

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 Fifth Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510
Ph: 218-784-5501

REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2025
APPROVED MINUTES

A full list of acronyms used is available at the end of this report (Appendix A)

1. The regular meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Managers in attendance included: Greg Holmvik, Mike Christensen, Curt Johannsen, Matt Borgen, Raymond Hanson, and Duane Erickson. In addition, the following people were in attendance: Administrator Tara Jensen, Engineer Jerry Bents, and Attorney Elroy Hanson. Various other interested taxpayers and landowners attended in person or via electronic means. Manager Dean Spaeth was absent.
2. Chairman Holmvik called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with recital of the pledge of allegiance.
3. Agenda Approval. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the agenda with the following addition: Petry Petition Report. Carried.
4. Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Carried.
5. Approval of Billings. A motion was made by Manager Holmvik and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the payment of billings as presented. Carried.
6. Financial Report. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the monthly financial report dated March 31, 2025, and the quarterly transfers between unassessed projects and ditches and the Red River Construction Account, as presented. Carried.
7. Open Mic. No one spoke.
8. Duane Thompson. Landowner Duane Thompson addressed the Board regarding the increase on his property taxes for his land that is assessed into Project 12. Discussion was held regarding how the benefiting areas were determined and options for re-determination.

Manager Borgen arrived at 8:45 a.m.

Engineer Bents presented 3 options for Mr. Thompson:

- Request, via petition, to have his land removed from the assessment area.
- Request, via petition, for a redetermination of benefits, which typically requires 50% landowner support.
- Request, via petition, for a redetermination of benefits (without 50% landowner support)

9. Bitker Petition Hearing. Engineer Bents gave the background of the request. He presented the cost of adding the land into Project 16 which includes an outlet fee and a per acre charge going forward. Discussion was held. Mr. Bitker counteroffered the outlet fee. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the petition with the current outlet fee and per acre charge, waving any administrative costs. Manager Erickson and Manager Borgen opposed. Carried.

Landowner Corey Jacobson commented that he feels it is inappropriate to charge Mr. Bitker time value of money on an investment that he was not using. His opinion is that Mr. Bitker should only have to pay based on the price to build the ditch at the time the ditch was established.

PERMITS

10. Corey Jacobson, Section 4, McDonaldsville Twp. Permit #25-013 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Erickson to approve the permit with standard tile conditions. Carried.
11. Kim Syverson, Daryl Moore, Adam Jeurissen, Sections 34 & 35, Walworth Twp. Permit #25-011 to construct a berm, deepen a ditch and install culverts to divert low flows to the South Branch. Administrator Jensen presented a letter from the MNDNR stating that they oppose the permit. A representative from Becker County attended the meeting via TEAMS and requested more information and guidance on the project. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to table the permit to request additional design information, including project plans showing the details and elevation of the riser structure, proposed ditch grades and alignments, proposed culvert details and elevations at the township road. Also, to request written approval from: the Becker County Highway Department, Atlanta and Walworth Townships, the landowners in the SW 1/4 of section 35 of Walworth Township, and the landowners in the NW 1/4 of section 2 of Atlanta Township. Carried.
12. Petry Petition. Engineer Bents gave the background of the request. He presented the cost of adding the land into Project 18 which includes an outlet fee and a per acre charge going forward. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to set the hearing for May 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Carried. Mr. Petry asked the Board to consider removing the administrative fees from the cost.

PERMITS (ctd.)

13. Mike Petry, Section 34, Lockhart Twp. Permit #25-005 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to table the permit pending Board action on the Petition to drain into Project 18. Carried.
14. Jake Bitker, Section 25, Halstad Twp. Permit #25-001 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Hanson to approve the permit with standard tile conditions and contingent on the applicant making payment per the board action regarding his petition for lands into Project 16 based on the Order from the 4/9/2025 hearing. Carried.
15. Duane Erickson, Section 5, Walworth Twp. Permit #25-015 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to approve the permit with standard tile conditions. Manager Erickson was absent from the room at the time of voting. Carried.

16. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to approve the following permits as listed. Manager Erickson was absent from the room at the time of voting. Carried.
- Mark Habedank, Section 30, Flom Twp. Permit #25-017 to install a water and sediment control basin project with standard tile conditions.
 - Nic Prothro, Section 16, McDonaldsville Twp. Permit #25-012 to install a new field approach and an 18" pipe.
 - Erik Rockstad, Section 22, Pleasant View Twp. Permit #25-016 to install a wider field approach with a longer 18" culvert.
17. Mark Habedank, Section 30, Flom Twp. Permit #25-018 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to table the permit pending a field review and to notice adjacent landowners. Manager Erickson was absent from the room at the time of voting. Carried.
18. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Christensen to return the following permits as listed. The applicants can reapply if the requested information is provided. Manager Erickson was absent from the room at the time of voting. Carried.
- Jerry Matter, Section 8, Riceville Twp. Permit #24-138 to install subsurface drain tile.
 - Adam McCollum, Section 33, Gregory Twp. Permit #24-134 to install water and sediment control basins.
19. Robert Miller Jr., Section 27, Lake Ida Twp. Permit #25-010 to install subsurface drain tile. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to table the permit to request SWCD approval for the surface inlet relative to wetland impacts and request written approval from the road authority (Norman County) for the tile and outlet installed in the road right-of-way. Carried.
20. Kenneth Simonson, Section 17, Home Lake Twp. Permit #25-014 to install a stilling basin and channel erosion work. A motion was made by Manager Christensen and seconded by Manager Hanson to table the permit to notice the Road Authority. Carried.

COMPLAINTS (none)

21. Perley Flood Control Levee Improvement Project-Phase 2-Grade Raises. Administrator Jensen gave an update stating that construction is set to resume April 28, 2025, and end June 30, 2025. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for the afternoon of April 9, 2025.
22. Acquisition Properties. Engineer Bents reported that per the Board's request, the project was re-bid. The low bid was from Lyle Wilkens Inc. A motion was made by Manager Johannsen and seconded by Manager Christensen to award the demolition contract to Lyle Wilkens Inc. Carried.
23. Ditch and Project Maintenance. No updates.
24. Upper Reaches. No updates.
25. Lower Wild Rice. Administrator Jensen reported that updated RIM rates were released on April 1, 2025. The rates show an approximate 15% increase for Townships within the Lower Wild Rice corridor. She is currently working with six applicants. Manager Christensen requested a copy of the RIM rates.

26. White Earth Regional Water Taskforce. No meetings are scheduled at this time.
27. Manager Appointments. Administrator Jensen reported that Manager Christensen, Manager Johannsen, and Manager Hanson were all reappointed. Manager oaths will be given at the May 14, 2025 meeting.
28. Manager Erickson distributed a copy of a completed data request that he recently received from staff regarding flood buyouts. A motion was made by Manager Erickson to deny future applications of flood buyout properties. The motion died for lack of a second.
29. 1W1P Policy Committee. Administrator Jensen presented the Power Point presentation that was given at the 1W1P Policy Committee meeting on March 24, 2025. The presentation gave an overview of projects completed in the District and a detail of grant funds spent during the past twelve months
30. Citizen's Advisory Committee. The Committee met on April 7, 2025. Manager Borgen and Manager Christensen attended as representatives from the Board. Administrator Jensen reported that the Committee passed a motion asking the Board to discuss long term ownership strategies regarding district-owned land. Attorney Hanson advised that we add the topic to the agenda of a future meeting. Manager Erickson asked staff to prepare information, including the number of acres and rental amount for each parcel, for the meeting. Manager Borgen inquired about the process that other Watershed Districts follow. Administrator Jensen will compile the information for presentation when the topic is on the agenda.
31. Minnesota Watersheds Request for Resolutions. Administrator Jensen presented the memo from MN Watersheds to the Board. Resolutions are due next month. Managers were asked to notify staff of any requests by the end of April to allow time for legal review.
32. CD Accounts. The District has \$4 million in CD accounts maturing in April 2025 and \$2 million maturing in May 2025. Administrator Jensen presented updated interest rates. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to invest \$6 million in CDs, as they mature, with United Valley Bank, if they will take the full amount. If not, invest the remaining \$2 million at the bank with the next highest interest rate. Carried.
33. Manager Per Diems. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Christensen to approve payment of Manager per diems as distributed. Carried.
34. Meetings/Conferences/Seminars. A motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Johannsen to approve staff and Board attendance at the MN Watersheds Summer Tour June 24-26, 2025. Carried.
35. There being no further business to come before the Board of Managers, a motion was made by Manager Hanson and seconded by Manager Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Chairman Holmvik adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Curt Johannsen, Secretary

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Mar 13 - Apr 9, 25				
03/25/2025		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 03/24/2025	7,076.95
04/08/2025		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 04/07/2025	6,856.15
03/17/2025	ACH	Verizon Wireless		146.91
04/05/2025	ACH	MARCO, Inc.		437.77
03/15/2025	ACH	Aflac		388.18
03/14/2025	ACH	PERA		1,374.07
03/13/2025	ACH	MN Dept of Revenue	5062265	400.00
03/13/2025	ACH	US Treasury-Payroll	41-6145653	2,356.46
04/05/2025	ACH	MARCO, Inc.		362.77
04/01/2025	ACH	Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation		55.00
04/03/2025	ACH	Arvig		352.77
03/25/2025	ACH	MN PEIP		3,541.54
03/27/2025	ACH	MN Dept of Revenue	5062265	387.00
03/27/2025	ACH	US Treasury-Payroll	41-6145653	2,118.02
03/28/2025	ACH	PERA		1,269.05
04/09/2025	ACH	MN Dept of Revenue	5062265	411.00
04/09/2025	ACH	US Treasury-Payroll	41-6145653	2,562.82
04/09/2025	19685	Becker Co. Auditor		1,441.00
04/09/2025	19686	Cintas	Rugs	93.67
04/09/2025	19687	Clay County Auditor Treasurer		9,797.00
04/09/2025	19688	Hanson & Liebl Law Office, P.C.	March Legal	3,499.55
04/09/2025	19689	Houston Engineering, Inc.		49,876.14
04/09/2025	19690	Kenneth Aaron Kesselberg	Snow removal	145.00
04/09/2025	19691	MARCO, Inc. Mpls	M-files support online permits	260.00
04/09/2025	19692	McCollum Hardware, Inc.	Keys	15.01
04/09/2025	19693	Morris Electronics, Inc.		1,232.00
04/09/2025	19694	Norman County Index-Ada	Advertising-bids	969.00
04/09/2025	19695	Norman County Treasurer/Auditor		9,513.03
04/09/2025	19696	Office Supplies Plus		268.60
04/09/2025	19697	Renae Kappes	Office cleaning	280.00
04/09/2025	19698	Supermarket Foods	Supplies	30.13
04/09/2025	19699	Visser Trenching	Snow removal	220.00
04/09/2025	19700	Curt Johannsen		608.75
04/09/2025	19701	Duane L Erickson		506.74
04/09/2025	19702	Gregory R Holmvik		230.88
04/09/2025	19703	Matthew C Borgen		1,126.65
04/09/2025	19704	Michael K Christensen		1,082.56
04/09/2025	19705	Raymond M Hanson		372.92
		TOTAL		111,665.09

Appendix A

List of Acronyms Used:

1W1P	One Watershed One Plan
CD	Certificate of Deposit
MNDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
RIM	Reinvest in Minnesota
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District