

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District
Held: Thursday, August 7, 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, August 7, 2025. The meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room of the Kittson County Courthouse, 410 S. 5th Street, Hallock, MN.

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

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Jake Huwe (HDR Engineering), Engineer Tony Nordby (HEI Engineering), Representative John Burkel, Matt Casper, Joe Wilebski, Peggy Wilebski, and Rodney Sikorski.

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 Klegstad, **second** by B Anderson, and **unanimous vote** of the Managers. The regular meeting minutes from July 10, 2025, were reviewed and approved upon a **motion** by B Anderson, **second** by Klegstad 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 10511 through 10541 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.

A CD at United Valley Bank matured and was cashed out. \$278,518.70 was used to pay off a loan at United Valley Bank, and \$209,199.85 was deposited into a savings account at American Federal Bank.

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

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>
2025-16	Blaire Berg	Greenbush 11	crossing SD 91	Tabled
2025-18	Blake Nelson	Richardville 19	tile drainage	Approved

Motion by B Anderson, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote**

2025-19	Generations Land	East Park 12	tile drainage	Approved
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Conditions:

- Air gap design
- No pumping during downstream flooding

Motion by Klegstad, **second** by Olsonawski, and **unanimous vote**

2025-25	Klein Farms	Skane 10	field crossing	Approved
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Findings of fact:

- one 24" culvert downstream and the other direction is a 36" culvert
- one landowner would be affected
- culvert policy is less effective because this is a crossing that water would flow around if it gets too high

Motion by Langehaug, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote**

2025-26	DJB Farms, LLP	Sinnott 5	Crossing w/ box clvrt	Tabled
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Coffield to discuss costs, culvert sizes, and other issues with the applicant

2025-28a	Anderson Farms	Arveson 23	18" cmp	Tabled
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Referred to Review Group

2025-28b	Anderson Farms	Arveson 23	18" cmp w/gate	Tabled
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Referred to Review Group

2025-29	Kurt Moody	Nereson 21	18" cmp / crossing	Tabled
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Referred to Review Group

Permits Approved by Staff / Review Group

<i>App. #</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Action</i>
2025-20	Carl Gaukerud	Stokes 3	24" culvert / driveway	Approved
2025-21	Roseau Co. Hwy	Poplar Grove 17	36" cmp / crossing	Approved
2025-22	Poppleton Twp	Poppleton 21	18" cmp / crossing	Approved
2025-23	Poppleton Twp	Poppleton 28	install 18" in crossing	Approved
2025-24	Poppleton Twp	Poppleton 15	Replace 15" w/ 18" cmp	Approved
2025-27	Jerrold Hanson	Tegner 3	24" cmp / crossing	Approved

Condition: must be 18" cmp

Joe and Peggy Wilebski were in attendance to discuss ditching and the installation of a plastic 15" culvert in the SE ¼, SE ¼, section 8 of St. Joseph township. A letter was sent regarding the issue, and an after the fact fee was assessed. It was generally agreed that a permit can be issued

after the fact for the work that was done, and that culvert size, ditch dimensions, and the inspection fee should be taken into consideration.

Joe Wilebski read a letter to the Board regarding his views about the after the fact fee he was given and his need for the project. He stated he would be willing to regrade the ditch to drain properly and noted that his project is small and does not harm any other properties.

Attorney Hane mentioned the Board should consider three points: 1) Is it permissible? 2) If it is permissible, what conditions should there be? 3) Consider the after the fact fee (Wilebski asked for it to be waived).

The Board held considerable discussion on the matter.

Upon a **motion** by Langehaug, and **second** by Klegstad, the Board **unanimously** approved issuing a permit after the fact and waiving the after the fact fee. The following conditions were placed upon the permit: a minimum best fit ditch grade as determined by TRWD technician, a 3:1 west side slope, and practicable erosion control measures are implemented. Olsonawski **abstained from the vote**.

Administrator's Report:

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

Program Report:

Rules of the TRWD:

A fact sheet detailing projects that require a permit from the TRWD was handed out and discussed. Specific items that require a permit were noted, including ditching, drainage, diking, roads, culverts, and other items that affect the flow of water. The Board discussed the fact sheet and indicated that information about permits needs to continue to be distributed.

Sick and Safe Time and Paid Leave:

Information regarding paid sick and safe time and paid leave was distributed and discussed. The Paid Leave Law goes into effect January 1, 2026.

Minnesota Watersheds:

The Board appointed Olsonawski and Klegstad as delegates for the MN Watersheds Meeting on August 25, 2025, regarding resolutions.

Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB):

Administrator Money distributed a handout regarding activities of the RRWMB including current funding commitments. Discussion was held.

Courthouse Upgrades:

Zone 1 of the courthouse upgrades is mostly complete. The TRWD office is located in Zone 2, which is currently under construction. As a result, the TRWD has moved the office into the storage room, which is located in Zone 1, until Zone 2 construction is complete, most likely in the beginning of September. There are temporary signs up indicating the current location of the TRWD office. Board meetings will be held in an upstairs meeting room of the courthouse.

Recreational Land Lease Agreements:

The TRWD has been contacted by a landowner regarding a 13 acre parcel located in section 26, Ross Township, in Roseau County, which is owned by the TRWD. Options to rent, sell, or regulate land use were discussed. The matter was tabled.

Annual Budget:

Minnesota Statute requires the TRWD to prepare an annual budget for 2026 and hold a public hearing. TRWD must certify the general and ditch levies to the county auditors on or before September 15, 2025. The Board discussed a draft budget and scheduled the annual budget hearing for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2025.

Langehaug left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. It was noted there remains a quorum of four managers to conduct voting and business.

Kittson SWCD Erosion Control Cost Share Program:

Administrator Money distributed a spreadsheet with information for the Wallenburg project and the cost share request from the Kittson SWCD. The TRWD's share of the \$40,742.25 total is \$1,273.20, which is 12.5% in conformance with the TRWD's program policy.

Upon a **motion** by B Anderson, **second** by Olsonawski, and a **unanimous vote**, the Board approved contributing \$1,273.20 in cost share to the project.

DNR Protected Waters:

Administrator Money provided information about the DNR's efforts to update the public water inventory in each county. This will be an eight year effort and may affect landowners along water courses.

Legal Ditch Report:

Ditch inspections are currently being conducted. Brush on ditches has been sprayed, and cattails will be sprayed in August. Numerous beavers and dams have been removed. Several surveys will be completed this fall.

North Branch Project & SD 84:

Upon a **motion** by B Anderson, **second** by Klegstad, and a **unanimous vote**, the Board approved hiring Kittson SWCD to do seeding in areas of SD 84 on the North Branch Project that are bare or have little grass.

KCD 7 Improvement:

The Final Engineer's Report was sent to the DNR and comments were received. The Final Hearing is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. at the middle room of the Kennedy Cafe on Monday, September 22, 2025. Staff will post the meeting notice, prepare a property owners report to send out with the mailed notice of the hearing, and publish a meeting notice.

Project Report:

Horseshoe Lake Dam Replacement:

Landwehr Construction Inc stated they are behind schedule due to inclement weather, and therefore plan to start construction on September 25, 2025, and be completed within 3-4 weeks.

Klondike Clean Water Retention Prj. #11:

- Construction
 - Spruce Valley will start this fall/winter on dike building.
 - The subcontractor is behind and may not start on the outlet structures until late fall or spring.
- Right of Way
 - All right of way has been acquired except the land being exchanged with the DNR. This is expected to be completed in November.
 - Attorney Hane discussed the access road to sections 27 and 35 of Klondike township. Hane noted there is no record that it is a public road. TRWD will most likely need to obtain right of way access from the landowner. Hane has been in contact with their attorney and is discussing options. Hane will report back on the subject at the next meeting.
- Permitting
 - All permits have been acquired except the DNR dam safety permit, which is in progress.
 - Engineer Norby discussed the wetland mitigation plan that has been developed and the need for construction plans. The plans will cost an estimated \$7,700.

Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by B Anderson, and a **unanimous vote**, it was approved that Houston Engineering should develop construction plans for the estimated price of \$7,700.

Landowner Rodney Sikorski was in attendance to discuss concerns regarding how the Roseau overflow will get into the KCWRP. He also asked about the SD 72 system and how floodwater will be able to flow through this area. Engineer Huwe responded with project specific structure descriptions.

State Representative John Burkel attended the meeting and discussed various legislative laws and initiatives. During the recent legislative session, \$9 million was approved for the DNR's Flood Hazard Mitigation Program; however, the need is \$150 million. The TRWD currently has an application in to the DNR for funding through this program.

Burkel discussed other state funding options and programs related to flood control and water resources.

The Board thanked Burkel for his efforts at the legislature.

With no other matters to come before the Board of Managers, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Attest:


Daryl Klegstad, Secretary


Rick Sikorski, President