

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday December 9, 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. There were no members of the public present for this meeting.

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.

Big Stone County	2025 IT Services	\$2,032.57
Swift SWCD	Tossel Cover Crop Reimbursement	\$7,700.00
Houston Engineering	#79152. BV Fish Passage	\$3,084.00
Houston Engineering	#79243 Whetstone Restoration	\$6,387.25
Rinke Noonan	#403029 Whetstone Escrow Legal	\$142.50
Big Stone County	Mowing at dam	\$140.00
Big Stone County	Dry Lake Beaver. inlet/ outlet cleaning	\$1,433.85
Discover	MWs Conference	\$434.07

Whetstone

Waste Remediation Project. Doschadis has completed the Project Closeout and issued final payment to the contractor. USACE Permit update was given by Doschadis.

Doschadis presented the opportunity to complete a Tree Removal project this winter, between county road 47 and MN 15. Doschadis also presented a Change in Services request from HEI to support the project. This tree removal effort is necessary to adhere to the federally regulated long eared bat construction windows while allowing for fall 2026 construction/ restoration of the existing channel. A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Bork to approve the change in services and proceed with a Request for Quotes process. Motion carried: 5-0.

Browns Valley

Browns Valley, Diversion Project. Questions were presented to John Kolb and the Board will hold on making any decisions until we have his response.

Toelle Coulee Phase 2

Alternative Analysis – Storage Opportunities/ impacts to those upstream. Doschadis will continue to attempt landowner meetings this winter.

Wetland Bank

Doschadis presented a purchase request from the Weidl Family to purchase .04 acres from UMRWD Wetland Bank for a project on their home property. A motion to approve entering into a purchase agreement at \$60,000 per acre for a total purchase price of \$2,400 was made by Bork, seconded by Sandberg. Motion carried: 5-0.

Climate Resilience Grant Application

Doschadis sought approval to apply for this grant again to study the Stoney Run Watershed and the board agreed that it was a good opportunity.

Administrator's Report

Doschadis presented the report, and a motion was made by Bork, seconded by Giese to approve the report as

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submitted. Motion carried: 4-0, with Sandberg abstaining.

MN Watersheds Annual Conference was held December 3-5, 2025. Jon Bork and Amber Doschadis represented UMRWD and reported that the conference was well attended and the presentations were extremely valuable.

Paid Family-Medical Leave

UMRWD has contracted with Shelter Point to provide Minnesota Paid Leave Insurance, with an approved premium rate of .59%. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Gillespie to approve the Minnesota Paid Leave Policy, as presented, Motion carried: 5-0. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Holker to pay 50% of the MN Paid Leave Premium, leaving 50% as employee responsibility in a payroll deduction, Motion carried: 5-0.

Employee Review

The board entered closed session to complete an Employee Review with Amber Doschadis, Executive Director. Upon the reopening of the UMRWD Board Meeting, a motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Giese to approve the Employee Review Form that was completed during closed session and increase Doschadis one step on the wage scale. Motion carried: 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary