West Interlake Watershed District
Box 732, 9 Main Street
Lundar, Manitoba R0C 1Y0

MINUTES OF MEETING NO.76-26

NAME	Executive Board	PAGE	Page **1** of **6**
LOCATION	WIWD Office	DATE	May 21, 2026

PRESENT:	T. Nevakshonoff	Chairperson	WIWD
	M. McLelland	Board Appointee/Vice Chair	WIWD
	S. Hofer	Director	Swan Creek Sub-District
	J. Stefanson	Director	Shoal Lake Sub-District
	C. Howse	Director	Lake St. Martin Sub-District
	D. Germain	Director	Dog Lake Sub-District
	J. Cruise	Provincial Appointee	WIWD / MAW
	B. Sigfusson	Board Appointee	WIWD
	C. Cuvelier	Watershed Planner	MECP
	I. Zotter	Manager/GROW Coordinator	WIWD
	D. Chartrand	Admin	WIWD
REGRETS:	B. Fleury	Director	Lake Francis Sub-District
WRITTEN BY:	D. Chartrand	Admin	WIWD

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	**Call To Order** T. Nevakshonoff called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.	
2.0	**Approval of Agenda** **<u>684-26: D. Germain – J. Stefanson</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approves the agenda as amended, to include the addition of 6.6 - Davis Point Boat Launch.	**CARRIED**
3.0	**Approval of Minutes** **<u>685-26: C. Howse – M. McLelland</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board adopted the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting #75-26, April 16th, 2026, as presented.	**CARRIED**
4.0	**Financial Report**	
4.1	**Bank Activity** The Chairperson reported that the transition to outsourced bookkeeping and payroll services is taking longer than anticipated. The Manager and staff continue to work with F.H. Black & Company Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. and Payworks to ensure the District's financial services operate smoothly	
5.0	**In Camera Discussion** D. Chartrand left the room. **<u>686-26: J. Cruise – D. Germain</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approves to move in-camera at 1:10 p.m. **<u>687-26: D. Germain – B. Sigfusson</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Board approves to move out-of-camera at 1:49 p.m.	**CARRIED** **CARRIED**

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	688-26: J. Cruise - D. Germain **WHEREAS** the Board, through Resolution 668-26, authorized the West Interlake Watershed District to seek an experienced Human Resources firm to provide advice on personnel, policies, and procedures; **WHEREAS** the District has reviewed available options and identified FHB as the preferred provider to support ongoing human resources and organizational needs; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approve engaging FHB to provide professional Human Resources services to the West Interlake Watershed District, on an as-required basis. **689-26: J. Stefanson – B. Sigfusson** **WHEREAS** the Board met in camera to review temporary operational needs and the reassignment of duties within the District; **WHEREAS** the Board agreed that the First Environmental Technician Assistant would assume additional responsibilities on an interim basis, with a corresponding temporary wage adjustment recorded in the confidential personnel file; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approve a temporary wage increase for the First Environmental Technician Assistant, retroactive to April 1, 2026, for the period during which the additional tasks are assigned, ending upon the conclusion of the interim assignment or further direction of the Board.	**CARRIED** **CARRIED**
6.0	**New Business**	
6.1	**WIWD Rates** Following discussion regarding rising fuel costs, comparisons with mileage rates used by other Watershed Districts, and the current provincial reimbursement rate, the Board agreed that an adjustment to the WIWD mileage rate was warranted. The Board reviewed the existing rate of $0.50/km and supported increasing it to reflect current operating conditions. **690-26: J. Stefanson – B. Sigfusson** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approve an increase to the West Interlake Watershed District mileage rate from $0.50 per kilometer to $0.56 per kilometer, effective retroactively to April 1, 2026.	**CARRIED**
6.2	**Trappers Workshop** The board discussed sponsoring a Trapper’s Workshop. A Board member noted that it may be possible to collaborate with the R.M. of Grahamdale on the event. Staff were directed to contact the R.M. to explore potential partnership options. The Board agreed that the WIWD would be responsible for covering the instructors’ fees and mileage. The manager will reach out to Ross Jeremy to determine the most suitable timing to host the workshop that will maximize participation. **691-26: B. Sigfusson – M. McLelland** **WHEREAS** the West Interlake Watershed District supports educational programming and community outreach initiatives within its boundaries; **WHEREAS** a Trappers Workshop has been proposed to be delivered within the WIWD region, featuring two qualified instructors; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** THAT the Board approve up to $1,500.00 to support the delivery of the Trappers Workshop within WIWD boundaries.	**CARRIED**

6.3	**Oak Hammock Marsh Field Trips** The board discussed the importance of youth in the district experiencing hands-on learning opportunities by attending Oak Hammock Marsh in person versus a virtual presentation. **<u>692-26: J. Cruise – C. Howse</u>** **WHEREAS** the West Interlake Watershed District supports educational programming that enhances watershed awareness and environmental stewardship among youth; **WHEREAS** Oak Hammock Marsh offers curriculum-aligned field trip programming that benefits students within the WIWD boundaries, including those attending Peonan Point School; **WHEREAS** the Board recognizes the value of providing experiential learning opportunities that connect students with local wetlands, wildlife, and conservation practices; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board approve funding of up to $2,500 to support Oak Hammock Marsh field trip days for schools located within the West Interlake Watershed District boundaries, including Peonan Point School.	**CARRIED**
6.4	**Additional GROW Committee Member** **<u>693-26: J. Cruise – D. Germain</u>** **WHEREAS** the GROW Committee has recommended the appointment of E. Hammel to the GROW Committee as the representative for agricultural producers, as per Resolution 294-26; **WHEREAS** the Board recognizes the need to maintain appropriate representation and expertise on the GROW Committee, and acknowledges that the GROW Guide requires that a minimum of 50% of Committee members be agricultural producers to ensure alignment with program requirements; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board appoint E. Hammel to the GROW Committee as the representative for agricultural producers;	**CARRIED**
6.5	**Radio Ad** The Board reviewed the Golden West Broadcasting Analytics Report from the previous year. With the term ending, the Board also reviewed radio advertising packages for the upcoming year. It was decided to split radio advertisement costs between two channels to increase reach within the district and to explore payment options other than credit cards. The Administrative and Outreach Coordinator was tasked with obtaining a quote from an additional broadcasting company located in the northern part of the district.	
6.6	**Davis Point Boat Launch** The Board discussed the proposed restoration of the Davis Point Boat Launch, which has been requested by ratepayers within the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale. The R.M. of Grahamdale approached the Board to determine whether a funding proposal could be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund on their behalf, as rural municipalities are not eligible applicants under the program. The R.M. of Grahamdale indicated willingness to assume responsibility for all required licences, permits, and liability insurance associated with the project.	

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7.0	**Old Business**	
7.1	**Narcisse DU Project** T. Nevakshonoff gave a verbal update	
7.2	**NW IWMP** Watershed Planner gave an update. The Climate Adaptation Planning Public Meeting #4 is set to take place on May 27th in Ashern, MB. The PMT meeting will take place after the next 'What We Heard Report' has been finalized.	
7.3	**RALP Program** The manager provided an update. Final and interim reports have been submitted**;** the District is awaiting the signing of Agreements under the newly approved funding. Staff noted that inquiries for Grassland Enhancement have been limited. Substantial funding remains available under the program; the District continues to seek additional applicants interested in seeding perennial forages.	
7.4	**GROW Program** The Manager provided an update. The 2023–2025 report has been completed. The Final Report for GROW 2024–2026 and the Interim Report for GROW 2025–2027 are due on May 30, 2026. The Board reviewed the GROW Committee meeting minutes and the current funding table.	
7.5	**PWCP** The Manager gave an update. The board reviewed a current PWCP Table with total values of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years. The manager noted the Technician is now entering projects to the data base and finalizing projects in progress. The Technician assistant is now taking on new project applications.	
7.6	**Conservation Trust** The Manager provided an update. Conservation trust Pollinator Garden outside the WIWD office is in progress. The project requires a donation of dirt; Technician is to reach out to G. Sigfusson. The Manager noted that the Conservation Trust Interim report is due May 30th.	
7.7	**Green Municipal Fund** Climate Adaptation Planning Public Meeting #4 is set to take place on May 27th, in Ashern, MB at 6:00 p.m. at the Lakeshore Regional Wellness Centre	
7.8	**Conservation and Climate Fund** Strategic Engineering completed the Project Report. ' WIWD Climate Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning' was reviewed by the board. Final Report is due May 30, 2026	

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7.9	**Water Testing Days** The 2026 WIWD Annual Water Testing Days have been confirmed for May 25th and June 29th.	
7.10	**Financial Operations and Payroll** The Manager reported the district is still in the process of transitioning to outsourced financial and payroll services. The manager has been working closely with Payworks representatives, and the first staff payroll through Payworks is expected to take place on May 28th. WIWD Member Remuneration is going to be completed through QuickBooks Online software.	
8.0	**Reports**	
8.1	**Manager** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.2	**Technician Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.3	**Environmental Technician Assistant Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.4	**Administrative and Outreach Coordinator Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.5	**Environmental Technician Assistant 2 Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.6	**Seasonal Resource Technician Assistant Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.7	**Seasonal Resource Technician Assistant 2 Report** Reviewed by the Board and filed at the office.	
8.8	**Chairperson Report** T. Nevakshonoff gave a verbal update.	
8.9	**MAW Rep Report** J. Cruise gave a verbal update. MAW recently completed a course offered by the Government of Manitoba, for Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The course was	

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	related to Respectful workplace practices. It was suggested that WIWD staff and board members may also benefit from completing this course.	
8.10	**Watershed Planner Report** Watershed Planning and Programs Provincial Update – May 2026 was provided in the meeting packages	
9.0	**Sub-District Recommendations** N/A	
9.1	**Report on the Climate and Disaster Mitigation Workshop** Tabled	
11.0	**Next Meeting:** **June 18, 2026** **1:00 p.m.** **WIWD Office**	
12.0	**ADJOURNMENT** **<u>694-26 J. Stefanson – B. Sigfusson</u>** **BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 4:12 p.m.**	**CARRIED**
	These minutes are the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors	
	Tom Nevakshonoff, Chairperson WIWD **Irina Zotter, Manager / GROW Coordinator WIWD**	