

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
December 16th 2025

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Tony Dahl, Jon Erichson, Michelle O'Connor, Jeff Ravenhorst, Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava and James Fett. Att'y John Kolb attended remotely. Also attending the meeting were Tom Butler, Att'y Dan Donnelly, Bill Wilkie, Steven Oscarson and Jeanine Vorland.

Pete made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2025 seconded by Jon and carried.

The Treasures report showed \$198,678.15 in checking. Jon discussed the renewal and rate on the MBT CD that had matured in November. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Pete and carried.

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

Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 8,401.25 (Freeborn Construction)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	\$ 990.00 (routine maintenance)

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

Accurant LLC	\$ 187.00
Olson Tree Service	\$ 399.00
City of Hollandale	\$ 1000.00 (rent)
Peter VanErkel	\$ 375.00
Jeff Ravehorst	\$ 375.00
Tony Dahl	\$ 250.00
Dave Vanderploeg	\$ 250.00
Michelle O'Connor	\$ 663.50
Jon Erichson	\$ 619.80
Nancy Finley	\$ 1,875.00

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

Bill Wilke and Steve Oscarson were present to discuss their conflict regarding the Thoreson permit with the board. After consulting with attorney Kolb the board determined the Thoreson permit to remain valid and that any other disputes should be handled as a private matter between the landowners.

An application for permit was submitted by Gary Degen to tile in NE section 26 Geneva Twsp, Freeborn Cty on 29618 235th Ave Ellendale Mn. Downstream landowner has signed this application. Adam Bishop is the contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to grant this permit second by Pete and carried. Permit number 12-01-25.

An application for permit was submitted by Gary Degen to clean private open ditch with agreement in SE of NE section 26 Geneva Twsp Freeborn Cty T104N R20W. downstream landowner has signed this application. Freeborn Construction is the Contractor for this project. Jeff made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Pete and carried. Permit number 12-02-25.

An application for permit was submitted by Gary Schrad to tile in S 1/2 of NE 1/4 SE 1/4 section 20 Riceland Twsp Freeborn Cty T103R N. to outlet into private tile CD J 18. The renter has signed this application as downstream landowner. Mr. Schrad is his own contractor for

this project. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit number 12-03-25.

Steve reports they are ready to set a date for the CD J 27 final hearing. Pete made a motion to set the hearing date for Tuesday Jan. 20th 2026 at 5:15 PM at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota, motion seconded by Jeff and carried.

Jeanine attended the meeting and reports

Geneva Lake stop logs are set for winter drawdown. The lake levels are gradually decreasing. Ducks Unlimited sponsored a tour of several project sites in south-central Minnesota and included Geneva Lake. Vorland gave a history of the lake and management noting the support of Turtle Creek Watershed District in fostering water and land conservation efforts in the watershed in addition to lake management efforts.

Wo Wacintanka Wildlife Management Area access culvert project is complete. Wetland restoration project plans are being revised due to cost.

James reports the rules have not been updated for several years and ask the Board their opinion on proceeding giving them several options. After discussion the managers requested James send out copies of the Rules as well as the copies of CRWD an SRRWD rules for comparison for the managers to review on their own time and report back what they feel would be proposed changes.

James reports it is time again for the annual planning and citizens advisory committee meeting. Pete made a motion to hold this workshop before the February 17th 2026 meeting to start at 3:30 at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota seconded by Jeff and carried. Nancy will invite the Citizens Advisory committee to attend this meeting.

James will contact Bret Zimmerman from Houston Engineering to attend a Zoom meeting with a brief presentation about the stacked hydrograph analysis TCWD paid for.

Steve gave a report on Wo Wacintanka with the update and 5 bids were received for phase one. Pete made a motion to reject all bids seconded by Jeff and carried.

Steve presented the Turtle Creek Watershed Crop Damage Rate for 2026

(Standing crop)

It is the policy of the Turtle Creek Watershed Board to set a rate of pay for crop damage that may occur due to repair, improvement or construction projects. This is done at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

The yield is determined by using a three-year average yield for corn and beans in Freeborn County with data received from the USDA (National Agricultural Statistics Service)

The sale price was determined by using an average sale price for “new cope” corn and beans from three regional elevators on December 1, 2025.

Corn damage rate	190.8 bushel	@\$4.15	= \$792 per acre
Bean damage rate	54.5 bushel	@ \$10.31	= \$562 per acre

(Not Planted)

It is the policy of the Turtle Creek Watershed Board to set a rate of pay for crop damage that may occur due to report, improvement, or construction projects. This is done at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

In anticipation of an upcoming project, the Watershed Board may ask a landowner not to plant the area to be worked on. This gives the contractor more time to complete projects and may also result in better quotes.

The rate of pay for not planted areas is \$525 per acre. This rate is based on an average annual rental rate of approximately \$300.

The first year the unplanted acres would have no yield.

The second-year yield reduction would be approximately 50%

(Because the soil has been disturbed)

The third-year yield reduction would be approximately 25%

(because the soil has been disturbed)

The fourth year the yield would be back to normal

These policies have been signed by Mark Behrends Drainage ditch Viewer, Wesley Dahl

Drainage ditch Viewer and Michelle O'Connor TCWD on December 16th 2025.

Pete made a motion to accept these reports seconded by Jeff and carried.

Jon states now that Dave has moved out of the district and no longer has the authority to sign checks he would request another board member be given that authorization. As Jeff was elected to serve as Vice Chair person Pete made a motion to authorize Jon to arrange for Jeff to sign the required forms at the bank, seconded by Jon and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Finley,

Recording Secretary

Blessings and Happy Holidays to all