

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday March 11, 2025, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Sandberg, Gillespie and Meyer. Executive Director of the UMRWD, Amber Doschadis assisted with the meeting in coordination with Vice President Terry Gillespie. Members of the public present were Sheridan Giese; and Big Stone County Commissioner Wade Athey.

Gillespie 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 Sandberg, seconded by Meyer. Motion carried: 3-0.

Discover	MWs Legislative Event (Wanda and Amber)	\$300.00
Ortonville Independent	Subscription	\$40.00
Ortonville Independent	Beardsley Dry Lake Public Hearing Notice	\$279.50
Houston Engineering	#74982 Dry lake	\$22,055.20
Rinke Noonan	Beardsley Legal Assistance	\$377.00
Houston Engineering	#74981 Waste Remediation	\$11,817.25
Houston Engineering	#74999 Restoration Project	\$24,069.50
Rinke Noonan	BV Support	\$190.50
Sev's Gravel and Exc.	Remove Trees in Debris Barrier	\$1,750.00
Houston Engineering	#75240 Beardsley Dry Lake	\$8,695.00

Browns Valley

Doschadis presented the Benefitted Property Determination for the Browns Valley Diversion Project; as request by board order in 2024. Lisa Odens will attend the April Meeting to provide a thorough review of the report and the board will discuss next steps, in the meantime John Kolb and Rinke Noonan are completing a legal review. Diversion – Fish Passage permitting efforts are underway with SD GFP currently taking the lead. Doschadis will advertise for a 2025 Hay Lease, bids will be presented at the April meeting for board review. Toelle Coulee Phase 2 Alternative Analysis is underway, HEI will report on this effort during the April meeting. The public hearing previously considered for late March will be scheduled in June to accommodate these schedules.

Beardsley Dry Lake

A public meeting was held on February 20, 2025, to update landowners on the District's efforts since the initial pipeline failures in 2019. Two viable replacement options remain: following the existing Northern Alignment or shifting to a shallower-depth (Southern Alignment) south of highway 28. While the Southern Alignment could offer long-term maintenance savings, high groundwater levels have increased dewatering costs in that area. Attendees did not express urgency for an immediate solution, noting that the current pipeline remains largely functional. The board will evaluate alternative timelines and continue seeking funding opportunities for additional support.

Additionally, Doschadis submitted an application for the MPCA's competitive Implementation Grant for stormwater resilience in February, a response is expected this fall.

Whetstone

Doschadis reports that a meeting has been scheduled with the USACE later this month to discuss the permit and model that HEI is developing for determining downstream impacts. Additionally, as a result of the USACE required Archeological Study and future SHPO state approval, a plan for mitigation will need to be developed as the USACE has determined that our project that will go through a segment of the historically significant 1930's Whetstone diversion berm.

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CenBank and MinnWest

A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Meyer, to remove Paul Radermacher from all cards and replace with Travis Sandberg; additionally update the CWMP Account cards to need only one signature on checks. Motion carried: 3-0.

Administrators Report

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

MN Watersheds Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Association will be held on March 21, 2025. A motion was made Sandberg, seconded by Meyer to have Wanda Holker act as UMRWD Delegate during the meeting. Motion Carried: 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Gene Meyer, Secretary