

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO.73-26**

NAME Executive Board  
 LOCATION WIWD Office

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 DATE February 27<sup>th</sup>, 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  
 B. Fleury (via phone) Director Lake Francis Sub-District  
 J. Cruise Provincial Appointee WIWD / MAW  
 C. Howse Director Lake St. Martin Sub District  
 B. Sigfusson Board Appointee WIWD  
 I. Zotter Manager/GROW Coordinator WIWD

REGRETS: C. Cuvelier Watershed Planner MECP  
 D. Germain Director Dog Lake Sub-District  
 D. Chartrand Admin WIWD

WRITTEN BY: I.Zotter Manager WIWD

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.0	<b>Call To Order</b> T. Nevakshonoff called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.	
2.0	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> <b>646-26: J. Stefanson – S. Hofer</b> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board approved the agenda as presented.	<b>CARRIED</b>
3.0	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <b>647-26: J. Cruise – M. McLelland</b> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board adopted the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting # 72-26, January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, as presented.	<b>CARRIED</b>
4.0	<b>Financial Report</b>	
4.1	<b>Bank Activity</b> I.Zotter presented the financial report: Access Credit Union Statement of Accounts from January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026 – January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026; Bank Account Transaction Report – January 10, 2026 – February 17, 2026. Collabria Credit Card Statement from November 29, 2025 – December 29, 2025. <b>648-26: S.Hofer – B. Sigfusson</b> <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board approves the following financial items: 1. Expenses from January 10, 2026, to February 17, 2026, totaling \$120,583.77 (cheque numbers #2543–2572; #2573 – voided; #2574–2576). 2. Access Credit Union Statement of Accounts for the period January 1–31, 2026. 3. Collabria Credit Card Statement for the period November 29, 2025 – December 29, 2025.	<b>CARRIED</b>

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6.3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seedling Give Away Initiative</b></p> <p>The Board reviewed the recommendations brought forward from the Sub-District meetings conducted in October 2025. One of the recommendations noted was that all Sub-District members supported the purchase of 5,000 seedlings for the 2026 season.</p> <p><b><u>654-26: J. Cruise – M. McLelland</u></b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approves</b> the purchase of 5,000 seedlings, consisting of 2,500 strawberry seedlings and 2,500 raspberry seedlings for the Free Seedlings Giveaway in the spring of 2026.</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
6.4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Well Head Protection Program</b></p> <p>The Board reviewed the Sub-District recommendations arising from the October 2025 meetings. All Sub-Districts recommended increasing the Well Water Protection Program cap from \$1,000 to \$1,500, with some Sub-Districts further advising that landowners be permitted to pay any costs exceeding the cap and that program requirements be monitored and updated as needed.</p> <p><b><u>655-26: J. Cruise – M. McLelland</u></b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board approves increasing the Well Water Protection Program funding cap from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 per project, effective immediately for the current fiscal year and onward, subject to available program funding.</p> <p><b>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> landowners may proceed with eligible projects where total costs exceed \$1,500.00, with the understanding that the landowner is responsible for all costs above the District's maximum contribution</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
6.5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Member Meeting</b></p> <p>The Board discussed scheduling for the upcoming All Members Meeting. The proposed date and time brought forward was May 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting to take place in Lundar.</p>	
6.6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Funding Workshops</b></p> <p>The Manager reported on the series of workshops being organized across the District to promote District programming. The first workshop took place in Portage on February 25 in collaboration with three other watershed districts, with M. Fines representing W/WD. The workshop scheduled for Warren was cancelled due to weather conditions. The next workshop, held jointly with East Interlake Watershed District, is scheduled for March 5 in Eriksdale, followed by workshops in Moosehorn on March 23 and in Lundar on April 20.</p> <p>The Manager also reported that Soil Health Workshops are being organized for March 26 in Portage and March 27 in Ashern, featuring Gary Zimmer, a world-renowned farmer, author, speaker, and biological farming consultant with over 40 years of agricultural experience. External funding will be utilized wherever possible to support these activities.</p> <p><b><u>656-26: B. Sigfusson - J. Cruise</u></b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board authorizes staff to organize a Soil Health Workshop, including securing Gary Zimmer as the keynote speaker, and to cover all associated speaker expenses, including flight tickets, accommodation, transportation, meals, and daily charges.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT</b> the Board approves all necessary logistical expenses related to the workshop, including but not limited to venue rental, advertising, event promotion, and providing lunch for participants, with the understanding that total expenditures may be significant and will be managed in accordance with available funding.</p> <p><b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT</b> staff are authorized to seek and secure external funding to support the workshop and offset the costs to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>

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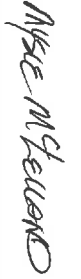
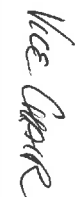

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	<p><b>PWCP</b></p> <p>Funds under the PWCP are currently fully allocated. An additional request for \$75,000 was submitted, and \$50,000 has been awarded. A Virtual Fence Project—the first of its kind in Manitoba funded through the PWCP—has been approved.</p> <p>The current FY-2025–2026 PWCP Projected Application Values were provided in the meeting package for the Board’s review.</p> <p>The projected total cost under the PWCP is \$1,077,088, which is slightly above the \$1,075,000 budget. These figures remain fluid and may change as projects are finalized.</p> <p>WIWD is currently accepting applications for the wait list for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.</p>	
<p><b>7.5</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation Trust (CT)</b></p> <p>2025-2026 project is currently in progress.</p> <p>Proposals titled “Sisal Twine as an Alternative to Plastic Twine – Reducing Micro-Plastics on Our Landscape,” requesting \$52,500.00, and “Gaining Indigenous Perspectives in the Development of Climate Adaptation Strategies in the West Interlake Watershed District,” requesting \$25,000.00, have been submitted. Grant notification is anticipated in April 2026.</p>	
<p><b>7.6</b></p>	<p><b>Green Municipal Fund</b></p> <p>The Manager reported that staff organized the first Climate Adaptation Planning Public Meeting on January 21, 2026, in Ashern. Attendance at this session was lower than anticipated due to adverse weather conditions. A second public meeting was held on January 29, 2026. Both meetings were dedicated to identifying local climate-related hazards and associated risk factors. Staff are compiling and summarizing the feedback received for inclusion in the forthcoming What We Heard document. Planning is underway for the next public meeting in March, with a focus on developing community-driven solutions.</p>	
<p><b>7.7</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation and Climate Fund</b></p> <p>No update was presented at this time.</p>	
<p><b>7.8</b></p>	<p><b>Seasonal Resource Technician</b></p> <p>The Manager reported that a significant number of applications were received. Approximately 25 applicants meet the established criteria, including several with exceptionally strong qualifications. One position has already been filled. The Manager will review all remaining applications and prepare a shortlist for interviews to be conducted by the Human Resources Committee.</p>	
<p><b>7.9</b></p>	<p><b>WIWD Manual and Policies</b></p> <p>At the previous meeting, Board members were presented with a draft of Section 19 – Vacation Time Policy. The Executive Board reviewed and discussed the draft, including a detailed examination of the potential for vacation carryover. Following deliberation, the Board resolved to adopt the proposed policy. A copy of the adopted policy is available at the office.</p> <p><b>658-26: B. Fleury – M. McLelland</b>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED</b> THAT the Board, having completed its review of Section 19 Vacation Entitlement of the Human Resources Policy Manual, hereby adopts the revised Vacation Policy as presented following its second reading.</p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>7.10</b></p>		

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11.0	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 20, 2026          1:00 p.m.          WIWD Office</p>	
12.0	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><u>659-26 – S. Hofer – B. Fleury</u>  <b>BE IT RESOLVED THAT we adjourn at 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
	<p>These minutes are the writer's best interpretation of discussions held during the meeting. Please inform the writer of any noteworthy omissions or errors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">     <u>Tom Nevakshonoff, Chairperson WIWD</u> </p> <p style="text-align: center;">   <u>Irina Zottler, Manager / GROW Coordinator WIWD</u> </p>	