

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: Thursday, April 3, 2025 @ 8:00 a.m.**

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District held their regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2025. The meeting was held in the District office in the Kittson County Courthouse, 410 S. 5th Street, Hallock, MN.

Managers present included President Rick Sikorski, Vice President Roger Anderson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski, Bruce Anderson, and Scott Klein. Mark Langehaug was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), and Engineer Tony Nordby (HEI Engineering).

The meeting was called to order by President Sikorski. Sikorski then called for any additions or corrections to the proposed meeting agenda, which was then approved upon a **motion** by R Anderson, **second** by Klegstad and **unanimous vote** of the Managers. The regular meeting minutes from March 13, 2025, were reviewed and approved with corrections upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Roger Anderson and **unanimous vote**.

Treasurer's Report:

Money presented the treasurer's report including the fund balances, accounts listing, and deposit detail. It was noted that checks written for the month include check numbers 10398 through 10412 and electronic funds transfers to PERA, MN Dept. of Revenue, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, and MN State Retirement System as reported and contained within the report.

The treasurer's report was then approved upon a **motion** by B Anderson, a **second** by Olsonawski, and a **unanimous vote** by the Board.

Administrator's Report:

District Administrator Money gave a report on the following and distributed a handout:

Program Report:

Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB):

Dan Money testified for the RRWMB at the Senate Environment, Climate, & Legacy Committee seeking \$350,000 for the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. RRWMB approved \$112,365 to the TRWD in funding for the Horseshoe Lake outlet structure replacement project, as previously discussed. A separate bill has been introduced in the legislature, seeking \$48 million for projects sponsored by the RRWMB. TRWD would receive \$17 million of this funding if approved.

Minnesota Watersheds:

The board went over an informational handout for Minnesota Watersheds Members from the state regarding submitting policy recommendations through the resolutions process. Resolutions are to be submitted to Executive Director Jan Voit by June 2, 2025. Manager Gerald Olsonawski attended the March 21 meeting on behalf of the TRWD.

Courthouse Upgrades:

Renovations are expected to begin in June of this year. Zone 1 (June) involves the TRWD storeroom, and during Zone 2 (July), the TRWD will need to be out of the office. Using the storeroom as an office or potentially meeting at an off-site location to be determined were discussed.

IT:

Our IT person from Wikstrom Telecom reported that our current firewall is out of date and in need of replacement to keep the TRWD computers secure. A **motion** was made by R Anderson, **seconded** by Klein, and **unanimously approved** for the TRWD to spend up to \$1500 for IT/firewall updates.

Administrative Assistant:

Kimberly Soberaski was hired as a part time administrative assistant. Her first day was Wednesday, April 2, 2025. Soberaski will work Mondays and Wednesdays every week for a total of 16 hours per week. A new computer, workstation, and computer software were purchased, as previously approved, for about \$2,500.

FEMA Appeal: After the 2023 Presidential disaster declaration, the TRWD had applied for assistance from FEMA for damages at two locations on JD 10 Branch B and two locations on the Northern Branch Project. Funding was approved for one location on JD 10 Branch B but was denied for the other location on JD 10 Branch B and the two other locations on the North Branch Project (JD 31 and SD 84). The TRWD subsequently appealed the FEMA denial, and was notified by FEMA that the first appeal has been denied. As previously discussed, Dan Money will submit a second appeal by deadline, April 25, 2025.

Legal Ditch Report:

KCD 7:

The Engineer's Report has been received from B. Carlson. The Viewer's Report is being completed. This information will be used to have a meeting with Blake Carlson next week and a subsequent public hearing. If this project moves forward, funding will need to be secured. The new project estimate is \$1.7 million.

KCD 13:

Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering presented the Engineer's Report. He provided a cost estimate, plan profile for the main ditch, and discussed using 18 inch culverts at side water inlets. The Engineer's Report was tabled pending more information and the viewer's report.

Middle Branch:

The board discussed potentially removing a crossing. Administrator Dan Money is to check with landowners and townships to see if the project is feasible and get a zone cost estimate.

Ditch Inspection and Maintenance:

Based upon last year's inspections, several miles of ditch should be sprayed for cattail and brush. The usual beaver maintenance is expected, and several ditch surveys will be completed this summer.

Monitoring Programs:

Staff will be gearing up to perform both stream and flow monitoring, inspection, and maintenance of staff gages and water quality monitoring this coming open water season.

Project Report:

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Engineering
 - Engineer Jake Huwe discussed his bid package for 2025 proposed construction. Huwe stated he needed about a week to get everything ready. Discussion was had about two outlets and the NW levee, with an estimated cost of \$4,093,458. The board discussed a \$3 million project to bid. Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by B Anderson, and **unanimous vote**, it was approved to have Engineer Huwe advertise for bids not to exceed \$3 million.
- Right of Way
 - The DNR has approved the TRWD right of way application.
 - The next step on the DNR land exchange is to hire appraisers.
 - Easement documents and recording are in progress.
 - Pat and Andy Gryskiewicz of the Gryskiewicz Trust joined via phone. The TRWD has made an offer of \$4,000 per acre for purchase of right of way. Gryskiewicz's made a counter offer of \$4,500 per acre. Discussion was held regarding a fence that needs to be moved and the Texas crossing structure. President Sikorski noted the extra \$500 per acre should cover the cost of moving and reinstalling the fence. An agreement was made for \$4,500 per acre with a Texas crossing as planned. Attorney Jeff Hane will put together documentation regarding this agreement for both Pat and Andy sign, along with the President and Secretary.
 - Discussed the offer previously made to Ken Chruszch. Attorney Jeff Hane will continue to coordinate with Chruszch.
- Permits
 - Wetlands: Wetland specialist M. Aanenson is working with USACE to finalize the permit mitigation plans. It is expected that this permit will be approved in the coming weeks.

- Soler Township Roads: The TRWD recently re-submitted to Soler, and have not heard back within 60 days. It is the opinion of Attorney Hane that a 60 day rule applies and that our application therefore stands as approved.
- DNR Dam Safety Permit: Jake Huwe applied for the permit, and it is currently pending.
- Funding
 - TRWD has received two grants totaling \$2.9 million from Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. One expires June 2026 and the other expires June 2027. TRWD plans to begin spending some of the funds in 2025 by building outlet structures and a partial dike.
 - The RRWMB has approved a total of \$14.04 million, of which \$5 million was used to purchase land.
 - The TRWD are asking for legislative funding again in the 2025 session in the ballpark of \$17.5 million. This is part of a bill to the RRWMB for \$48 million. The board requests each Manager write letters to Representative Burkel and Senator Johnson.
 - Options for long term maintenance funding were discussed, with some options being the establishment of a benefit area, outlet fees to SD 95, or creation of a water management district.
 - Engineer Jake Huwe recommended offering a \$50,000 bonus to get \$2 million of the work done by June 1, 2026, to address the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council pledge deadline. The board discussed Huwe's recommendation, and upon a **motion** by R Anderson, **seconded** by Klein, and a **unanimous vote**, it was **approved** to accept Huwe's recommendation and offer a \$50,000 bonus.
 - Engineer Jake Huwe will prepare the advertisement for bids. Bids will be accepted until April 30, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Juneberry:

Houston Engineering prepared a draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Staff will review and provide comments.

Lake Bronson Sediment:

There has not been a meeting for some time, however some of the Lake Bronson Cabinowners Association would like to continue discussing this project. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the next steps, if any.

Horseshoe Lake:

Landwehr Construction plans to begin in August and be substantially completed by mid-September. The RRWMB approved \$112,365 in funding so the project is fully funded between the DNR (\$230,000), FEMA (\$82,000), RRWMB, & TRWD.

Permits:

The Board acted on the following permits. The review and comments of the Permit Review Group (PRG) were carefully considered and taken into consideration. Any comments

provided by members of the PRG, road authorities, or affected landowners have been recorded and filed with the permit documentation in the District office. Conditions, if any, are listed on the permit sent to the individual.

<i>App. #</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Action</i>
2025-08 Referred to the permit review group for review and action.	Sawyer Billings	Norway 1	crossing / 30"	Tabled
2025-05	Gary Langaas	Lind 12	crossing / 24"	Approved
2005-06 Conditions: Must use 18" instead of 24".	T. Grzadzieleski	Teien 24	driveway / 18"	Approved
2025-07	Jake Hilde	Dewey 24	driveway / 18"	Approved

Other:

- The annual audit office visit was done on Monday, March 27, 2025. The audit report will be submitted by May
- The DNR has expressed an interest in purchasing land W1 / 2W1 / 2 section 2, the N1 / 2 of section 27, and 120 acres in section 35.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Attest:


Daryl Klegstad, Secretary


Rick Sikorski, President

