

Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026, Wednesday 8:00 a.m.

Staff Present: Jeremiah Timm, Michelle Overholser

Board Members Present: Bill Briggs, Darwyn Bach, Tim Buysse, Randy Kamrath, Faith Olsen

Others Present: Gary Laleman, Tom Andries

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Tim Buysse at 8:00 A.M. at the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Office located at 122 North Jefferson Street Minneota, MN.
 - 1.1. Set Agenda **Kamrath moved to approve the agenda. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 1.2. Regular Meeting Minutes **Olsen moved to approve the April Regular Meeting Minutes. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 1.3. Treasurer's Report **Kamrath moved to approve the Treasurer Report. Buysse seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Permits to Approve**
 - 2.1. Hoffman – 2026-013 – After the Fact
Overholser presented an after-the-fact permit application submitted by Corey Hoffman for 60' of 24" culvert on his property in Wergeland Township Section 14. Discussion took place between board members. The culvert is already in place and is immediately upstream of a contested ditching project that was completed on the immediate downstream landowner's property. It is the Boards understanding that the downstream landowner is asking for the county to pursue criminal charges and will be seeking restitution for damages. **Olsen moved to table a decision on the permit until the board hears more information regarding the legal outcome of the related ditching project. Bach seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Public Comments and Reports**
 - 3.1. Manager Reports - None
 - 3.2. Technical Report – Timm updated board regarding recent permit applications and recent beaver bounty activities. Timm joined area II for dam inspections and provided detail regarding that.
 - 3.3. Administrative Report – Overholser reported on daily District business, updates on YM1W1P, and the 2025 Audit.

4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1. Hauschild Dam – Overholser briefed board members regarding meeting with attorney regarding the easement and the request the District received for crop damages related to flooding that occurred in 2025. It is the opinion of the District's legal counsel that the District is

well within its rights outlined in the easement to hold water in the area that experienced crop loss from flooding. No motions were made.

- 4.2. Hoffman/Regnier – Wergeland 14- Overholser updated boarding with conversation she had with an attorney regarding the matter. Overholser presented survey taken by Timm in partnership with the Lyon County SWCD. No motions were made.
- 4.3. 1w1p extension – approved – FYI – Overholser let the board know that the 1W1P Extension was official approved by the BWSR Board. The current comprehensive water plan is now good until December 2028. No motions were made.

5. New Business

- 5.1. Swede Prairie 31 Culvert – Overholser presented a landowner’s concern regarding a culvert that was replaced in a township road adjacent to his property. The landowner believes the replacement culvert had been placed at an elevation higher than what the original culvert had been at and he requested that Watershed District investigate and help remediate the issue. Timm has been in contact with the township regarding this issue and the township does not believe the culvert’s elevation has been changed. Overholser went out and met with the landowner on site to look at the culvert. The area is very flat and doesn’t have a lot of slope. There is nothing in District records that states what the elevation of the culvert was at previously. The District has no way of knowing if the current culvert is higher or not, and does not have any legal authority to require the township to take any action. **Olsen moved to recommend the landowner speak with his township directly regarding the matter. Kamrath Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.2. 2025 Audit communication -Overholser provided update regarding 2025 Audit Communications.
- 5.3. Beaver Dam removal – Overholser received a phone call regarding a beaver dam that is causing water to be backed up onto private property. The Board discussed the idea of providing funds to the public for beaver dams. In the past it has been the Boards position that the district does not have enough funds to focus on issues that only affect a few landowners. Examples of this are beaver dams, debris in the river, or sediment clean out in public water systems that are causing water to back up onto private lands. This district has at times assisted a county or a township with the cost of removing debris or beaver dams that are affecting infrastructure like roads, or bridges. Assisting with the cost of protecting infrastructure serves the greater public. **Olsen moved to decline to change or re-evaluate providing funds for beaver dam removals and will continue to assess each request on a case-by-case basis, with emphasis staying on protecting infrastructure. Kamrath seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Ym1W1P Cost-Share Contracts 24/25 Grant

- 6.1. None

7. YM1W1P Cost-Share Contracts 26/27 Grant

- 7.1. None

8. YM1W1P Cost-Share Vouchers 24/25 Grant

- 8.1. Tim Neyens – 2024-021 – 638 Basins - \$83,132.19 **Olsen moved to approve YM1W1P Cost-Share Voucher 2024-021. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

8.2. Scott Matthys – 2024-043 – 100 Alternative intake - \$500 **Briggs moved to approve YM1W1P Cost-Share Voucher 2024-043. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Dates to Note:

June Board Meeting

Summer Tour Detroit Lakes

June 17th 8:00 a.m.

Mon Aug 24th Evening reception

Tues Aug 25th Education Sessions 1-5, Banquet 6-9

Wed Aug 26th Bus tour 8-5

Thurs Aug 27th BWSR board meeting morning