

March 10, 2026

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday March 10, 2026, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were 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 include: Wade Athey, Big Stone County Commissioner, Randy Nessman and Keith Anderson.

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

Permit #02-26

Randy Nessman attended the meeting to provide an overview of the proposed project in the West ½ of Malta 31. The Board of Managers reviewed the proposed outlets and erosion control measures with Nessman. Keith Anderson arrived at 9:10 a.m. to express his concerns regarding the project. Following discussion among the Board of Managers, Nessman, and Anderson, the project design was revised to address Anderson's concerns as the downstream landowner. Doschadis will coordinate with Nessman on the final design, and Anderson authorized Big Stone Ag to communicate with his renters as needed during project installation. Anderson signed the permit, after which both Anderson and Nessman left the meeting. A motion to approve the permit upon receipt of the revised design was made by Bork and seconded by Sandberg. Motion carried 4-0.

Minutes and Expenses

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

Whetstone River Restoration

Doschadis reports that the Tree Removal Project is on budget and on schedule. A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Giese to approve Doschadis to pay the contractor if a pay request is submitted and the project is complete ahead of the April Meeting. Motion carried: 4-0.

Browns Valley

Browns Valley, Diversion. Doschadis will continue to coordinate with HEI on finalizing the damages report. Goodhart's removed trees. Doschadis will submit paperwork for MN FEMA on last year's disaster event.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 2

Doschadis provided an update on conversations with landowners upstream of the Coulee. The board agreed that dividing out the various project components and providing cost estimates at a future landowner meeting would be advantageous. Doschadis will work with HEI and a meeting will be scheduled after spring planting.

Fish Creek/ JD 7

HEI completed a brief analysis for Big Stone County, Doschadis will continue to coordinate with the County and the landowners.

MN Watersheds Legislative Event

Doschadis provided an update on the event.

Administrator's Report

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Giese to approve the report as submitted. Motion carried: 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary