

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday November 4, 2025, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Gillespie, Bork, Holker, Sandberg and Giese. Executive Director of the UMRWD, Amber Doschadis assisted with the meeting in coordination with Board Chair Wanda Holker. Members of the public present: Lisa Odens and Dennis McAlpine with Houston Engineering

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

Minutes and Expenses

A motion to approve the previous month's meeting minutes and current expenses was made by Bork, seconded by Giese. Motion carried: 5-0.

Rinke Noonan	#402042 BV Diversion	\$848.50
Houston Engineering	#78695 BV Diversion Flood Benefits	\$11,585.00
Houston Engineering	#78694 BV Diversion Survey after 2025 June rains	\$4,696.90
Scott Engineering	#13725 Whetstone Waste. Compaction Testing	\$4,650.00
Houston Engineering	#78288 Waste Remediation	\$8,759.65
Houston Engineering	#78665 Whetstone Restoration	\$22,632.75
Braun Intertec	#8441727 Waste sampling	\$6,687.80
J and J Earthworks	Pay Request #2. Whetstone Waste	\$104,681.92
Swift SWCD	#2036 Qtr. 3 Staff Hours	\$1,102.78
Big Stone County Hwy	Tall Grass Mowing at Dam	\$1,460.00
Big Stone County	routine mowing	\$280.00
Rinke Noonan	#390507 Dry Lake	\$396.50
LMC	work comp audit, premium due	\$174.00
Johnson & Roggenbuck	2024 Audit Services	\$2,400.00
Big Stone County Hwy	Dry Lake inlet	\$221.20
Pro Image	Employee Clothing	\$358.00
Gazette Publishing	Budget Hearing Notices	\$99.00
Farm and Home Publ.	2026 plat books	\$136.40
Discover	MWs Annual Meeting-Hotel, MAWA Fall Meeting	\$702.24
Swift SWCD	PR# -025. WBIF Grant C24-0207, Norman Giese	\$15,000.00
Houston Engineering	Whetstone Waste # 79020	\$15,613.00
J and J Earthworks	PR #3. Final Payment on Whetstone Waste	\$69,604.23
Discover	Office supplies=\$267.09 Insurance=\$255.38	\$522.47
Minnesota Watersheds	2026 Dues	\$4,850.00
MPCA	Whetstone Loan Payment # 4	\$21,262.65
Big Stone County	Mowing at Dam	\$140.00

Whetstone Waste Remediation

Dennis McAlpine gave a Waste Remediation Project Closeout presentation and Doschadis presented a final pay request from J and J Earthworks along with an additional Services Request from HEI for additional coordination on compaction and materials with the contractor as well as communication with the Big Stone County Environmental Office on remediation compliance. A motion to approve the additional services request and the approve payment to J and J upon receipt of necessary closeout documentation was made by Sandberg, seconded by Bork. Motion carried: 5-0.

Doschadis then presented the draft letter to Hedge's and the Escrow Company which included a spreadsheet of all expenses related to the Waste Project. A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Bork to approve the letter and have Doschadis submit to the escrow company. Motion carried: 5-0.

Whetstone River Restoration

McAlpine noted that the USACE has posted the project for public comment, that period ends in mid-November. Doschadis will work with McAlpine on DANR concerns with Ottertail's current water rights on Big Stone Lake.

Browns Valley

Lisa Odens present the draft Damages Report for the Browns Valley Diversion Project.

The board discussed many different approaches and Doschadis will reach out to John Kolb and Rinke Noonan for legal guidance on the next steps.

Toelle Coulee Phase 1

Phase 1, ditch through town didn't dry out enough this fall to get a contractor in there to mow and spray volunteer trees. Doschadis will keep an eye on the area this winter and into 2026 to identify a time to try again.

Toelle Coulee Phase 2

Doschadis is working to schedule landowner meetings this fall to discuss the Alternative Analysis and potential storage opportunities upstream.

Administrator's Report

A motion to approve the report as submitted was made by Bork, seconded by Holker. Motion carried: 5-0.

Big Stone 7/18 – Landowner Inquiry

Mark Scholberg contacted the district with concerns on a project that was permitted and not yet complete. He feels that he is being impacted negatively by the incomplete project. Doschadis provided guidance to Scholberg and will assist in future conversations with the original permit applicant if necessary.

UMR 1W1P Partnership Cost Share

The Policy Committee approved the changes, and an updated copy of cost share rates has been sent to the group.

Paid Family-Medical Leave Quote

Doschadis presented a plan proposal from Shelter Point via Al Roth with a quote .59 vs the State Plan at .88.

A motion to approve the Shelter Point proposal was made by Holker, seconded by Sandberg. Motion carried: 5-0. Doschadis will seek legal guidance on employer/employee rates.

Minnesota Watersheds

Jon Bork and Wanda Holker plan to attend the MN Watersheds Annual Conference and will act as delegates for the UMRWD during the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary