

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday November 12, 2024 at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE in Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Gillespie, Radermacher, Meyer and Bork. Executive Director of the UMRWD, Amber Doschadis facilitated the meeting with President Wanda Holker.

Members of the public present during this meeting: Dennis McAlpine and Lisa Odens with Houston Engineering.

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

Minutes and Expenses

A motion to approve previous month's minutes and current expenses was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Big Stone County Highway Mowing at Dam	\$110.00
Big Stone County Highway Dry Lake Inlet	\$23.77
Big Stone County Highway Dry Lake Inlet	\$47.55
Houston Eng. Whetstone #72588	\$9,711.55
LMCIT Membership	\$786.00
Discover Office Supplies	\$162.83
Paulsen TS. Spray TC Phase 1	\$1,384.19
Big Stone County. 2024 IT Services, Subscriptions and Firewalls	\$2,994.24
Big Stone County. 2024 Office Supplies	\$2,072.95
Minnesota Watersheds. Membership Dues	\$4,534.00
Rinke Noonan. 1W1P Implementation Doc Support	\$3,527.50
Rinke Noonan. Whetstone Support on OMB Requirements	\$249.00
MPCA. Whetstone Loan Payment #2	\$21,262.65
Houston Eng. Whetstone Waste #73445	\$6,098.00
Houston Eng. Whetstone #73447	\$16,299.50

Board Manager Terms

Gene Meyer accepted his reappointment and completed the Manager Bond and Oath of Office.

Doschadis is working with Big Stone County Coordinator on a replacement for Manager Radermacher as he was elected Big Stone County Commissioner.

One Watershed, One Plan

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to approve the adoption of implementation documents are presented. Motion carried: 5-0. A motion was made by Radermacher, seconded by Meyer authorizing Amber Doschadis to enter into agreements with each LGU on behalf of the District. Motion carried: 5-0.

Climate Resiliency Grant

Doschadis presented and opportunity to apply for a second grant with MPCA for the Stoney Run Creek Watershed. This would closely mimic the goals and outcomes of the current MPCA grant for Upper Big Stone Lake. Board managers agreed that it's a good program, Doschadis will apply for the grant and report back to the board on the outcome of the grant application in 2025.

Administrators Report

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Radermacher to approve the report as submitted by Doschadis.

Motion carried: 5-0.

MN Watersheds Annual Conference

Doschadis presented the meeting packet, and the board discussed each resolution that will be presented during the conference for membership vote. Gillespie made a motion, seconded by Radermacher, to have Holker and Bork

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serve as delegates with Meyer as an alternate for the membership discussion during Friday's Business Meeting.
Motion carried: 5-0.

Browns Valley

Sediment Removal Project. Doschadis reported that Joe Riley Construction has completed the project and presented a pay request for board approval. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer to approve the request for payment of the base project and alternative 2, pending HEI review of the as built survey. Motion carried: 5-0. Doschadis will work with the contractor on the request for payment of the additional seeding area. Toelle Coulee – Phase 1. Spraying done in ditch through town, will need a second application in late spring.

Houston Engineering

Dennis McAlpine and Lisa Odens were in attendance to give updates on projects with Houston Engineering. Lisa provided an update on the development of the Browns Valley Diversion benefits roll and provided a timeline for the analysis of potential projects on Toelle Coulee Phase 2.

Lisa and Dennis gave an overview of the Beardsley Dry Lake Draft Alternative Analysis Report. Doschadis will be meeting with Mayor Holtz and Representative Anderson to discuss additional funding needs. Doschadis presented an estimate from Traut to install ground water monitoring wells in the project area. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Meyer to contract with Traut for this effort. Motion carried: 5-0.

Doschadis presented HEI Task Order #2024-006 to advance the repair/replacement analysis plans to a 30% Design Concept Plan. A motion was made by Radermacher, seconded by Meyer to have HEI complete this effort. Motion carried: 5-0.

Lisa and Dennis updated the board on the Whetstone permitting timeline, change in subcontractor to Augustana for completion of the archeology study, and the Waste Remediation Project between the Hedge FLP and the District. Doschadis presented HEI's Task Order #2024-005 to facilitate the waste remediation project. A motion was made by Radermacher, seconded by Bork to have HEI complete this effort. Motion carried: 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary