

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday January 13, 2026, 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 for this meeting include: Wade Athey, Big Stone County Commissioner.

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 Sandberg. Motion carried: 5-0.

Discover	MWs Conference Rooms	\$672.60
Big Stone County	Dry Lake Beaver. inlet/ outlet cleaning	\$74.16
Swift SWCD	CRP Incentives CRP0001 and CRP0002	\$3,460.00
Houston Engineering	#79735 Whetstone Restoration	\$13,194.75
Big Stone Ag	BV Diversion. Tile Stakes #10795	\$478.80
Big Stone SWCD	UMR-WBIF24-25 Project #006	\$9,737.30
Big Stone SWCD	Project Development #006, #008, #012	\$5,115.90
LMCIT	2026 Membership Dues	\$2,497.00

District Operations

Designation of Officers

A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Giese, designating the following positions for the 2026 calendar year: President, Wanda Holker; Vice-President, Terry Gillespie; Treasurer, Jon Bork; Secretary, Travis Sandberg; and At-Large Member, Sheridan Giese. Motion Carried: 5-0

A motion was made by Sandberg seconded by Bork to approve the following:

Designation of Depositories: CenBank/Grand Marais State Bank 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: 5-0

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Giese to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Dates, as submitted. Motion Carried: 5-0

Designation of Employee Committee

A motion made by Holker, seconded by Bork to have Gillespie and Sandberg serve. Motion Carried: 5-0

2025 Audit Commitment

A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Gillespie authorizing Doschadis to complete the audit with Johnson and Roggenbuck, CPA. Motion Carried: 5-0

District Credit Card. Doschadis notified the board that Discover Business merged with Capital One, a new Capital One card will be issued to replace the current Discover Business card.

2026 District Office Rent.

Matt and Kirsten Karels of Ortonville, Minnesota, purchased the district office building from Dr. Greg Peterson effective January 1, 2026. The Karels’ have offered a rental rate of \$500 per month. A motion was made by Giese, seconded by Sandberg, authorizing Doschadis to enter into a rental agreement with Matt and Kirsten

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Karels at a rate of \$500 per month, subject to a provision allowing termination of the agreement from either party only when 60 days' written notice is given. Motion carried: 5-0.

Whetstone River Restoration

Doschadis provided an update on the meeting with USACE staff in December.

Tree Removal Project. Doschadis updated the board on the findings of their tree survey last week. Houston Engineering will have a Project Specification/ Request for Quote Package this week. Contractors will need to return their quotes by Monday, February 2nd and Doschadis will bring to the board for review at the February 10th Meeting.

Browns Valley

Browns Valley, Diversion Project. Doschadis and Lisa Odens of Houston Engineering presented the questions asked by the board at the November meeting to John Kolb in late December. The board discussed Kolb's feedback including damage amounts, restrictions on county and city property adjacent to the channel, agricultural insurance impacts and one resident that appears to be impacted by the 2010 project. Doschadis will continue to work with Kolb and Odens on these items and return additional information to the board in February.

Fish Passage Project. Doschadis continues to coordinate the HEI staff and SD GFP on improvements to the existing diversion channel. The board agreed it is an appropriate time to re-engage Roberts County regarding CR 4 and CR 24 bridge ownership.

Toelle Coulee Phase 2

Alternative Analysis – Storage Opportunities/ impacts to those upstream

Letters mailed on Dec 19. Plan to follow up this month

Climate Resilience Grant Application was successfully submitted; this program will review and notice grantees in the Spring.

Administrator's Report was presented by Doschadis and no matters requiring board action were identified.

MN Watersheds Legislative Event will be held in March. No board members can attend this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary