

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday December 12, 2023 at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Gillespie, Radermacher and Bork. Members of the public in attendance include: Randy Larson and Doug Larson.

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

Otre Section 10. Drainage Concerns

Doug and Randy attended to express their concerns with drainage between the parcel they farm in Otre 10 and the neighbor directly to the west. The fence line has built up over time and water on the parcel they farm is not able to outlet downstream very efficiently. Larson’s did attempt to clean the fence line last fall and this appears to have disappointed the downstream landowners, causing a large berm to be built between the two properties. Additionally, there is a second site where a tile was previously placed. A berm was built around the open intake and the Larson’s have concerns that the berm will hold back too much water, causing damage to their crops during the growing season. The board has directed Doschadis to contact the downstream landowner and ask them to attend the January meeting to discuss this issue with the board.

Minutes and Expenses

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to approve minutes from the previous meeting, as well as authorize payment of submitted expenses, as presented by Doschadis. Motion Carried: 3-0

Rinke Noonan Browns Valley	\$141.00
Houston Engineering Browns Valley Flood Mitigation 2023	\$2,156.25
Rinke Noonan Whetstone	\$118.50
Pheasant Country Mowing at Dam	\$120.00
Discover MW Annual Meeting and Lodging	\$3,441.19
Independent/ Northern Star Budget Hearing Ads	\$131.00
Big Stone Highway Beardsley Dry Lake Outlet Repair	\$579.05

Whetstone River Restoration.

Doschadis reports that the Whetstone River CWF Grant is on the draft BWSR Board agenda for Thursday. If approved as submitted, the Project will be awarded \$600,000.00 for restoration work on the Minnesota side. A motion was made by Radermacher, seconded by Bork to approve Doschadis to work with BWSR on the requirements to secure these funds. Motion Carried: 3-0

NFPP BIL Fish Passage Program. Letter of Interest was submitted and USFWS have invited Doschadis to submit a full application for the “Fish Passage in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed” which includes a phase for Browns Valley and Whetstone work in South Dakota.

Browns Valley

Doschadis continues to work with FEMA on Diversion sediment removal, receiving recent approval from the SD side, MN should soon follow.

Diversion Mechanism for Maintenance. Doschadis meets with Rinke Noonan on Friday to outline next steps in creating the benefits roll for the Diversion Project.

Beardsley Dry Lake

Engineers Initial Review of Project is in progress with HEI.

One Watershed, One Plan

Doschadis has submitted to BWSR and will attend the Regional Meeting on January 5, 2024

MPCA Resiliency Grant

Application Proposal for Planning Grant will be submitted this week.

Administrator's Report

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to approve the Administrators report as submitted.
Motion Carried: 3-0

Bank Signature Cards

Minn West bank cards are ready to be signed, Doschadis will notify managers when CenBank is ready.

DNR Public Waters Work General Permit 1997-4241.

Doschadis will discuss this with Rinke Noonan as soon as they've had a chance to review it.

CLOSED SESSION FOR EMPLOYEE REVIEW

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to close the meeting for employee review.
Motion Carried: 3-0

Employee review took place during this time.

A motion was then made by Gillespie, seconded by Bork to reopen the meeting. Motion Carried: 3-0

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Gillespie to approve the updated Administrator/ Executive Director job description as submitted and increase salary to a Grade 12, Step 1 due to the increased responsibilities as presented. Motion Carried: 3-0

Health Insurance A motion was made by Radermacher, seconded by Bork to increase health insurance reimbursement to \$1,215.00 per month beginning January 1, 2024. Motion Carried: 3-0

Employee Handbook. Updates to Sick and Safe Leave for 1-1-24 compliance were submitted. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to update the Sick and Safe Leave Policy as presented.
Motion Carried: 3-0

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMRWD Regular Meeting – January 9, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

UMRWD Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary