

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
November 18th, 2025

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Jeff Ravenhorst, Michelle O'Connor, Dave Vanderploeg, Peter VanErkel , Tony Dahl, Steve Penkava and James Fett. Jon Erichson attended remotely. Also attending the meeting was Jeanine Vorland.

Michelle called the meeting to order with the first order of business being Tony Dahl taking his Oath of Office and accepting his appointment commencing November 14th, 2025. Tony will be taking Dave Vanderploeg's position on the board as Dave is moving out of the district.

Pete made a motion for Jeff Ravenhorst for Vice Chair with the other officers to remain the same, seconded by Tony and carried. Officers for 2026 will be Michelle O'Connor Chairperson, Jeff Ravenhorst Vice chair, Peter Van Erkel Secretary, Jon Erichson Treasure and Tony Dahl manager.

Pete made a motion to accept the October 2025 minutes as presented seconded by Jeff and carried.

In Jon's absence James gave the financial report showing \$203,833.45 in checking, being no discussion Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried.

James reports the MBT CD renewal matures on November 20th 2025 with a 10-day grace period for withdrawals. The Board approved Jon to work on negotiating a higher interest rate than what automatically renews.

The following bills were submitted for approval to be forwarded to Freeborn County Auditor-Treasure:

Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 1,976.30 (Freeborn Construction)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 14,150.00 (Freeborn Construction)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 1,720.00 (Freeborn Construction)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 6,600.00 (routine maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 7,012.50 (Cty ditch #8)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 9,240.00 (Cty ditch #J27)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 450.00 (invoice #403578)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 134.50 (invoice #403126)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 1,179.50 (invoice #403717)
Mark Behrends	\$ 2,800.70 (Viewer)

Pete made a motion to approve and forward the bills seconded by Jeff and carried.

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

Accurant LLC	\$ 187.00
Troy Hawkshead	\$ 300.00 (beaver tails)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 29.50

Pete made a motion to pay the bills seconded by Jeff and carried.

An application for permit was submitted by Don Olson to tile in Moscow Twsp Freeborn Cty SW ¼ section 10 R 19 W approx.. 3000 ft . Hodgman drainage is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to approve this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit # 11-01-25.

An application for permit was submitted by Don Olson to tile in Moscow Twsp Freeborn Cty NE1/2 of NE1/4 section 15 R19W approx. 10,000-11,000 ft. Adjacent landowners have signed this application. Hodgman drainage is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to approve this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit # 11-02-25.

An application for permit was submitted by Stan Olson to tile in Moscow Twsp Freeborn Cty section 15 NE1/2 of NE1/4 and section 14 NW1/4 R19W. Adjacent landowners have signed this application. Hodgman drainage is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to approve this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit # 11-03-25.

An application for permit was submitted by the MN DNR wildlife office for Wetland Restoration. Project location is Wo Wacintanka State Wildlife Management Area Newry twsp Freeborn Cty NE section 16 & 15 R19W. Adjacent landowner has signed this application. Contractor to be determined by bids. Pete made a motion to approve this application as phase 4A seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit #11-04-25.

James explained the public meeting law updates, board members attending meetings remotely, qualifications for a quorum and reimbursement etc.

James will be meeting with Bret Zimmerman of Houston Engineering to discuss the potential of applying for an MPCA planning grant for stormwater, wastewater and community resilience.

James reported on the Riparian Aid Funding stating Freeborn County will be sending a check in December of each year and should be getting roughly \$23,000.

Steve recommends the board set a hearing date for CDJ27 improvement during the December meeting. Steve and James will check with Freeborn County for available dates.

Jeanine attended the meeting and reports Geneva Lake flows were briefly slowed to facilitate some downstream work. The project is finished and stop logs will be reset to facilitate winter drawdown. Area Wildlife staff are aware of the trespass issues with the dam site and will attempt to resolve the problem.

Wo Wacintanka wildlife area access road culvert replacement project is underway and should be completed soon. The Department of Natural Resources appreciates the Watershed District Board and Staff for helping to facilitate additional wetland work.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Pete and carried.

After adjournment treats and conversation with best wishes to Dave for the 12 years he served on the Turtle Creek Watershed Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy K. Finley,
Recording Secretary