

Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
January 20th, 2026

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota. Present were Tony Dahl, Jon Erichson, Jeff Ravenhorst, Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava, James Fett, and Att’y John Kolb. Michelle O’Connor was absent.

Also attending the meeting were Elvin Steensma, Mark Behrends, Tom Butler, Amy Conner, Sandy Tomschin and Att’y Dan Donnelly.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Ravenhorst in Michelle’s absence.

Pete made a motion to approve the December 2025 minutes as presented seconded by Tony and carried.

The Treasures report showed \$198,182.65. Jon states he did not have access to an updated financial report at the time of the meeting. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Pete and carried.

Jon explained the accountant states the Board should be having a W9 form signed for tax purposes. An individual or entity who is required to file an information return with the IRS. James will contact the accountant for further information on who Nancy should include these forms with when she mails checks.

The following bills were submitted for approval to be forwarded to the Freeborn County Auditor—

Treasure:	Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 990.00 (routine maintenance)
	Mark Behrends	\$ 1,960.00 (viewer)
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 573.50
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 544.00
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 413.00
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 1,520.50
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 337.50
	Rinke Noonan	\$ 308.00

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the District:

Lance Loverink	\$ 225.00 (beaver tails)
Mn Counties Intergov. Trust	\$ 1,535.00 (renewal policies)
Mower SWCD	\$ 16,116.23
CRWD	\$ 2,505.96 (monitoring & Lab costs)
Minnesota Watersheds	\$ 4,501.00 (annual dues)
Rinke Noonan	\$ 552.00
Rinke Noonan	\$ 29.50
Rinke Noonan	\$ 29.50

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

An application for permit was submitted by the City of Austin for open ditch construction approximately 500 feet of storm sewer in Mower County SE ¼ section 33 Lansing twsp to outlet into private open ditch. Adjacent landowner has signed this application. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Tony and carried. The City of Austin is the Contractor for this project. Permit # 01-01-26.

An application for permit was submitted by Lori Miller for open ditch construction in Mower Cty Lansing twsp to outlet into private open ditch. Adjacent landowner has signed this application. Pete made a motion to grant this permit seconded by Tony and carried. The city of Austin is the Contractor for this project. Permit # 01-02-26.

At 5:15 PM Pete made a motion to suspend the regular meeting for the combined final public hearing on the matter of the redetermination of benefits for Freeborn County Ditch J27 and the petitioned improvement of Freeborn County Ditch J27 seconded by Tony and carried. Chairperson Jeff called the hearing to order. After presentations and discussion ceased Pete made a motion to approve the findings

and order adopting the redetermination of benefits as presented, recommended, and reviewed by staff, seconded by Tony and carried.

Presentations and discussion followed regarding the petitioned improvement of Freeborn County Ditch J27. Pete made a motion to approve the findings and final order establishing drainage project, adopting and confirming the viewers' report of improvement benefits and damages, authorizing application of separable maintenance, and directing construction of the project as presented, recommended, and reviewed by staff, seconded by Tony and carried.

Pete made a motion to adjourn the hearing and return to the regular board meeting seconded by Tony and carried.

Nancy distributed copies of the 2025 annual report for the Managers to read and approve or make corrections at the February 2026 meeting.

The joint SWCD/CRWD meeting will be held on Wednesday February 18th, 2026 at the Jay C Hormel Nature Center. James was not sure of the time but, will let the Managers who plan to attend know the start time.

The annual planning and Citizens advisory committee meeting will begin at 3:30 PM on Tuesday February 17th, 2026 before the regular meeting. Nancy will send out an invitation to the CA committee members. Bret Zimmerman will go over the hydrologic study he worked on for us. James asks the managers to please take a look at the study before the meeting.

Updating the Rules was discussed. Jon suggested a special meeting time be set for that when all the Managers are present. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

The managers also discussed approving permits between the meetings via email. Jon suggested this be discussed also when there is a full Board present possibly also with the Rules update.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy K. Finley,

Recording Secretary