

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday January 14, 2025, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Gillespie, Sandberg and Meyer. Executive Director of the UMRWD, Amber Doschadis assisted with the meeting in coordination with President Wanda Holker. Members of the public present during this meeting: Wade Athey and Paul Radermacher from Big Stone County Commissioners.

Holker called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Board Manager Appointment

Big Stone County Commissioners have appointed Travis Sandberg to represent Big Stone County on the Board. Sandberg accepted this appointment and completed the Manager’s Bond and Oath of Office.

Minutes and Expenses

A motion to approve previous month’s meeting minutes and current expenses was made by Holker, seconded by Gillespie. Motion carried: 4-0.

Big Stone Highway - Dry Lake outlet	\$480.00
Houston Engineering Dry Lake	\$17,957.40
Houston Engineering UBSL Climate Grant	\$26,960.46
Houston Engineering Whetstone Waste	\$3,582.50
Houston Engineering Whetstone Permitting and Design	\$4,493.75
Discover MWs Training and Travel Expense; Office Supplies	\$1,413.59
Big Stone County Mowing at Dam	\$110.00
Houston Engineering BV Diversion Flood Benefits	\$6,728.00
Houston Engineering Maintenance after 2023 flood	\$4,697.20
Houston Engineering Maintenance after 2023 flood	\$3,169.75
Houston Engineering BV Toelle Coulee Phase 2	\$5,917.50
Discover, MWs Meeting Hotel Expense	\$1,242.21
LMC. Membership Dues Invoice	\$2,358.00
HEI # 74544 Whetstone Waste Remediation	\$6,434.61
HEI # 74549 Beardsley Dry Lake, Alt Project	\$10,830.50
HEI # 74527 BV Diversion, 2023 FEMA Event Maint.	\$1,786.75
Goodhart Exc. #11586 culvert repair	\$500.00
HEI # 74526 General Eng Services	\$556.00
	\$33,712.50

District Operations

Designation of Officers

A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Meyer, designating the following positions for the 2025 calendar year: President, Wanda Holker; Vice-President, Terry Gillespie; Treasurer, Jon Bork; Secretary, Gene Meyer; and At-Large Member Travis Sandberg. Motion Carried: 4-0

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

Designation of Depositories: CenBank and Minn West

Designation of Official Newspapers: Ortonville Independent and Northern Star; Appleton Press when necessary.

Designation of Engineer: Houston Engineering; Permitting Consulting Engineer: Moore Engineering; and Attorney of Record: Rinke Noonan. Motion Carried: 4-0

A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Meyer to approve the 2025 Board Meeting Dates, as submitted noting that the November Meeting will be held on the 4th to avoid the Veteran’s Day Holiday.

Motion Carried: 4-0

Designation of Employee Committee

A motion made by Meyer, seconded by Holker to have Gillespie and Sandberg serve. Motion Carried: 4-0

2024 Audit Commitment.

A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Sandberg authorizing Doschadis to complete the audit with Johnson and Roggenbuck, CPA. Motion Carried: 4-0

One Watershed, One Plan

Implementation Agreements have been finalized and grant dollars are available for landowner contracts. Each local government unit will now be able to contract directly with landowners and seek reimbursement through the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Grant via the UMRWD.

Browns Valley

Doschadis updated the board on the Benefitted Property Determination for Browns Valley, Diversion Project and progress with HEI's Toelle Coulee Phase 2 Study. Doschadis will wait to hear back from the city and State Representative Jeff Backer before scheduling a public meeting in March.

Beardsley Dry Lake

A Public Meeting will be held on February 20, 2025 at 5:30pm
Draft Report and Monitoring Well reports will be reviewed with the board at the February Board Meeting. Doschadis presented MPCA's grant program for Implementation Grants on stormwater resilience. After reviewing a similar program that was funding by this grant, the board agreed that the outlet project may fit grant criteria, Doschadis will coordinate with HEI on an application.

Whetstone

Doschadis gave an update on the Waste Remediation Project as well as general project updates including USACE permit delays.

CLOSED SESSION A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Gillespie to close the meeting for employee review. Motion Carried: 4-0 Employee review took place during this time.

A motion was then made by Gillespie, seconded by Meyer to reopen the meeting. Motion Carried: 4-0

A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Gillespie to approve the Employee Review Form as completed during the closed session and increase Doschadis' family health insurance coverage to \$1,600.00 per month beginning January 1, 2025. Motion Carried: 4-0

Administrators Report

A motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Gillespie to approve the Administrators report as submitted. Motion Carried: 4-0

MN Watersheds Annual Conference

Managers and staff discussed the annual conference and new location. Doschadis presented information on the 2025 Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event planned for February. Those interested in attending will let Doschadis know as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.