

Pursuant to notice and due call, a regular meeting of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers was held Tuesday August 11, 2026, at the district office located at 211 2nd Street SE Ortonville, MN. Board members present were Holker, Gillespie, 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 the meeting included: Luke Olson from BWSR and Tim Scherer.

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

Permit #22-26. Downstream Concerns

Tim Sherer was present to review previous drainage projects at the outlet/ downstream end of the proposed project. The board determined that more coordination was needed between the applicant and Ben Wollschlager. Doschadis will consult with the district attorney and engineer if the applicant and downstream landowner can't come to an agreement.

Minutes and Expenses

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

Whetstone River Restoration

Doschadis reviewed SD/MN Permit progress made over the past month and the path forward for CLMOR submittal.

Browns Valley

Diversion Fish Passage Project Packet, Houston Engineering Scope and Services

A motion was made by Holker, seconded by Giese to enter into the agreement as proposed by HEI and submitted by Doschadis. Motion carried: 4-0.

Doschadis presented the option to enter into a short term loan agreement with Grand Marais, to cover costs of the project until grant reimbursements are processed and received. Doschadis will collect more information from Grand Marais before the September meeting.

Diversion Project, Damages Hearing will take be held on August 24TH at 5:30 PM at the Browns Valley Legion.

Diversion – Doschadis and Bork will review the Hay Lease criteria with Piotter before the September meeting. A motion was made by Sandberg, seconded by Giese to reduce the lease by \$300 for 2026 only if the alfalfa doesn't come in and the leasee desires to roll the spoil piles to push rocks down and smooth out the area.

Motion carried: 4-0.

Diversion – Doschadis will visit the site and coordinate with a contractor to reseed the spoil piles this fall if necessary.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 1

Doschadis presented a quote for Mowing and Manually Cutting Trees in Toelle Coulee 1 (Ditch through Town). The area has become overgrown, and no local contractors were interested in the project last year or in the 2026 posting. A motion was made by Gillespie, seconded by Holker authorizing Doschadis to enter into a contract for \$32,000 with Mack Enterprises for manually cutting, mowing and spraying the ditch as outlined in the quote package. Motion carried: 4-0.

Browns Valley, Toelle Coulee 2

HEI continues to work on dividing out separate project features and benefits.

Preliminary Budget

A Preliminary Budget was presented by Doschadis. Doschadis will advertise in local newspapers for the

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September 8, 2026 budget hearing during the UMRWD Board Meeting.

Terry Gillespie left the meeting at 10:30 am

Administrator's Report

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

Luke Olson was present from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. He gave an overview of current grants and the state review process of agreements for compliance standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Amber Doschadis, Administrator

Travis Sandberg, Secretary