

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday January 9, 2024 at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Gillespie, Radermacher, Holker, Meyer and Bork. Executive Director of the UMRWD, Amber Doschadis, facilitated the meeting with President Holker. Members of the public in attendance include: Jeff Hansen and Mark Chase. Wade Athey, Big Stone County Commissioner was also in attendance.

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

Otre Section 10. Drainage Concerns. Jeff Hansen and Mark Chase attended the meeting to discuss longstanding drainage issues in Otre 10, and how water flows between property lines with their neighbors. Jeff expressed concern on work that was done by the adjacent landowner last year, where a ditch was cleaned, and a fence line altered on their property. Jeff and Mark explained how they attempted to restore that fence line and discussed another location on their property where they'd previously placed tile. They recently installed a berm to hold water back, so it filters through the tile and doesn't erode over their property. Solutions to both areas were discussed with the board and it was determined that the first step should be to collect survey data of the area to help determine what would work for both landowners. Doschadis will coordinate a survey with Big Stone County and work with all parties on a solution.

Minutes and Expenses

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer to approve minutes from the previous meeting, as well as authorize payment of submitted expenses, as presented by Doschadis. Motion Carried: 5-0

Houston Engineering 1W1P	\$18,933.00
Sev's Sediment removal at dam	\$8,303.05
Sev's Wooded Debris removal at dam	\$12,434.00
Houston Engineering Whetstone	\$6,191.50
Medberry's Tree Removal after Spring 2023 Flood	\$595.00

District Operations

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Rademacher, designating the following positions for the 2024 calendar year: President, Wanda Holker; Vice-President, Terry Gillespie; Treasurer, Jon Bork; Secretary, Gene Meyer; and At-Large Member Paul Radermacher. Motion Carried: 5-0

A motion was made by Bork seconded by Meyer to approve the following staff suggestions as submitted:

Designation of Depositories: CenBank and Minn West

Designation of Official Newspapers: Ortonville Independent and Northern Star

Designation of Engineer: Houston Engineering and Attorney of Record: Rinke Noonan

2024 Board Meeting Dates as submitted.

Designation of Employee Committee: Wanda Holker and Paul Radermacher.

Motion Carried: 5-0

Whetstone River Restoration.

Doschadis will continue to work with BWSR on finalizing the CWF Grant through their agency.

The NFPP BIL Fish Passage Program was submitted and a decision on awarded projects will be made in April 2024. Doschadis reports several letters of support were submitted along with the application including the SWO Tribe as the project would reconnect Big Stone Lake to the Little Minnesota River and the Minnesota River downstream.

Browns Valley

Diversion Mechanism for Maintenance. Doschadis is working with HEI and RN on revisions.

Diversion Sediment Removal after 2023 Flood. Doschadis submitted the project bid package for review. A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Bork ordering the proposed repairs and authorizing the posting of this project for bids. Motion Carried: 5-0

Beardsley Dry Lake

1. Engineers Initial Review of Project is in progress with HEI.

One Watershed, One Plan

BWSR Review. Regional Meeting was postponed to February, Doschadis will know a date soon and will prepare a presentation for this group on our final Clean Water Fund structured One Watershed, One Plan.

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

2023 Audit Commitment A motion to approve Johnson and Roggenbuck for the 2023 audit was made by Bork, seconded by Gillespie.

Motion Carried: 5-0

DNR Public Waters Work General Permit 1997-4241. Doschadis responded to the proposed edits from DNR and will connect with Rinke Noonan for legal review.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

UMRWD Regular Meeting – March 12, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary