

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Whetstone River Restoration Project	Findings and Order
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The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District considered the project plan and addendum for the Whetstone River Restoration Project presented by the Watershed District Engineer, Mark R. Deutschman, Houston Engineering, Inc.; the Watershed District’s basic watershed management plan; the report of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources dated February 13, 2015; the report of the Board of Water and Soil Resources dated February 20, 2015; and all public comments taken before and during the public hearing held on February 23, 2015.

Based on the record and proceedings, Manager Gillespie moved, seconded by Manager Meyer to adopt the following Findings and Order regarding the establishment of the Whetstone River Restoration Project:

FINDINGS

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103D.605 and its Watershed Management Plan, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (“District”) desires to undertake a project known as the Whetstone River Restoration Project (“Project”).
2. The District contracted with District Engineer, Mark R. Deutschman of Houston Engineering, Inc. and Houston Engineering, Inc. (the “Engineer”), to investigate the Project and draft a Project plan to accomplish restoration of the historic Whetstone River channel.
3. The Engineer completed the draft Project plan on June 5, 2014, and orally presented the report to the District Board of Managers on July 8, 2014, during the District’s regularly scheduled meeting. A copy of the draft Project plan is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **EXHIBIT A**.
4. The District convened a Technical Advisory Committee on October 21, 2014, to present Project restoration alternatives and receive comments from potentially affected landowners; the Department of Natural Resources; Grant County, South Dakota; Big Stone County, Minnesota; and other interested parties and agencies.

