

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday June 9, 2026, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, 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, Jerome Schwagerl, Peter Schwagerl, Matt Spindler, Mike Spindler and State Representative Paul Anderson.

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

Permit #19-26

Downstream Landowner Concerns. Jerome Schwagerl, Peter Schwagerl, Matt Spindler and Mike Spindler were in attendance to express their concerns with Permit #19-26 as proposed. UMRWD Director Doschadis first gave an overview of previous permits that drain towards land owned by the Schwagerls and Spindlers, past drainage concerns from these landowners and the most recent interpretation of MN DNR Public Waters Inventory through this area. Landowners were then given the opportunity to speak directly to the board about how water drains through the area and how they feel impacted by increased drainage in the upper subwatershed as well as difficulties to keep efficient drainage through their land that contains Minnesota designated Public Waters. State Representative Paul Anderson explained the legislation recently passed to update the Public Waters Inventory and took an opportunity to visit with the board and landowners on common issues across the state of Minnesota. Since the permit was submitted and mailed to the downstream landowners, Doschadis has received information from MN DNR that area covered in Permit #19-26 is on the current PWI. This listing on the public water inventory will change the proposed project so the board is taking no action on the permit at this time as it lacks information needed to be considered a complete permit. Schwagerls and Spindlers will connect with MN DNR staff to determine if any maintenance can be performed in their open ditch to improve drainage on their parcels. If the applicant of Permit #19-26 is able to coordinate with Mn DNR in a permit, they will then be instructed to revise their permit with the UMRWD and notice will be sent to Schwagerls and Spindlers. Jerome Schwagerl, Peter Schwagerl, Matt Spindler and Mike Spindler left the meeting at 10:30 am.

State Representative Paul Anderson inquired about the Beardsley Dry Lake project and the recent bonding bill authored by him which granted the project \$2 million of state funds to repair or replace the existing system. Doschadis explained that the \$2 million would help the project, however the engineers estimate is significantly more expensive and HEI is looking into other funding sources to help support the project. State Representative Paul Anderson. left the meeting at 10:50 am.

Minutes and Expenses

A motion to approve the previous month's meeting minutes and current expenses was made by Gillespie, seconded by Giese. Motion carried: 3-0.

Upper Minnesota River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Doschadis reports that the 1W1P, FY 2026 Grant Workplan has been authorized by BWSR. A motion was made by Giese, seconded by Gillespie to enter into the grant agreement on behalf of the Upper Minnesota River Partnership.

Citizens for Big Stone Lake. CWLP

Doschadis worked with Citizens for Big Stone Lake on an application for the Big Stone Camp for Christ. The ravine on the property has degraded overtime and the CWLP program is specific to non profits, which CBSL qualifies for. More information will be presented for board consideration if CBSL is awarded the grant.

Whetstone River Restoration

Doschadis reports that MN DNR will likely not require a public waters permits for our restoration efforts as the work being done on the historic Whetstone Channel is not an area currently listed on the Public Waters Inventory, a meeting scheduled for this Friday will give us a better idea on next steps. SD DANR permit has worked it's way through their internal review process and should be put out for public notices soon.

Mn Disaster Claim. June 2025

Doschadis reviewed the expenses incurred and the state financial support received from MN from the June 2025 disaster which qualified reimbursement.

Browns Valley

Diversion Fish Passage Timeline was presented by Doschadis

Diversion Project Damages public hearing will need to be scheduled. Doschadis is coordinating with HEI and Rinke Noonan on options for a meeting in Browns Valley, MN and will confirm board quorum when dates are determined.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 1

Doschadis will work with contractors on quotes for manually cutting trees and spraying sometime this late summer/ fall.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 2

Lisa Odens from HEI is currently working on cost estimates for separate features

Administrator's Report

A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Giese to approve the report as submitted. Motion carried: 3-0.

Minnesota Watersheds

Summer Tour dates were reviewed. Doschadis and Holker are planning to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary