

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday February 11, 2025, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Sandberg, Bork 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: Lisa Odens and Dennis McAlpine, Houston Engineering, Paul Radermacher from Big Stone County Commissioners.

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

Minutes and Expenses

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

Discover	office supplies	\$136.93
Discover	staff training and hotel	\$455.51
Big Stone Highway	Dry Lake	\$356.66
UMRWD Admin Account	1W1P - FY 24. Quarter 4 Staff time	\$5,626.95
Swift SWCD	1W1P - FY 24. Quarter 4 Staff time	\$889.87
Traut	Beardsley. Monitoring wells and boring	\$10,157.50
Houston Engineering	#74919 UBSL Resiliency Planning	\$20,118.00
Houston Engineering	#74916 BV Diversion Benefits	\$5,582.00
Houston Engineering	#74914 BV Toelle Coulee Phase 2	\$6,108.00

Browns Valley

The Benefitted Property Determination for Browns Valley Diversion Project will be ready in March.

A Task Order from Houston was presented for cost estimates related to permitting support on the Fish Passage Improvements to the diversion. A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Bork to approve the work has proposed, authorizing Doschadis to enter into the agreement. Motion carried: 4-0.

Toelle Coulee Phase 2 Alternative Analysis Report will be completed in late March.

Beardsley Dry Lake

Houston Engineering staff, Dennis and Lisa, attended virtually to review the recent findings in the Beardsley Dry Lake Alternative (Southern) alignment.

Discussion took place on groundwater concerns with the southern alignment and the board agreed that it was best to have HEI complete a slug test and analysis of soils before the public meeting on February 20th at 5:30pm. Dennis and Lisa will work with Doschadis to create a presentation that shows the public all alternatives considered, the Northern and Southern Alignments discussed today, and groundwater concerns moving forward. Doschadis continues to work on the MPCA - Implementation grant for stormwater resilience. HEI is going to complete the required Resiliency Analysis before the application deadline. If awarded this grant would provide funds necessary to keep the project moving, while reducing financial burden to the City of Beardsley and surrounding landowners. The deadline for applying is late February and award dates are expected this fall.

Whetstone

Doschadis updated the board on permitting conversations with the USACE regarding recent modeling completed the HEI along with the archeological study and consideration of historical components from the 1930’s project.

Administrators Report

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Sanberg to approve the Administrators report as submitted.

Motion Carried: 4-0

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MN Watersheds Legislative Event

Doschadis and Holker will be attending the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary