Minutes of the Meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
March 17th, 2026

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota at 5 PM. Present were Tony Dahl, Jon Erichson, Jeff Ravenhorst, Peter VanErkel, Steve Penkava, and James Fett. Att'y Kolb attended remotely. Michelle O'Connor was absent.

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

Pete made a motion to accept the February 2026 minutes for the annual workshop and meeting seconded by Tony and carried.

The Treasurers report showed $ 218,206.02 in checking. Pete made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jon and carried.
Jon explained the rate increase from Accurant LLC and signed the agreement to continue with their services. Jon will return the signed agreement.

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

Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	$ 2,887.50 (Routine Maintenance)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	$ 4,255.00 (NRCS meeting)
Jones, Haugh, Smith, Inc.	$11,725.00 (Cty ditch J27)
Mark Behrends	$ 380.45 (ditch Viewer)
Rinke Noonan	$ 2,403.00 (J27 Redeter of Benefits)
Rinke Noonan	$ 3,452.50 (CD J 27)

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

The following bills were submitted for payment by the district:

Accurant LLC	$ 187.00
Accurant LLC	$ 608.47
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	$ 5,000.00 (prepare WMA bid)
Rinke Noonan	$ 465.50
Jon Erichson	$ 842.20
Tony Dahl	$ 500.00
Peter VanErkel	$ 500.00
Jeff Ravenhorst	$ 525.92
Nancy Finley	$ 2500.00

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

Steve and James have been keeping in touch with all different agency partners involved. NRCS is working on securing an additional $55,000 of funding needed to be able to complete the project. This process takes about 45 days and the goal will be to have the funding secured prior to the April board meeting for bid approval. Hodgman said he'd honor his bid until May 1st.

James presented copies of the revised annual work plan. Jon, Steve, Tony and James had their first rules subcommittee meeting this week. They decided to utilize the CRWD rules as a template and modify where necessary. They still need to have at least one more meeting to finish their proposed edits. They have a couple of questions to bring to the board, the first is if you would like to utilize administrative approval for permits that come in where work needs to be done quickly. Their thought would be for Steve and James to both review the application and details, and for a permit to only be valid if they both sign. They would present the details of the permit application at the following board meeting. The Managers will consider this suggestion and make a determination at a future meeting.

The Managers discussed providing payment to reimburse the Citizens Advisory committee for attending meetings for their time, mileage etc. after discussion Jon made a motion to set a stipend for $75.00 for incidental, necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties during the Citizens Advisory committee meeting. Seconded by Pete and carried. Att'y Kolb will draft a formal letter for next months meeting.

James reports unfortunately, our grant application was not funded. Many applications were submitted so this round was highly competitive. MPCA also said they don't anticipate any future funding for this grant. James asked Bret if there are any other opportunities to leverage funding to look at the effectiveness of storage/treatment
project locations mentioned in the Barr report or to find new locations as well. He said there may be potential with WBIF funding and suggested that Steve and James have a brainstorming meeting with him and other staff at Houston Engineering.

James reports legislature has made updates to the buffer law. Since TCWD has elected enforcement authority, James went to an afternoon training session to learn more. The main updates is now there is a definitive timeline with multiple steps for enforcement, and if an enforcement authority doesn't do their job, BWSR will take the authority and do their own enforcement. We will be required to adopt a new buffer ordinance to implement these changes. The document will come out within the next year or so. James will continue to monitor this update.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy K. Finley
Recording Secretary