

Minutes of the meeting of the Managers
Turtle Creek Watershed District
August 18th, 2026

The Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers met at the Government Center in Hollandale, Minnesota at 5 P.M. Present were Jon Erichson, Michelle O'Connor, Jeff Ravenhorst, Pete VanErkel, Steve Penkava and James Fett. Tony Dahl and Michael Miller attended remotely. Also attending the meeting were Dennis and Barry Magnuson, Jeanine Vorland and Chad Billat.

Jeff made a motion to accept the June 2026 minutes as presented seconded by Pete and carried. There were no July 2026 minutes due to a canceled meeting.

The Treasures report showed \$230,404.33 in checking. Jon made a motion to accept this report subject to audit seconded by Jeff and carried.

Jon distributed the financial report. There were no questions. Jon and Tony discussed the options they are working on to make the checking account more secure.

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

Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 7,005.11 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,113.67 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,204.46 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 3,068.39 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 5,731.48 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$34,885.00 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,304.49 (Deer Creek)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 8,680.30 (Goodrich Div)-Freeborn Const.
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 6,630.00 (brush control & spraying)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$14,704.15 (Constr. Staking & survey)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$17,230.20 (staking & administration)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 5,328.20 (routine Maintenance July)
Jones, Haugh, Smith Inc.	\$ 2,887.50 (routine Maintenance June)

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:

Peterson Company	\$ 6,200.00 (Financial Audit)
Accurant	\$ 200.00
Rinke Noonan	\$ 1,645.00
Cedar River Watershed	\$ 1,140.29
Mower SWCD	\$ 9,900.40

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

Dennis and Barry Magnuson attended the meeting to discuss ditch cleaning and buffer strips.

Jeanine reports Geneva Lake did have evidence of at least a minor summer fish kill during the extended warm spell last month. Most lakes in Freeborn County had some summer kill during this same time frame as did many lakes across Minnesota. The very warm water can cause heat stress in fish, especially northern pike and other species adapted to cool water. Warm water also holds less dissolved oxygen and that is a contributing factor. Geneva appears to have had good abundance of desired submersed aquatic vegetation but continues to be more turbid due to algae blooms. This indicates the lakes ecosystem is out of balance and unable to fully assimilate nutrients. All stop logs are in place in the dam.

An application for permit was submitted by Newry twsp for Bridge/Culvert replacement at 900th Ave South of CR105 Freeborn County Newry twsp SE ¼ section 23 R019. Freeborn Construction is the Contractor for this project. Pete made a motion to grant this application seconded by Jeff and carried. Permit number 08-01-26.

Jon presented a proposed Turtle Creek Administrative budget for the year 2027 in the amount of \$117,250.00. Pete made a motion to set the hearing date for Tuesday Sept. 15th at 5:15 P.M. at the regular meeting in the Government Center in Hollandale. Seconded by Jeff and carried. Nancy will submit publications in the Austin Daily Herald Mower County and the Albert Lea Tribune, Freeborn County.

James reported on the Turtle Creek Watershed District website and the federal law stating that all government websites must meet Americans with Disabilities Act criteria with the deadline was 2027 now have been moved to 2028. James reports Cody Fox and Tim Ruzek interviewed with six firms that offer services for website ADA compliance. After discussion Jon made a motion for TCWD to cost share 25% up to \$2125.00 with CRWD with a \$50.00 yearly maintenance/licensing fee with Aurora Web Solutions now based in Hollandale. Pete seconded the motion and carried.

James distributed copies of the financial statements ending December 31st, 2025 to each Manager.

Steve presented a summary and maps showing the location and extent of the crop damage for the Improvement to County Ditch No J27 project. Steve states damages should be paid in accordance with the 2026 Crop Damage Rate schedule. Pete made a motion to approve this report second by Jeff and carried.

Steve reported the Contractor for the Repair & Improvement of Freeborn County Ditch No J27 Hodgman Drainage Inc. has completed all the work in accordance with the plans and specifications and to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Steve provided the Final Estimate showing the Contract price, amounts paid to date and the unpaid balance. Steve recommends the Board accept the work and authorize final payment of the balance shown on the final Estimate.

The total project bid was \$457,730.30. Actual construction cost totaled \$428,438.84 a decrease of \$29,291.46 (6.8%). Pete made a motion to accept the work and authorize final payment of the balances. Seconded by Jon and carried.

Pete made a motion to set the hearing date for the Repair & Improvement of Freeborn County Ditch No J27 for Tuesday Sept 15th 2026 at 5:30P.M. at the regular TCWD meeting at the Government Center in Hollandale, seconded by Jon and carried. Steve will contact Freeborn County to publish the hearing dates.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Finley

Recording Secretary