

Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District Meeting Minutes
June 9th, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the MFCRWD Office

Board of Managers Present: Ruth Schaefer, Jay Hedtke, Jeff Gertgen, Shane Braegelman (virtual), Sara Sietsema.

Staff & Guests Present: Andy Johnson – District Administrator; Leah Melges – Office & Finance Manager; Erin Vruwink – Water Resources Specialist; Gavin Radabaugh – MFCRWD Summer Intern; Roger Imdieke – County Commissioner.

1. President Schaefer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. President Schaefer recited the District’s mission statement: “We exist for the protection and preservation of water quality in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District.”
3. Additions / Corrections to the Agenda: **A motion to approve the distributed agenda made by Manager Hedtke, seconded by Manager Sietsema. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Financial Report
 - i. Finance Report & Cash Balances
 - ii. Approval of Payables & Expenditures
 - iii. Resolution 2026-10 Annual Step Increase for Leah Melges
 - b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 12th, 2026.
Motion by Manager Sietsema, seconded by Manager Gertgen to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Discussion / Business Items
 - a. MFCRWD Annual Report for 2025 – Discussion
District Administrator Andy Johnson presented a draft of the 2025 Annual Report to the Board of Managers. The report highlighted District projects, programs, and events from the past year, including staff departures, ongoing Green Lake Federal 319 Grant projects, New London street improvement projects, the tentative drawdown of the Hubbard-Schultz-Wheeler Chain of Lakes, annual monitoring activities, education and outreach efforts, and an overview of the District’s financial condition.
 - b. GLPOA Aquatic Plant Survey Assistance Request – Discussion
The Green Lake Property Owners’ Association applied for funding assistance in the amount of \$5000 for a point-intercept survey by Blue Water Science. The quote was in the amount of \$6400 for 200m grid points. The MFCRWD Aquatic Plant Survey Program reimburses 75% of survey costs up to a maximum of \$5000, so the maximum reimbursement allowed to GLPOA for their survey reimbursement would be \$4800 (75% of their total cost).

Motion to approve funding assistance to the GLPOA in the amount of \$4800 for their point-intercept survey was made by Manager Gertgen, seconded by Manager Hedtke. Motion passed unanimously.

c. 2026 MN Watersheds Resolutions – Discussion

The MFCRWD Board of Managers received nine proposed resolutions for review and discussion. Managers were encouraged to submit any comments or recommended revisions during the 10-day review period prior to the resolutions being considered and voted on by the District's delegates at the Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour in July. Comments and recommendations were requested to be submitted to District Administrator Johnson by June 12, 2026.

d. Resolution 2026-11 Flow Monitoring for Load Estimates to Diamond Lake

Administrator Johnson and the Board of Managers discussed the installation of staff gauges and sensors at three additional Diamond Lake monitoring locations: DL1, DL6 and DL7. Stantec provided an estimated cost of \$7776 for equipment, rating curve development, load estimates, and project management. The project would be funded through the Diamond Subwatershed Fund.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 for the flow monitoring for load estimates to Diamond Lake was made by Manager Sietsema, seconded by Manager Hedtke. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Agenda Additions / Other Matters

None.

6. Reports & Updates

a. Administrator – Andy Johnson:

District Administrator Andy Johnson reported that he has been working on two potential rain garden/basin projects on two properties located on Elkhorn Lake and is considering contracting with MNL to complete the work. The project would be funded through a combination of Federal 319 grant dollars, 1W1P grant dollars, and District funds to meet the match requirement. Johnson also reported that two candidates have applied for the Project Coordinator position. He believes filling this position will help the District achieve its goals and plans to schedule interviews with the candidates. In addition, Johnson proposed purchasing a fishing kayak to assist with lake monitoring when only one staff member is available to conduct fieldwork.

b. Finance Manager – Leah Melges:

Finance Manager Leah Melges reported that lodging reservations have been made for Ruth, Sara, and Andy for the 2026 Summer Tour in Detroit Lakes, MN. Assistance was needed for a few remaining audit items, and the final audit report is on track to be completed by the June 30 deadline. Additionally, we received another reimbursement from Calhoun, a 1W1P reimbursement for a portion of the Tadd/Upper Subwatershed Study, as well as Meeker County's first-half 2026 property tax settlement. Property tax

settlements from the remaining three counties are expected to be received soon.

c. Water Resources Specialist – Erin Vruwink:

Water Resources Specialist Erin Vruwink reported that last month marked the start of the volunteer water sampling season. Wesbty Intern Grant Henjum was on-site throughout last week and assisted Summer Intern Gavin with water sampling, mapping the Mill Ponds, installing signage on Calhoun Lake, and participating in a biomonitoring training focused on macroinvertebrates in the Twin Cities. Vruwink also shared that she will have an educational table featuring macroinvertebrates at Kandi is Dandy Days on Saturday, June 13. In the coming weeks, she plans to plant annuals and perennials around the sign and may receive assistance from the Master Gardeners.

d. Summer Intern – Gavin Radabaugh:

Summer Intern Gavin Radabaugh reported that he is staying busy with site monitoring and mapping of various water bodies within the District.

e. District Engineer – Nick Wyers: Not present.

f. District Attorney – John Kolb: Not present.

g. Other Reports from Managers / Staff:

Manager Gertgen inquired about the City of New London's survey regarding the Mill Pond Nanobubble Project and whether there was public support or opposition. It was noted that if the City does not support the project, Representative Dave Baker should be notified so the bill can be withdrawn. Staff also reported that the hydrogen sulfide equipment has been installed and is currently operational.

7. Public Access Forum (*those desiring to speak, please share your name for the meeting record*):
None.

8. Adjournment: Motion made by Manager Sietsema, seconded by Manager Hedtke to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting declared adjourned by President Schaefer at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by,

Leah Melges

Recording Secretary

Office & Finance Manager

A roll call vote was conducted, with all members voting in favor.