

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, Gillespie 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, 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.

Upper Minnesota River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Doschadis reports that an application has been submitted through BWSR for the 1W1P FY 2026 Grant. CRP Incentive Rate updates were reviewed, and a motion was made by Giese, seconded by Bork to approve as submitted. Motion carried: 5-0.

MWs Request for Resolutions

No resolutions were suggested at this time.

Administrator's Report

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

Permit #18-26

A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Giese to approve permit #18-26. Motion carried: 4-0, with Holker abstaining.

Whetstone River Restoration

Doschadis reports that the Tree Removal Project went as expected and the contractor has restored the private property used to access the project. The Final Pay Request was presented at this time, and a motion was made by Giese, seconded by Sandberg to approve the request and issue payment. Motion carried: 5-0.

Permitting Update: Odens and McAlpine provided an update. With the 408 permit no longer required, the team will follow up with the grant program staff to confirm that all necessary compliance measures are completed to secure funding. 401/404 coordination with the relevant regulatory agencies remains ongoing, and required documentation continues to move through the appropriate review processes.

Browns Valley

Diversion Fish Passage. Doschadis presented a Joint Powers Agreement from the SD GFP, which identifies roles and responsibilities on the Fish Passage Project and funding. A motion was made by Bork, seconded by Sandberg to enter into the agreement. Motion carried: 5-0.

Diversion Project. A final damages report was presented by Odens. A motion to finalize the report and reach out to Kolb for legal direction was made by Sandberg, seconded by Bork. Motion carried: 5-0.

Doschadis will continue conversations with Traverse County and the City of Browns Valley on waiving damages as public entities.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 1

Doschadis has been coordinating with Jeff Haanen on mowing trees in the ditch through town. If he can do the work, Doschadis will collect necessary insurance and applicator paperwork prior to work beginning.

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Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 2 Odens reports that HEI continues to develop separate cost estimates for each of the project components.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary