



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

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Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025, Wednesday 08:00 a.m.

Staff Present: Michelle Overholser, Jeremiah Timm

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

Others Present: Gary Laleman, Tom Andries

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tim Buysse at 8:01 A.M. at the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Office located at 122 North Jefferson Street Minneota, MN.
 - 1.1. Set Agenda – **Olsen moved to approve the agenda. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 1.2. June Regular Meeting Minutes – **Bach moved to approve the June Regular Meeting Minutes. Olsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 1.3. Treasurer Report – **Olsen moved to approve the Treasurer Report. Bach seconded.**
2. **Permits to Approve**
 - 2.1. None
3. **Public Comments and Reports**
 - 3.1. Public Comments – Tom Andries provided update regarding Lyon County’s Comprehensive plan, ditch meetings and that conservation technician, Courtney Williams, recently taken a new Job.
Kerry Netzke with Area II and RCRCa provided report regarding new Hire, Williams, for the role of Watershed Coordinator. The Cottonwood River 1W1P was awarded approximately 1.9M and the Redwood River 1W1P has been awarded approximately 1.2M.
 - 3.2. Manager Reports – None
 - 3.3. Technical Reports – Timm provided update regarding recent permitting activities and update on WD 16 progress.
 - 3.4. Administrative Report – Overholser provided updates on 1W1P and presented progress report and an outline for upcoming goals.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Tiling without a permit – Normania 7 – Kaye Christenson – **Buysse moved to table 4.1 until the August Meeting. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 4.2 Richard Larson – Permit Norman 13 – **Bill abstained from 4.2. Bach moved to table 4.2 until the August Meeting. Olsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - 4.3 Lake John Dock – Bill presented our bid to the City of Canby and expects to hear back within the day.

5. New Business

- 5.1. Hauschild Dam – Briggs and Shane Noyes, owner of Rugged Tree Service, conducted a site visit. Briggs reported that a large amount of sediment is currently built up on the outside of the intake observed debris blocking in the intake on the inside, causing a low flow through the structure. With the sediment build up, and with the current conditions, Noyes did not feel he could safely remove any more of the debris. Timm provided descriptions of the elevation changes seen at the dam over the last 3 weeks and confirmed that the level has been dropping but slowly. Kerry Netzke provided an image of the dam from 2010 showing what the flow of the outlet should look like in a high-water event and expressed concerns that the dam was not being properly maintained by the watershed district. Overholser disagreed with that opinion, stating that the district contacted its contractor the next business day, after she had been informed that the outlet was showing low flow. The contractor was able to get out there 2 weeks and 3 days later, this is the second time in four months that the district has had him remove debris from the intake. The district was not aware of the sediment issue until it was observed by Board Chair, William Briggs. In order to see the sediment issue, a boat had to be taken out into the reservoir.

Joy Bruns, landowner, expressed concerns regarding crop damages over recent years compared to past years and provided the board with a bill for crop damages. Current renter Jim Neyens expressed concerns regarding crop damage caused by the elevated pool in recent years.

Overholser provided board and Joy Bruns the easement for the Hauschild Dam. After reviewing all the information provided including the easement the board requested staff to obtain an estimate of the cost to drain down the reservoir using a pump. **Olsen moved to table 5.1 until the August meeting. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 5.2. YM 1W1P 26/27 grant permissions – Overholser requested board permission to sign and enter into the grant agreement for the 26/27 WBIF grant. She also requested permission to administer the grant, including but not limited to, setting the work plan, budget (in consultation with the Plan Work Group and the Policy Committee, adjustments to the work plan and budget if needed and any grant amendments. **Buyse moved to approve, Olsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.3. BMO Paperwork – **Bach moved to approve the BMO paperwork. Buyse seconded. Motion passed unanimously**
- 5.4. 2024 Audit - **Buyse moved to approve the 2024 Audit. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.5. 2026 Budget – Overholser presented a few draft budgets for the board to review.
- 5.6. Set 2026 Budget Hearing – **Olsen moved to set the 2026 Budget Hearing for August 20th at 9 A.M. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 5.7. Annual Resolutions Meeting – **Olsen moved to set Randy Kamrath and Tim Buyse as delegates with Bill Briggs as alternate. Bach seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. YM1W1P WBIF Cost-Share Contracts 24/25

- 6.1. None

7. YM1W1P WBIF Cost-Share Payments 24/25

- 7.1. None

Adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

Dates to Note:

Aug. Board Meeting	Wed. Aug. 20th 8:00 a.m.
Annual Resolution Meeting	Mon. Aug. 25 th 10:00 a.m. Zoom