operations  
Update on dam gate was given by Doschadis. Contractor will come later this week to look at the gate of concern. Doschadis updated on the Spring flood noting the lake crested at 972.7, and she will work with FEMA on estimates for various district projects that need repair from flood impacts. Doschadis presented options for the remote operations app and will work with the county on necessary equipment and internet needs.
3. Browns Valley  
Little MN- Diversion. Diversion project functioned as expected this Spring and Doschadis will work with FEMA if we determine there to be any repairs necessary after the water recedes in the channel. Diversion Fish Passage update on design was given by Doschadis, in order to avoid future culvert revisions it is beneficial to improve fish passage through the diversion channel to a large percentage than we'd originally planned for. This will require additional engineering services and future construction costs, but the board agreed that it's good to revise one project and not move forward with any revisions to the culvert that restricts flow through town. Toelle Coulee Phase 2 was in the 2023 bonding bill, which has yet to be passed.
4. One Watershed, One Plan  
There will be a virtual PC and Staff meeting this month.
5. Beardsley Dry Lake  
Kayla Holtz, Mayor of Beardsley presented on the project to legislature. This project did not make it into the first bonding bill, but staff will continue to work with legislature on a future bonding bill.
6. Kleindl Wetland Bank. No updates

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis. A motion to approve, as submitted was made by Bork, seconded by Haugen. Motion Carried: 4-0

### UPCOMING EVENTS

UMRWD Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

MAWD Summer Tour – June 20 – 21, 2023

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

Holker adjourned the meeting at 11:07 am.