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RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

**Mounds View City Hall Council Chambers
2401 County Road 10, Mounds View, Minnesota**

**Virtual Monitoring via Zoom Webinar
Details available 4/4/2025 on RCWD website:
<https://www.ricecreek.org/event/04-09-2025-board-meeting/>**

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests opportunity for discussion:

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-015	Brighton and American Sandblasting	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan Floodplain Alteration Public/Private Drainage System	CAPROC 14 items

It was moved by Manager _____ and seconded by Manager _____, to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer’s Findings and Recommendations, dated April 2, 2025.

Water Quality Grant Program Cost Share Application (Molly Nelson)

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R25-02	Charlotte Reed	White Bear Lake	Raingarden	\$12,825.41	Volume: 5,733 cu-ft/yr TSS: 19.52 lbs/yr TP: 0.107 lbs/yr	75% cost share of \$12,825.41 not to exceed 75%; or \$10,000 whichever cost is lower

It was moved by Manager _____ and seconded by Manager _____, to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD Outreach and Grants Technician’s Recommendations dated April 3, 2025.

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

Any RCWD resident may address the Board in his or her individual capacity, for up to three minutes, on any matter not on the agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record. Additional comments may be solicited and accepted in writing. Generally, the Board of Managers will not take official action on items discussed at this time, but may refer the matter to staff for a future report or direct that the matter be scheduled on an upcoming agenda.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. Open Meeting Law – RCWD (Nick Tomczik)
2. Curlyleaf Pondweed Management Agreements (Matt Kocian)
3. RCWD Annual Report Approval (Kendra Sommerfeld)
4. Anoka County Ditch #72 Maintenance Work Order (Tom Schmidt)
5. Check Register Dated April 9, 2025, in the Amount of \$109,611.87 Prepared by Redpath and Company

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

1. District Engineer Updates and Timeline
2. Administrator Updates
3. Manager Updates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 26, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

DRAFT

1
2 For Consideration of Approval at the April 9, 2025 Board Meeting.
3 Use these minutes only for reference until that time.
4

REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Mounds View City Hall Council Chambers
2401 County Road 10, Mounds View, Minnesota
and
Meeting also conducted by alternative means
(teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote locations

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Michael Bradley called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Michael Bradley, 1st Vice-Pres. John Waller, 2nd Vice-Pres. Steve Wagamon, Secretary Jess Robertson, and Treasurer Marcie Weinandt

Absent: None

Staff Present: District Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Project Manager David Petry, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); District Attorney John Kolb from Rinke Noonan

Visitors: City of Columbus: Council Member Janet Heglund and Administrator Jack Davis, Dan Coughlin, Chris Stowe, Catherine Decker

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

District Administrator Tomczik requested that the agenda move the informational item regarding the City of Columbus Wetland Credit to #3 under Action Items.

***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried 5-0.***

31

READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

32

Minutes of the March 10, 2025, Workshop and March 12, 2025, Board of Managers Regular Meeting. Motion by *Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.*

35

36

CONSENT AGENDA

37

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests an opportunity for discussion:

38

39

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

40

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-020	Lexington Meadows LLC	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 6 items
25-023	Anoka County Highway Department	Fridley	Final Site Drainage Plan Street & Utility Plan	CAPROC 4 items

41

42

It was moved by Manager Wagamon and seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer’s Findings and Recommendations, dated March 18, 2025. Motion carried 5-0.

49

WCA APPLICATION REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

50

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
24-076	KCR Investments, LLC City of Lino Lakes	Lino Lakes	Wetland Alteration	Approve with Conditions

53

54

Regulatory Manager Hughes stated that this was only a WCA sequencing application but noted that a complete RCWD permit application had been received recently and is under review.

56

It was moved by Manager Bradley and seconded by Manager Weinandt, to conditionally approve WCA sequencing application 24-076 as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD Regulatory Manager’s Findings and Recommendations, dated March 26, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

60

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION: RAMSEY COUNTY DITCH #1 DRAINAGE SYSTEM RECORD CORRECTION

61

President Bradley explained that the Board had held the initial public hearing on January 22, 2025, where a number of residents addressed the Board that shared their various concerns. He noted that they also heard about some concerns from the DNR related to the height of the crossing under the bridge.

63

66 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to recess the regular Board meeting and***
67 ***continue the Public Hearing for RCD #1 Drainage System Record Correction. Motion carried 5-0.***

68 District Attorney Kolb explained that this was a continuation of the original hearing and noted that all public
69 comment had been received and unless the President allowed, no further public comment would be taken
70 on this matter. Following the initial hearing, the Board had directed the District Engineer to conduct
71 further evaluation and analysis of the conditions created by the current elevation of the culvert at County
72 Rd I and Hamline Avenue. The Board had reviewed the District Engineer's report dated February 28, 2025,
73 and additional review of that report would also take place today. Under consideration was the
74 reestablishment of record for RCD-1, according to State Drainage Code, Statute §103E.101, subd. 4a, which
75 allowed the Drainage Authority, after investigation, to determine the alignment, cross-section, profile, and
76 right-of-way of a drainage system that it administered. The Board initiated this process after an additional
77 investigation indicating that some of the records indicating those 'as constructed' were missing or lost, and
78 as part of that, the District Engineer was appointed to do the initial investigation and submitted a report,
79 which was reviewed. The Board's decision on the petition has to be based on the weight of the evidence
80 presented and considered in the proceedings. If the Drainage Authority determined that the weight of
81 evidence supported the recommended alignment, cross-section, profile, hydraulic structure locations,
82 materials, dimensions, and elevations in the right-of-way of the drainage system, it may adopt the
83 recommendation as the reestablished record of the as-constructed conditions. The Board was free to
84 revise the recommendation and adopt alternative 'as constructed' condition, as supported by the weight
85 of the evidence.

86 District Engineer Otterness gave an overview of the follow-up items that the Board had requested have
87 additional review, including investigation on the impact of repairs via District-model modeling; inquiry to
88 County for records for County I/Hamline Avenue at RCD-1; and coordination with MnDNR regarding intent
89 of their letter. He briefly reviewed the documentation that was provided by Ramsey County and explained
90 that the conclusions from the prior report of the ACSIC condition were not changed because of the
91 documents that were received. He explained that they had a follow-up discussion with the DNR on January
92 28, 2025, regarding the comments they had provided in their letter. He stated that in the meeting, the
93 DNR had indicated that they did not disagree with the ACSIC that was portrayed in their report but wanted
94 to express the position that the profile of the drainage system that was provided would result in potential
95 impacts to public waters that would require regulatory permitting from the DNR, if a repair was done to the
96 as constructed grade. He noted that it was important to note that the District did not have an obligation
97 to do repairs to that grade, but the DNR wanted to get ahead of that in a public forum, in order to provide
98 an indication of the DNR's regulatory authority. He stated that they also did some hydraulic modeling to
99 determine what the impacts would be in the neighboring areas from a hydraulic standpoint. He reviewed
100 Alternative 1: Lower Hamline Avenue culvert invert to ACSIC, and Alternative 2: Increase Hamline Avenue
101 culvert capacity to the 25-year design event. He reviewed the conclusion from the modeling that lowering
102 the RCD-1 culvert at Hamline Avenue would not result in a significant reduction in flooding/wetness for
103 upstream properties. He noted that Ramsey County, as the Road Authority, was responsible for the Hamline
104 Avenue culvert and would be the ones to determine the appropriate culvert sizing and roadway elevation

105 to meet their desired level of service and risk tolerance. He noted that for any repair project, the District
106 must weigh the benefits of the repair against the associated environmental impacts and cost.

107 Manager Wagamon asked if the records found matched the original ACSIC that the District had.

108 District Engineer Otterness stated that was correct and had provided an identical grade/slope of the ditch
109 as what the District had recommended.

110 Office Manager Stasica interjected into the Board's discussion and explained that they had malicious and
111 inappropriate content that had interrupted their meeting online, and suggested that the Board let the
112 people know who were trying to participate via Zoom to contact the office with questions or comments
113 they had wanted to make during the meeting.

114 President Bradley asked if the Board should postpone their vote because of the issues with the online
115 meeting participation.

116 District Administrator Tomczik suggested that District Attorney Kolb run through where he had included
117 the engineers report and other responses to comments in the proposed order.

118 District Attorney Kolb referenced page 47 of the packet, proposed Resolution No. 2025-02, which contained
119 findings and an order which was consistent with staff's recommendation to adopt the ACSIC, including the
120 alignment, grade, dimensions, all of the data related to culverts and crossings as well as right-of-way that
121 was recommended by the District Engineer in their report. The order also addressed the specific nature
122 of the comments that were made at the public hearing, the actions the Board took to investigate those
123 comments, and included the District Engineer's general recommendations regarding the adoption of ACSIC
124 and the information and analysis of the additional investigation. The Board was welcome to act today if it
125 found that the findings and the order were consistent with its intent or, they could continue this to another
126 date, time and location, and explained that he would prefer that the Board announce that information on
127 the record so they would not have to re-notice the hearing, at which time the Board could give the findings
128 and order further consideration and also consider any specific comments that may come through the
129 invitation that was just extended for people to contact the office. He stated that it was up to the Board
130 and reminded them that at the last public hearing, they had taken all available public comments and had
131 closed the public comment portion of the hearing. He clarified that unless they chose to re-open the
132 public comment section, the Board had the discretion to act on this item today, if it met their intent.

133 President Bradley stated that all they would be doing today was setting the ACSIC and stated that he
134 assumed that anyone interested in commenting today most likely had concerns about repairs rather than
135 the ACSIC, so he felt it would be appropriate for the Board to close this aspect of the process.

136 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to close the public hearing on RCD #1***
137 ***Drainage System Record Correction and reopen the Regular Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.***

138

139 President Bradley reiterated that the only action the Board would be taking today would be to establish the
140 ACSIC and noted that they had not heard any evidence that was found to be incorrect.

141 **Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt Resolution 2025-02 Findings And**
142 **Order Reestablishing And Correcting Drainage System Record For Ramsey County Ditch 1 (Statutes**
143 **§103E.101, subd. 4a):**

144 Therefore, the RCWD Board of Managers makes the following:

145
146 **ORDER**
147

148 The Board of Managers hereby reestablishes and corrects the drainage system record of RCD 1 to reflect
149 the alignment; cross-section; profile; hydraulic structure locations, materials, dimensions, and elevations;
150 and right-of-way of the drainage system as detailed in the engineer’s Technical Memorandum dated April
151 10, 2024, attached as **Exhibit A** to this Order.
152

153 Manager Robertson stated that she had a schedule conflict the night of the public hearing and asked for
154 clarification that there were no comments regarding what they were currently discussing, and was just
155 general apprehension about the project itself. She asked how the Board would deal with comments from
156 the individuals who had wanted to offer them online today. She stated that the packet stated that this item
157 was ‘informational’ and asked if the Board was on a timeline, because she wanted to be fair to the public
158 commenters, if there happened to be appropriate ones. She explained that she wanted to ensure that
159 the Board was leaving space for public engagement, if there were comments on this specific action.

160 President Bradley suggested that staff report back to the Board at their next meeting with information
161 about the substance of the comments that may come in.

162
163 **ROLL CALL:**

164 **Manager Bradley – Aye**

165 **Manager Robertson – Aye**

166 **Manager Waller – Aye**

167 **Manager Weinandt – Aye**

168 **Manager Wagamon – Aye**

169 **Motion carried 5-0**

170 **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**

171 Catherine Decker, 614 Pine Street, Lino Lakes, expressed concerns about a ditch project near her home that
172 has caused drainage issues and flooding for neighbors. She questioned the Rice Creek Watershed District's
173 actions, including the lowering of culverts and potential obstruction of water flow by sod farmers.

174 Dan Coughlin, Vice President of Operations and Facilities at University of Northwestern, introduced himself
 175 to the Board and explained that he used to be the District Administrator for the Middle Fork/Crow River
 176 Watershed District, was a former Board member for the Sauk River Watershed, and used to live next door
 177 to former RCWD Manager Haake. He noted that he planned to work with District staff to try to figure out
 178 ways to preserve, protect, and enhance Lake Johanna and Little Johanna that was located near their
 179 campus.

180 Christopher Stowe, 426 Pine Street, echoed the same concerns as Ms. Decker. He highlighted the negative
 181 impact on his property due to improper drainage and culvert placement. Both Mr. Stowe and Ms. Decker
 182 urged the board to address these issues and maintain the ditches properly before approving new
 183 developments in the area.

184 **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

185 **1. 2024 District Financial Reports and Audit**

186 District Administrator Tomczik stated the District had worked with Redpath and Company on the
 187 2024 Annual Financial Report and Audit and explained that the results were a ‘clean’ audit. He
 188 noted that there is a letter that references Internal Control and explained that the auditors had not
 189 identified any deficiencies that they considered to be a material weakness. There is also a letter
 190 related to Minnesota Legal Compliance that stated that nothing had come to the attention of the
 191 auditor that would cause them to believe that the District failed to comply with provisions of the
 192 Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions. He explained that there
 193 was a block of text within the packet memo that was no longer relevant because, yesterday, the City
 194 of Circle Pines paid the previously unpaid invoice in the amount of \$45,800. He noted that Rebekah
 195 Peterson, with Redpath and Company was available virtually if the Board had any questions.

196
 197 ***Motion by Manager Wagamon, seconded by Manager Bradley, to accept and authorize the filing***
 198 ***of the Rice Creek Watershed District 2024 Annual Financial Report and Audit.***

199
 200 Manager Robertson stated that District Administrator Tomczik referenced that the outstanding
 201 invoice had been paid by the City of Circle Pines, so if they approve the report, as stated, it may be
 202 helpful to amend the motion to ensure the statement on page 12 and statement 3 on page 14, were
 203 removed, because the invoice had been paid.

204
 205 Manager Weinandt clarified that this was the reflection from 2024, and the invoice was paid in 2025.

206
 207 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

208
 209 Manager Weinandt noted that she felt Redpath and Company had, once again, done a very thorough
 210 job, which they were able to do because of the great work done by Office Manager Stasica.

211
 212 **2. MS4 Permit – Petition for Reevaluation Form**

213 Project Manager Petry gave an overview of the MS4 permit program and explained that the District
214 currently held a permit from the MPCA because portions of the District’s public drainage system
215 were located within what MPCA defined as an ‘urbanized area’. He stated that current
216 communications with the MPCA have suggested that the District may no longer meet the
217 requirements to be regulated by an MS4 permit, because it was a public drainage system. He gave
218 a brief outline of the communication that had taken place between the District and the MPCA and
219 explained that the MPCA had asked the District to formally submit a petition for re-evaluation of the
220 applicability of the MS4 permit to the District as outlined in Minn. R. 7090.1010, Subp. 4.

221
222 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to authorize the Administrator to sign***
223 ***and submit the MS4 Petition for Reevaluation Form to the MPCA. Motion carried 5-0.***
224

225 **3. City of Columbus Wetland Credit Inquiry**

226 District Administrator Tomczik referenced a memo on page 197 of the packet and noted that in front
227 of them at the dais, there were also copies of recent communication that had been received from
228 the City of Columbus. He explained that Jack Davis, City Administrator, and City Council Member
229 Janet Heglund from the City of Columbus were here to address the Board.

230
231 Columbus City Council Member Heglund shared some background and history of the situation, in
232 order to help the Board understand how everything got to this point. She explained that they had a
233 bill into the legislature requesting funding to pay for the last 1,200 feet of Hornsby Street NE, which
234 had not been improved. She noted that they were also planning a trail to go along that road and
235 explained that the cost for the trail and wetland mitigation was not eligible for the local government
236 roads wetland replacement program. She outlined the estimated cost from their engineer for
237 Columbus’ share of the wetland impacts for the trail portion and stated that their request was
238 related to an MOA that existed in 2009, where there was an agreement that if there were projects
239 that Columbus would entertain that required wetland credits, that they could then come to the
240 District and make a request which is what they were doing today. She stated that there are .14
241 acres of wetland credits that would be required for the trail, which was valued at about \$18,000.

242
243 Manager Weinandt asked if Forest Lake also needed wetland credits.

244
245 Columbus Council Member Heglund stated that Forest Lake does have wetland replacement
246 obligations yet did not need wetland credits and explained that they were purchasing them with the
247 \$4.5 million that they received.

248
249 President Bradley stated that this was an issue of credits versus compensation and explained that
250 the District’s letter to the City said that they recognized the complexity of that whole transaction
251 from the past, but had essentially said that if Columbus found a project that would fall within the
252 District processes, the District would see what they may be able to do for them, but would have to
253 balance their request against all the other requests the District received. He stated that, for example,

254 he did not believe that the District could give Columbus credits out of its bank, because this was not
255 a water quality or a flooding issue and was a development issue but felt that there was support to
256 give Columbus the \$18,006.52, as a payment in recognition of the claims that they has as a result of
257 the very complex situation from the past.

258
259 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Wagamon, that in response to the request***
260 ***from the City of Columbus, the District would issue payment in the amount of \$18,006.52, in***
261 ***recognition of their contribution to the development of Brown’s Preserve, as alternative***
262 ***compensation, rather than the use of wetland credits.***

263
264 Manager Wagamon asked if this action would satisfy the City of Columbus regarding the wetland
265 credit issue.

266
267 Columbus Council Member Heglund confirmed that it would satisfy the City of Columbus.

268
269 Manager Weinandt asked if they would buy credits out of the Butterfly bank.

270
271 Columbus Council Member Heglund explained that Columbus would not, but Forest Lake would be
272 buying out of the Butterfly Bank.

273
274 Manager Waller stated that the .14 wetland credits were equal to \$18,006.25 and asked if Columbus
275 planned to just send a check to Forest Lake who would then take care of the trail.

276
277 Columbus Council Member Heglund confirmed that is what would happen, because Forest Lake
278 would be the primary contractor.

279
280 Manager Waller noted that the District had worked on trails before and asked District Administrator
281 Tomczik for some additional details.

282
283 District Administrator Tomczik explained that he saw the money coming out of the Clear Lake Fund
284 and noted that the project referenced by Columbus Council Member Heglund was on the District’s
285 project list because shoreline stabilization was a subset of the roadwork. He noted that there was
286 a good bit of public use, fishing pressure, that took place in that area and stated that a trail would
287 allow the public to access the area.

288
289 Manager Waller stated that he felt that using these funds for trails was a reasonable use.

290
291 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

292
293 **4. Check Register March 26, 2025, in the Amount of \$88,298.63 Prepared by Redpath and Company**
294

295 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to approve the check register***
 296 ***dated March 26, 2025, in the Amount of \$88,298.63 and March Interim Financial Statements***
 297 ***prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 5-0.***
 298

299 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

300 **1. Stantec Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Agreements**

301 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that the District had a yearly contract for the
 302 annual maintenance work required for the Iron Enhance Sand Filters (IESF), which, in the past, was
 303 with Davey Resource Group (DRG). He explained that for 2025, the District had engaged with
 304 Stantec, Inc. to conduct this maintenance work and noted that the cost would be comparable to
 305 what was paid to DRG. He reviewed the contract pricing for Hansen Park and Bald Eagle IESFs and
 306 explained that each individual contract was below the threshold for approval by the Board
 307 President, but since the total amount exceeded that authority, staff wanted to share this
 308 information with the Board to ensure transparency and clarity.
 309

310 **2. Staff Reports**

311 Manager Weinandt referenced one of the staff reports that mentioned that one of the District's
 312 newer hires had the pleasure of removing 6 cabinets worth of paper.
 313

314 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District still had some paper files and staff was
 315 working on going through them, scanning them to retain the records, but also dispose of the paper.
 316

317 **3. April Calendar**

318 President Bradley noted that Manager Wagamon was slated to attend the CAC meeting and asked
 319 if he would be able to attend.
 320

321 Manager Wagamon stated that he would be able to attend.
 322

323 Manager Weinandt explained that she would not be in attendance on April 23, 2025.
 324

325 **4. Administrator Updates**

326 District Administrator Tomczik stated that there was some recent staff training where they reviewed
 327 the regulatory program and its interaction with the other District programs and also had a
 328 presentation on the District's glacial geology. He reiterated that the City of Circle Pines had paid
 329 their past due invoice and were seeking some long-term sediment maintenance support for its
 330 Golden Lake Pond. He explained that he had reached out to Representative Gottfried for the next
 331 steps regarding the proposed bill on RCD-2,3, and 5. He noted that since the District's audit had
 332 been formally adopted, staff would engage with the 4M Fund and take a look at the District's
 333 investments.
 334

335 **5. Managers Update**

336 Manager Waller stated that he felt some of the questions raised today, while the Board was
337 discussing ACD 10-22-32 could be answered by reviewing the original ditch records and asked staff
338 to dig those records out for the Board to review.

339
340 President Bradley asked if he wanted staff to pull out the engineer's report that was adopted and
341 the ACSIC documents.

342
343 Manager Waller stated that he planned to go home and dig in his boxes from 2008, 2009, and 2010
344 and see what he had as well.

345
346 Manager Wagamon stated that he agreed that it would be a good idea to review some of the older
347 records on ACD 10-22-32 to have more background information.

348
349 District Administrator Tomczik stated that staff was working on a conditions report for the Board
350 related to the culvert at Pine Street, and he felt what Managers Waller and Wagamon were
351 discussing would also fit in nicely with that type of information on ACD 10-22-32 as well.

352
353 President Bradley stated that he had attended the Minnesota Watersheds hearing, and they had
354 passed the resolutions. He noted that he wanted to officially acknowledge that the District had
355 received compensation from the City of Circle Pines for a past due invoice and expressed his
356 appreciation to Manager Robertson and Manager Wagamon for their participation in that process.

357
358 **ADJOURNMENT**

359 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Robertson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.***
360 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

361

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests opportunity for discussion:

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-015	Brighton and American Sandblasting	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan Floodplain Alteration Public/Private Drainage System	CAPROC 14 items

It was moved by Manager _____ and seconded by Manager _____, to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated April 2, 2025.

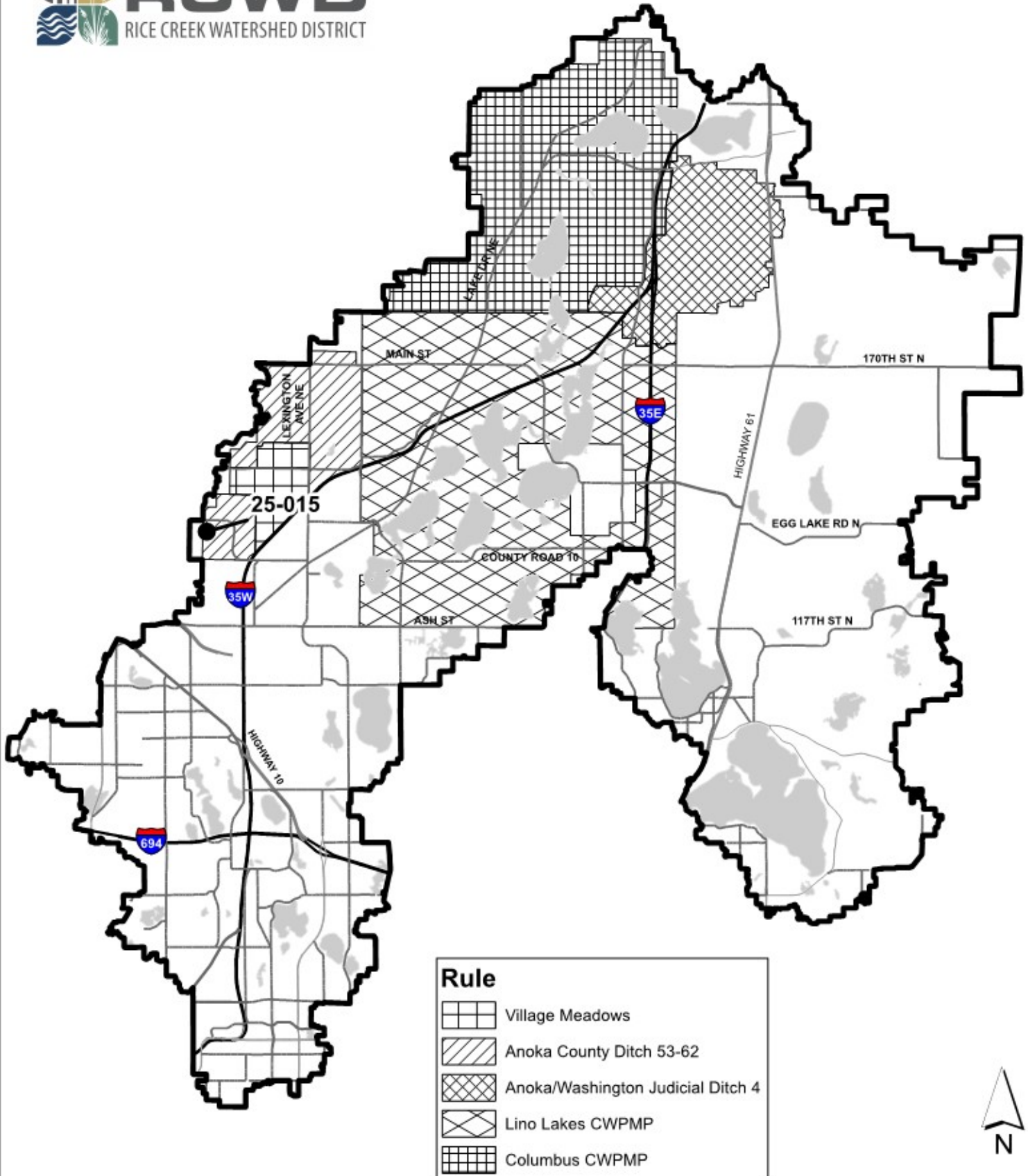
**RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CONSENT AGENDA**






April 9, 2025

It was moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to Approve, Conditionally Approve Pending Receipt Of Changes, or Deny, the Permit Application noted in the following Table of Contents, in accordance with the District Engineer’s Findings and Recommendations, as contained in the Engineer’s Findings and Recommendations, as contained in the Engineer’s Report dated April 2nd, 2025.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

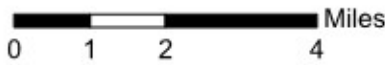
Permit Application Number	Applicant	Page	Recommendation
	Permit Location Map	16	
25-015	Brighton and American Sandblasting	17	CAPROC



Rule	
	Village Meadows
	Anoka County Ditch 53-62
	Anoka/Washington Judicial Ditch 4
	Lino Lakes CWPMP
	Columbus CWPMP



Permit Reviews
04/09/2025 Agenda





WORKING DOCUMENT: This Engineer's report is a draft or working document of RCWD staff and does not necessarily reflect action by the RCWD Board of Managers.

Permit Application Number:

25-015

Permit Application Name:

Brighton and American Sandblasting

Applicant/Landowner:

American Sandblasting
Attn: Andy Noren
9901 Xylite St NE
Blaine, MN 55449
Ph: 763-784-6925
andy@brightonsandblasting.com

Permit Contact:

Classic Construction
Attn: Kristin Erickson
18542 Ulysses Street NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
Ph: 763-434-8870
Fx: 763-434-7120
kristin@classicconstructioninc.com

Plowe Engineering, Inc.
Attn: Mohammad Abughazleh
6776 Lake Drive Suite 110
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
Ph: 651-361-8237
moe@plowe.com

Project Name: Brighton and American Sandblasting

Purpose: FSD – Final Site Drainage, PDS – Public/Private Drainage System, FA – Floodplain Alteration; Building construction. The project will also complete berm removal and restoration of PDS ACD 53-62 Br 5 Lat 2

Site Size: Two parcels totaling 15.0± acres / 1.32± acres of disturbed area; existing and proposed impervious areas are 4.80 ± acres and 4.57 ± acres, respectively

Location: 9901 Xylite St NE, Blaine

T-R-S: NW ¼, Section 27, T31N, R23W

District Rule: C, D, E, I, ACD 53-62 CWPMP

Recommendation: CAPROC

It is recommended that this Permit Application be given Conditional Approval Pending Receipt of Changes (CAPROC) and outstanding items related to the following items:

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Rule C - Stormwater

1. Per Rule C.9(d), stormwater ponds must be designed to provide:
 - (3) An outlet structure capable of preventing migration of floating debris and oils for at least the one-year storm;
 - (4) An identified emergency overflow spillway sufficiently stabilized to convey flows for greater than the 100-year critical storm event. Applicant must stabilize down to the wetland; and

- (5) An outlet structure to control the 2-year, 10-year & 100-year frequency events. Per Rule A, an outlet control structure is defined as a permanent structure with rigid overflow designed to control peak flow rates. A riprap-covered berm is not considered a rigid overflow.

Rule D – Erosion and Sediment Control

2. Submit the following information per Rule D.4:
- (c) Name, address and phone number of party responsible for maintenance of all erosion and sediment control measures.
- (h) Provide documentation that an NPDES Permit has been applied for and submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Rule F – Wetland Alteration

3. Applicant must provide shape file of wetland boundaries; a condition of approval of the type and boundary delineation.
4. As a condition of permit issuance under Rule F.6(e)(9), a property owner must file on the deed a declaration, in a form approved by the District, establishing a vegetated buffer area adjacent to the delineated wetland edge within the final WMC and other wetland buffers approved as part of a permit under this Rule. A draft must be submitted for review prior to recordation.
5. The property owner must convey to the District and record or register, in a form acceptable to the District, a perpetual, assignable easement over the WMC.
6. A map of the final WMC boundary must be prepared and submitted for approval, and a GIS shapefile or CADD file of the final WMC boundary shall be submitted to the District.
7. The applicant must provide a buffer signage plan including proposed signage and placement location for District consideration.

Rule I – Drainage Systems

8. Applicant must provide an easement that includes the channel and the area on each side of the channel within 20 feet of top of bank specifying and encompassing a District right of maintenance access for the public drainage system.
9. Applicant must submit a copy of the dewatering plan (if applicable).

Administrative

10. Email one final, signed full-sized pdf of the construction plan set. Include a list of changes that have been made since approval by the RCWD Board. Final plans must include the following:
- Update the pond outlet control structure as noted in Condition 1.
11. Submit a copy of the recorded plat or easements establishing drainage or flowage over stormwater management facilities, stormwater conveyances, ponds, wetlands, on-site floodplain up to the 100-year flood elevation, or any other hydrologic feature (if easements are required by the City of Blaine).
12. The applicant must provide an updated Declaration for Maintenance of Stormwater Management Facilities acceptable to the District. See Finding 8.
13. The applicant must provide an attested copy of any and all signed and notarized legal document(s) from the County Recorder. Applicant may wish to contact the County Recorder to determine recordation requirements prior to recordation.

14. The applicant must submit a surety of \$14,200 along with an original executed escrow agreement acceptable to the District. If the applicant desires an original copy for their records, then two original signed escrow agreements should be submitted. The applicant must provide the first \$5000 in the form of a check and has the option of providing the remainder of the surety amount in the form of a check or a Performance Bond or Letter of Credit. The surety is based on \$1,000 for 1.32 acres of disturbance, and \$13,200 for 26,404 CF of storm water treatment.

Stipulations: The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Provide an as-built survey of all stormwater BMPs (ponds, rain gardens, trenches, swales, etc.) to the District for verification of compliance with the approved plans before return of the surety.
2. Provide an as-built of the reestablished public drainage system channel including a cross-section and ditch bottom shots.
3. Installation of permanent, freestanding markers at development side edge of buffer, wetland or otherwise, with a design and text approved by District staff in writing and in compliance with the approved plans

Exhibits:

1. Plan set containing 10 sheets dated 3-4-2025 and received 3-5-2025
2. Certificate of survey, dated 1-31-2025 and received 2-6-2025
3. MS4 Permit application receipt, received 2-6-2025
4. Stormwater Calculations, dated 2-4-2025 and received 2-6-2025, containing narrative, drainage maps, HydroCAD report for the 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year rainfall events for proposed and existing conditions
5. Geotechnical report, dated 12-18-2024 and received 2-6-2025.
6. Review file 24-208R, permit file 04-021.

Findings:

1. Description – The project proposes the construction of a replacement commercial building on two parcels totaling 15.0± acres located in Blaine. The project also proposes to remove an obstruction to ACD 53-62 Branch 5 Lat 2 caused by a BMP constructed in the wrong location under permit 04-021. The project will decrease the impervious area from 4.80± acres to 4.57± acres and disturb 1.32± acres overall. Drainage from the site flows to the wetland surrounding ACD 53-62 Branch 5 Lat 2 and ultimately to Golden Lake, the Resource of Concern. The applicant has submitted a \$3,000 application fee for a Rule C permit creating less than 5 acres of new and/or reconstructed impervious surface.
2. Stormwater – The applicant is proposing the BMPs as described below for the project:

Proposed BMP Description	Location	NURP requirement	Volume provided	EOF
NURP (pond)	East of proposed building	26,404± cubic feet	33,289± cubic feet below the outlet	904.1

Soils on site range from HSG D clayey sand (SC) fill with underlying HSG A/B poorly graded sands and silty sands below (SP/SM). Infiltration is not considered feasible due to the high-water table and

the NURP pond is acceptable to meet the water quality requirement. The new/reconstructed impervious area required to be treated is 47,636± cubic feet (12,672± square feet for the building reconstruction and 34,964± square feet due to the removal of permit 04-021 BMP. Per Rule C.6(c)(1), the Water Quality requirement is governed by the NURP sizing requirement of 2.5-inches of run-off over the contributing area to the pond.

The applicant must address Condition 1. Otherwise, the pond sizing, and outlets and overflows are consistent with the design criteria of Rule C.9(d). The applicant has treated greater than 100% of the required impervious area, partially in lieu. Additional TSS removal is not practicable. The applicant has met all the Water Quality requirements of Rule C.6.

Point of Discharge	2-year (cfs)		10-year (cfs)		100-year (cfs)	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
To ACD 53-62	21.0	18.0	32.0	28.3	56.8	50.9

The project is not located within the Flood Management Zone. The applicant has complied with the rate control requirements of Rule C.7.

Since the run-off volume will decrease, the project will comply with the bounce and inundation requirements of Rule C.8. The applicant has complied with the freeboard requirements of Rule C.9(h).

3. Wetlands – Wetlands were delineated under review file 24-208R with boundary decision issued on 2-10-2025, which remains valid. The delineation included identification of an existing stormwater BMP found to be partially constructed in upland. The portions of the BMP in upland are found to be incidental under MN Rule 8420.0105 Subpart 2.

The proposed obstruction removal to ACD 53-62 Branch 5 Lat 2 (described under Finding #7) is not anticipated to result in permanent wetland impact. The work will occur predominantly within the incidental portions of the BMP and no work is proposed downstream of the BMP area. Any potential wetland impact during this work would qualify for no-loss for temporary impact.

The project area is located within the Anoka County Ditch 53-62 CWPMP boundary and is subject to Wetland Management Corridor (WMC) requirements. District staff and the TEP observed limited vegetated upland buffer during a site visit on 1-6-2025; therefore, the buffer requirement has been reduced due to limitations imposed by existing conditions.

The property owner must file on the deed a declaration in a form approved by the District establishing a vegetated buffer area adjacent to the delineated wetland edge within the final WMC and other wetland buffers approved as part of a permit under this Rule. The declaration must state that on further subdivision of the property, each subdivided lot of record shall meet the monumentation requirement of Section 6(e)(8).

A map of the final WMC boundary must be prepared and submitted to the District for approval, per Rule F.6(b)(4). The map will reflect any change to the boundary as a result of the permitted activity. The final WMC, including associated buffer, shall be subject to an easement in favor of the District as described in Section 6(f). A GIS shapefile or CADD file of the final WMC boundary shall be submitted to the District.

4. Floodplain – The regulatory floodplain for the site is 903.9. The restoration of the ACD 53-62 will entail excavation within the floodplain. However, since no additional material will be brought in, there will be no net fill and thus the project will comply with Rule E.
5. Erosion Control – Proposed erosion control methods include silt fence, rock construction entrance, and rip rap. The project will disturb more than 1 acre; an NPDES permit is required. The SWPPP is located on plan sheets C5.1 and 5.2. The information listed under the Rule D – Erosion and Sediment

Control section above must be submitted. Otherwise, the project complies with RCWD Rule D requirements. The project does not flow to a nutrient impaired water (within 1 mile).

6. Regional Conveyances – Rule G is not applicable.
7. Public Drainage Systems – The project is proposing to remove an obstruction to ACD 53-62 Branch 5 Lat 2 that was created through a prior land modification by the property owner by excavating out a 2-foot-wide channel with 2:1 side slope with a minimum bottom elevation of 902.0 through the historic BMP area.
8. Documenting Easements and Maintenance Obligations – An existing maintenance declaration was recorded on the property as part of the 04-021 permit. This agreement must be modified (or otherwise superseded) to reflect the removal of the BMP and the addition of the proposed NURP pond. Applicant must provide a draft for approval, and a receipt showing recordation of the approved maintenance declaration and the drainage and flowage easements (if required).
9. Previous Permit Information – A wetland delineation is located under review file 24-208R. Previous construction on the site occurred under permit 04-021.

I hereby certify that this plan, specification or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Registered Professional Engineer under the laws of the state of Minnesota.



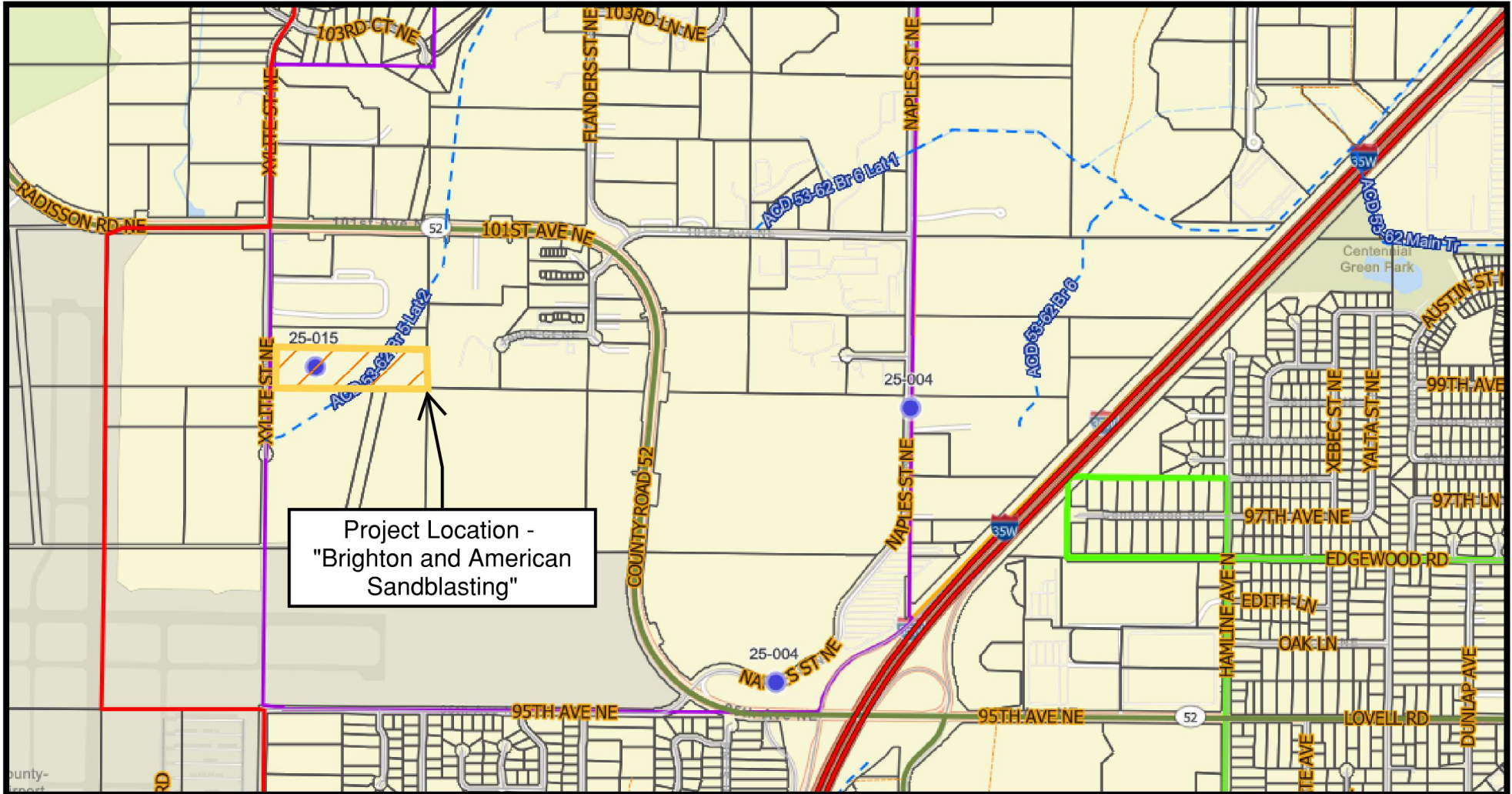
04/02/2025

Greg Bowles, MN Reg. No 41929



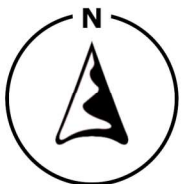
04/02/2025

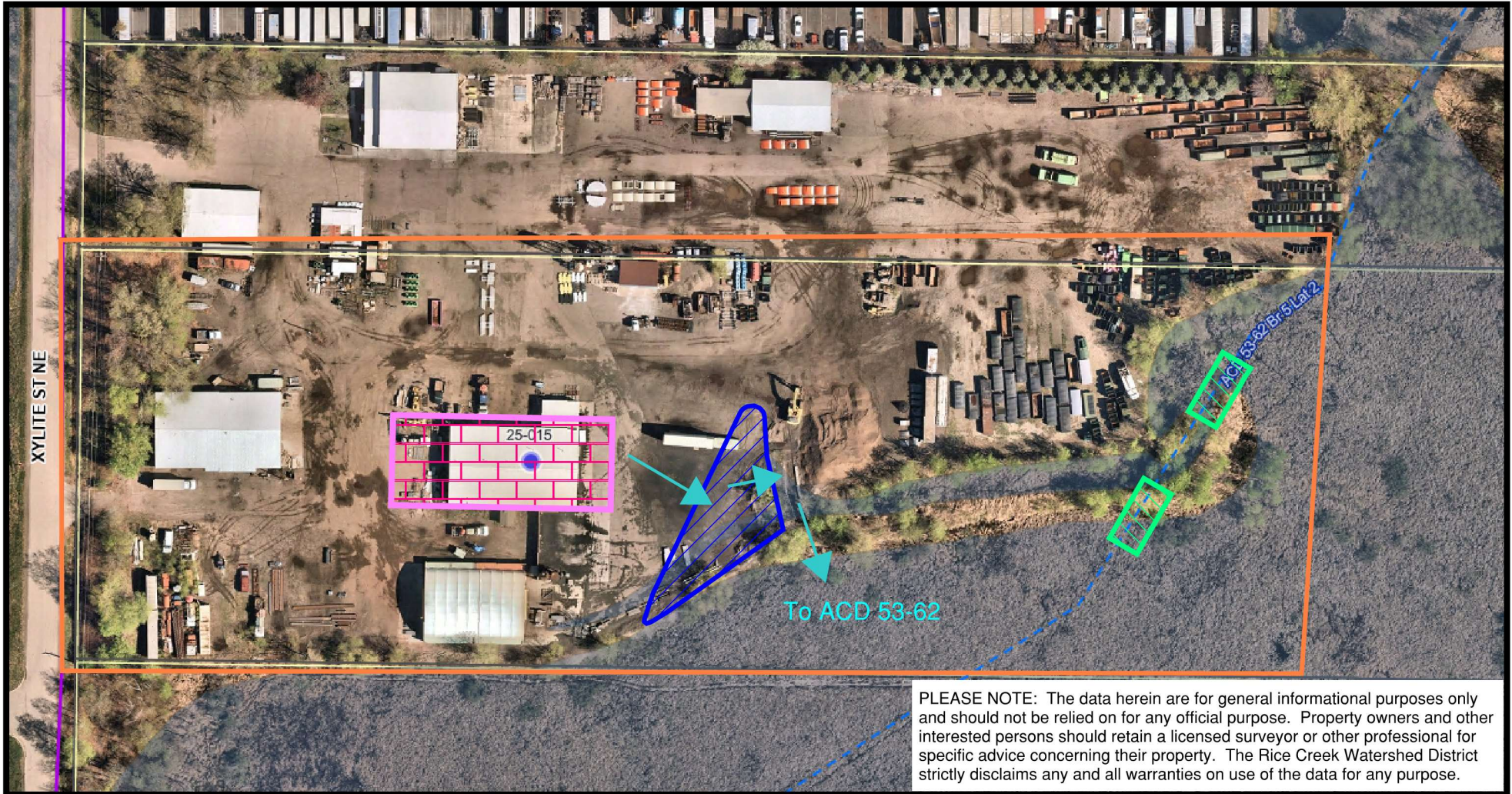
Katherine MacDonald, MN Reg. No 44590



Legend

- District Boundary
- Project Location
- Public Ditch - Open Channel
- Private Ditch






PLEASE NOTE: The data herein are for general informational purposes only and should not be relied on for any official purpose. Property owners and other interested persons should retain a licensed surveyor or other professional for specific advice concerning their property. The Rice Creek Watershed District strictly disclaims any and all warranties on use of the data for any purpose.

Legend

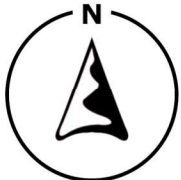
 Project Location

 Public drainage system clean out

 Replacement building

 Drainage Arrow

 NURP (Pond)



Water Quality Grant Program Cost Share Application (Molly Nelson)

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R25-02	Charlotte Reed	White Bear Lake	Raingarden	\$12,825.41	Volume: 5,733 cu-ft/yr TSS: 19.52 lbs/yr TP: 0.107 lbs/yr	75% cost share of \$12,825.41 not to exceed 75%; or \$10,000 whichever cost is lower

It was moved by Manager _____ and seconded by Manager _____, to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD Outreach and Grants Technician’s Recommendations dated April 3, 2025.

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: April 3rd, 2025
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Molly Nelson, Outreach and Grants Technician
Subject: Water Quality Grant Application, R25-02 Reed Raingarden

Introduction

R25-02 Reed Raingarden

- Applicant: Charlotte Reed
- Location: 5552 W Bald Eagle Blvd, MN 55110
- Total Eligible Project Cost: \$12,825.41
- RCWD Grant Recommendation: \$9,619.06 (75%)

Background

The R25-02 Reed Raingarden Water Quality Grant application proposes the installation of raingarden on a residential property in the City of White Bear Lake. The purpose of installing a raingarden at this location is to treat stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces (roof, driveway, street) on the property before entering Bald Eagle Lake directly as well as reducing stormwater runoff velocity across the landscape. This project will ultimately help with water quality and volume control for stormwater runoff into Bald Eagle Lake, which was recently removed from the MPCA impaired waters list, however, external loading to the lake is still a concern for maintaining the lake’s integrity for remaining off the impaired waters list.

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Soil and Water Conservation Division (RSWCD) created a design for the project and provided recommendations that have been included in the design. The project as proposed is designed to construct a raingarden along the south end of the property. RCWD staff are comfortable with the design and clean water plan presented. The total treated catchment area for the project is 4,125 square feet. The estimated pollutant reductions for the proposed project are: 5,733 cu-ft/yr reduction in volume, 19.52 lbs/yr reduction in total suspended solids (TSS), and a 0.107 lb/year reduction in total phosphorus (TP). The project location scored a value of 24 on the Water Quality Grant Program Screening form and is eligible for the RCWD Water Quality Grant program.

The applicant obtained 2 bids for the project:

- Rock N’ Block, LLC: \$11,980.40
- Letourneau Landscaping, Inc: \$18,965.31

The RSWCD provided a materials cost-estimate amounting to \$11,523.75 which is consistent with the lowest bid for the project. The project application was discussed at the CAC meeting on April 2nd, 2025. The CAC was supportive of the project and recommended it as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Staff Recommendation

RCWD’s Citizen Advisory Committee and Staff recommend that the RCWD Board of Managers approve Water Quality Grant funds for R25-02 Reed Raingarden.

Request for Proposed Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize the Board President, on advice of counsel, to approve the Water Quality Grant Contract for R25-02 of \$9,619.06 not to exceed 75% of eligible project costs or

up to \$10,000.00, whichever amount is lower, as outlined in the consent agenda and in accordance with the RCWD Staff's recommendation and established program guidelines.

Attachments

Water Quality Grant R25-02 Reed application documents.



To: RCWD Advisory Committee
From: Brian Olsen: Environmental Resource Specialist
Date: 3/20/2025
Re: Reed Cost Share Application

Project: R25-01

5552 Bald Eagle Blvd
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Raingarden

Material & Labor Estimate: \$12,825.41
Cost Share Request: \$9,619.06

Background:

The proposed Raingarden is located at a residential property in White Bear Lake. The property is on the shoreline of Bald Eagle Lake and currently water runoff from the street and driveway flow along the edge of the property and ends up in the lake.

The proposed project is to create a raingarden to collect runoff from the street and driveway. Water off the impervious surfaces and be collected in a raingarden area along the driveway that will be planted with native species. Native plants will be used to retain soil and filter run off from the property. The project will intercept runoff headed towards Bald Eagle Lake, decreasing volume, TPP and TSS from entering the lake. It will also provide pollinator resources with a native planting.

Total catchment area treated by the proposed project is 4,125 square feet. It is 73% impervious and includes road, driveway, and turf grass.

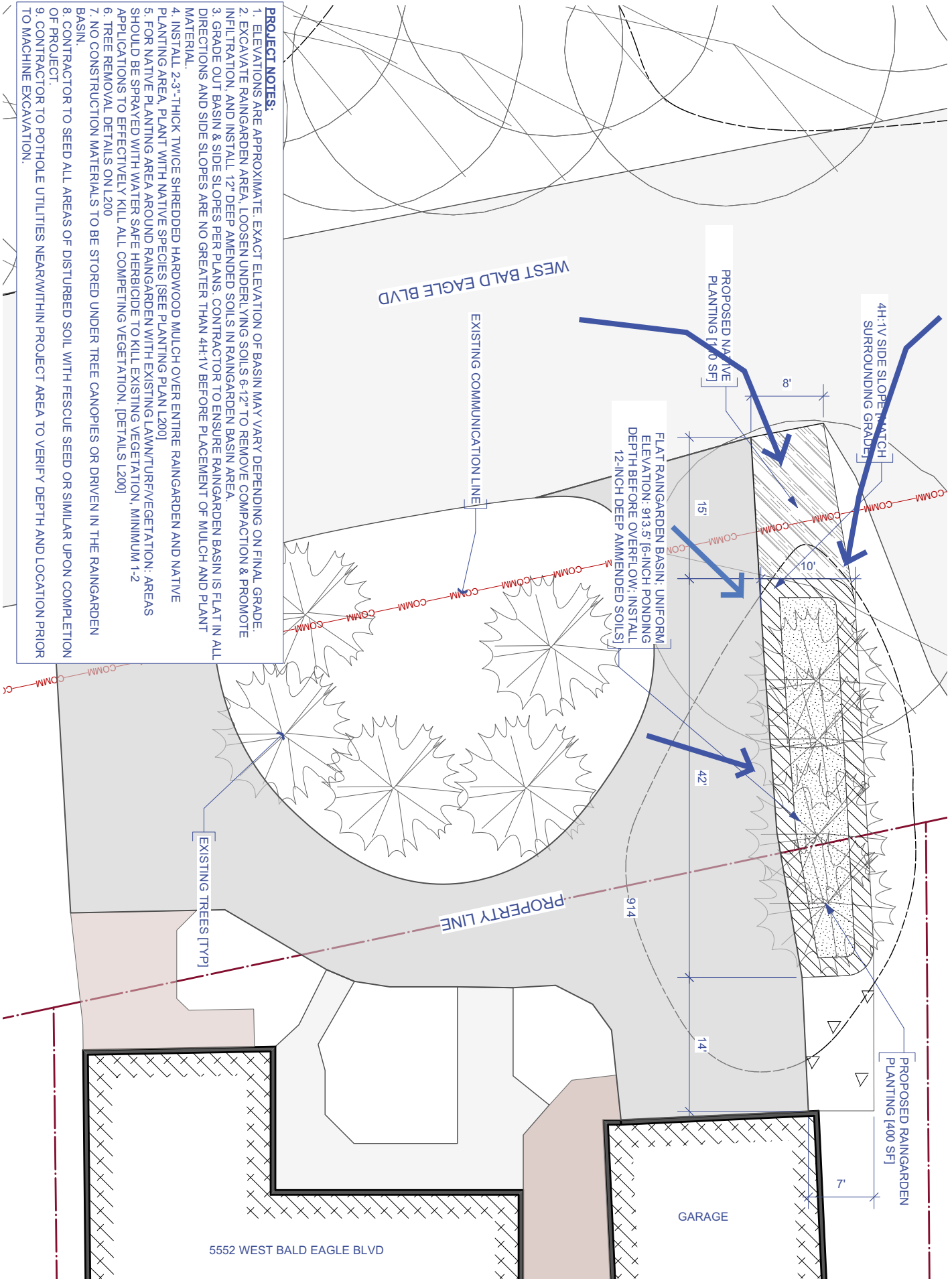
Recommendation:

It is my recommendation that this project be awarded cost share in the amount of \$9,619.06 or 75% of the eligible project costs, whichever is less.

Pollution Reductions:

	<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>	<i>Reduction</i>	<i>Red. %</i>
Volume (cu-ft/yr)	7,427	1,694	5,733	77%
TSS (lbs/yr)	25.25	5.73	19.52	77%
TP (lbs/yr)	0.139	0.032	0.107	77%

EXHIBIT A: Site Drainage



PROJECT NOTES:

1. ELEVATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE. EXACT ELEVATION OF BASIN MAY VARY DEPENDING ON FINAL GRADE.
2. EXCAVATE RAINGARDEN AREA, LOOSEN UNDERLYING SOILS 6-12" TO REMOVE COMPACTION & PROMOTE INFILTRATION, AND INSTALL 12" DEEP AMMENDED SOILS IN RAINGARDEN BASIN AREA.
3. GRADE OUT BASIN & SIDE SLOPES PER PLANS. CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE RAINGARDEN BASIN IS FLAT IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SIDE SLOPES ARE NO GREATER THAN 4H:1V BEFORE PLACEMENT OF MULCH AND PLANT MATERIAL.
4. INSTALL 2-3" THICK TWICE SHREDED HARDWOOD MULCH OVER ENTIRE RAINGARDEN AND NATIVE PLANTING AREA. PLANT WITH NATIVE SPECIES (SEE PLANTING PLAN L200)
5. FOR NATIVE PLANTING AREA AROUND RAINGARDEN WITH EXISTING LAWN/TURF/VEGETATION: AREAS SHOULD BE SPRAYED WITH WATER SAFE HERBICIDE TO KILL EXISTING VEGETATION. MINIMUM 1-2 APPLICATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY KILL ALL COMPETING VEGETATION. [DETAILS L200]
6. TREE REMOVAL DETAILS ON L200
7. NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO BE STORED UNDER TREE CANOPIES OR DRIVEN IN THE RAINGARDEN BASIN.
8. CONTRACTOR TO SEED ALL AREAS OF DISTURBED SOIL WITH FESCUE SEED OR SIMILAR UPON COMPLETION OF PROJECT.
9. CONTRACTOR TO POT HOLE UTILITIES NEAR WITHIN PROJECT AREA TO VERIFY DEPTH AND LOCATION PRIOR TO MACHINE EXCAVATION.



RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD
 2015 VAN DYKE STREET
 MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
 651-266-7280
 www.ramseycounty.us

PROJECT: REED RESIDENCE

LOCATION:
 5552 W BALD EAGLE BLVD
 WHITE BEAR LAKE MN 55110

WATERSHED DISTRICT:
 RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT



DESIGNER: NICK NEYLON

DATE: 2/5/2025

REVISION:

REVISION:

REVISION:

CHECKED BY: BTO

TAA:

NOTES:

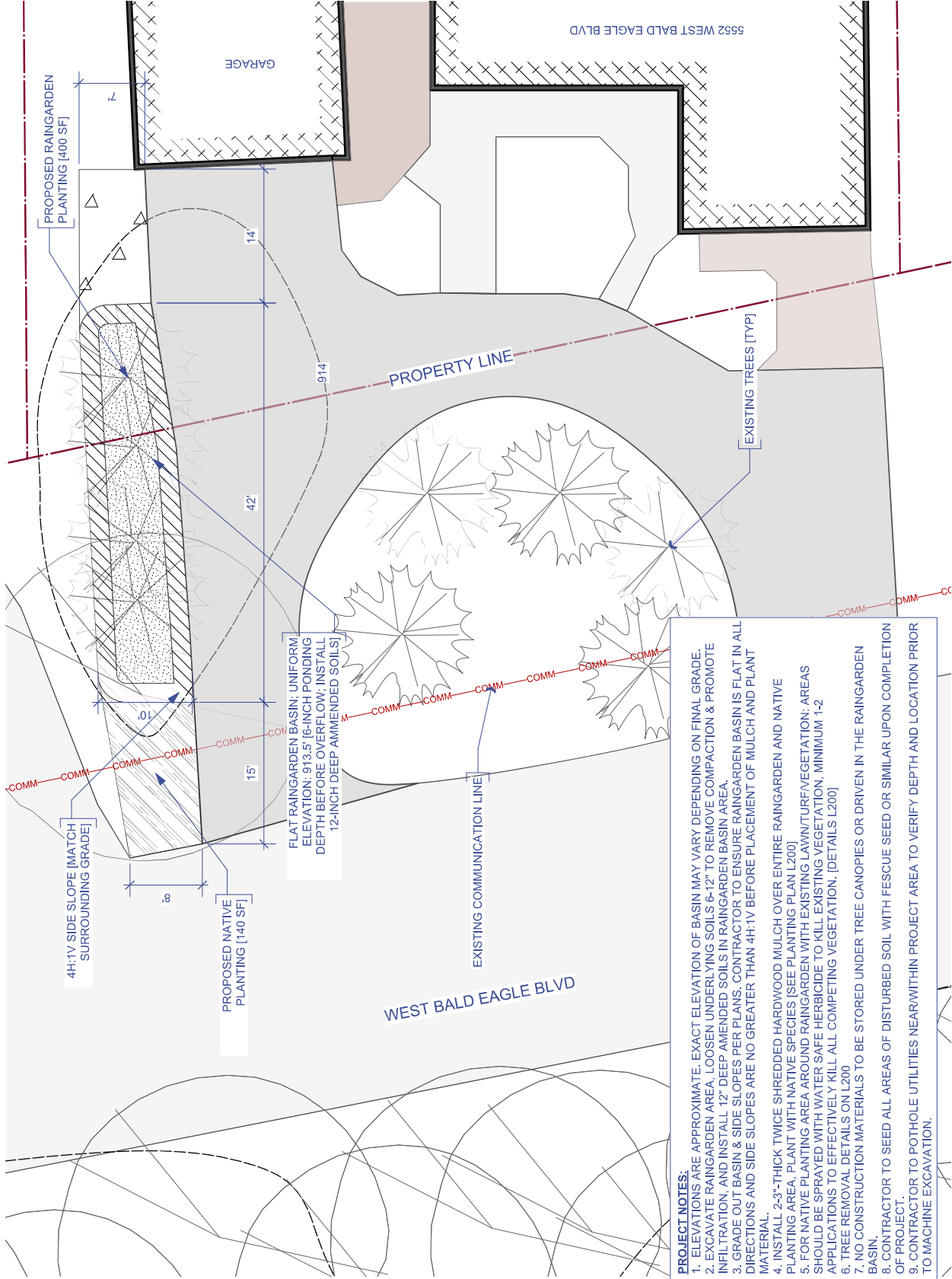
- ELEVATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE
- UTILITY LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE,
- CONFIRM LOCATIONS PRIOR TO WORK
- EXCAVATE WITH TRACKED EQUIPMENT ONLY
- SIZE AND SHAPE OF RAINGARDEN MAY VARY
- MAINTAIN SQUARE FEET AND PONDING DEPTH
- VERIFY ANY BID ALTERNATES OR ON-SITE CHANGES WITH SWCD STAFF PRIOR TO INSTALLATION
- ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: 11"x17"

SCALE: 1"=10'-0"



SITE PLAN

L100

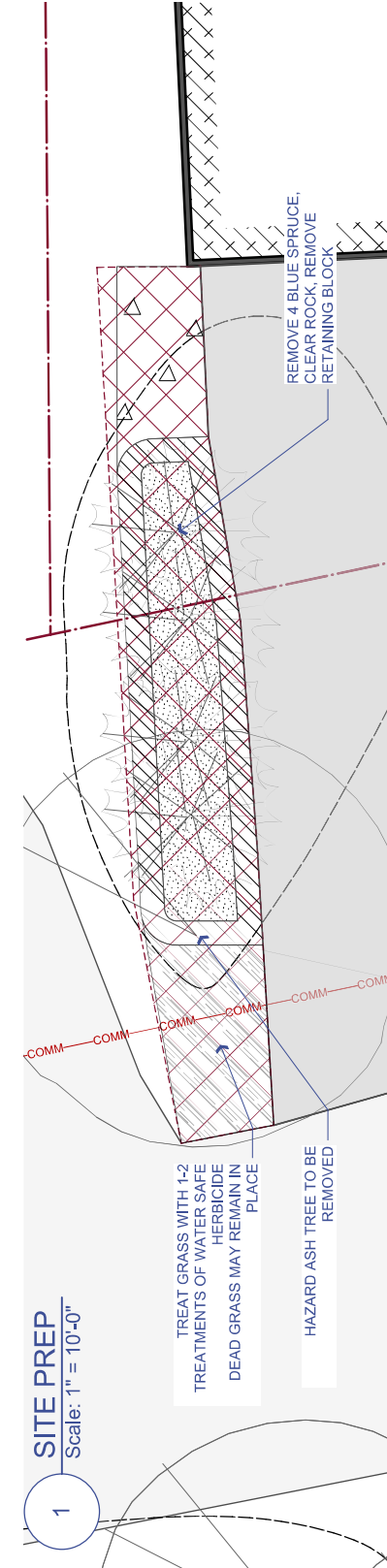


FLAT RAINGARDEN BASIN: UNIFORM ELEVATION: 913.5' (6-INCH PONDING DEPTH BEFORE OVERFLOW; INSTALL 12-INCH DEEP AMENDED SOILS)

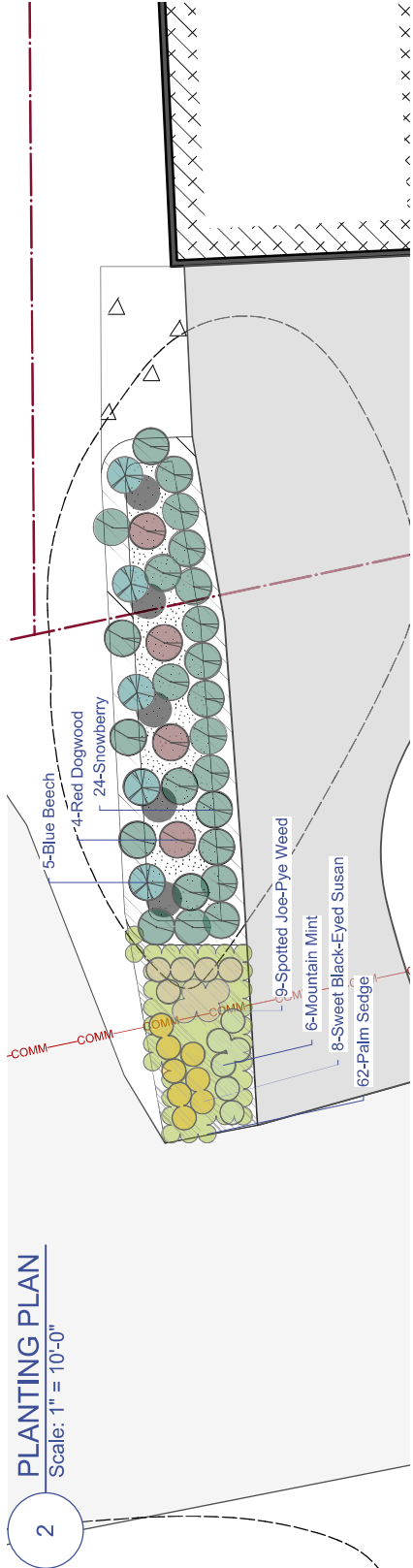
4H:1V SIDE SLOPE (MATCH SURROUNDING GRADE)

PROPOSED NATIVE PLANTING (140 SF)

- PROJECT NOTES:**
1. ELEVATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE. EXACT ELEVATION OF BASIN MAY VARY DEPENDING ON FINAL GRADE.
 2. EXCAVATE RAINGARDEN AREA. LOOSEN UNDERLYING SOILS 6'-12" TO REMOVE COMPACTION & PROMOTE INFILTRATION. AND INSTALL 12" DEEP AMENDED SOILS IN RAINGARDEN BASIN AREA.
 3. GRADE OUT BASIN & SIDE SLOPES PER PLANS. CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE RAINGARDEN BASIN IS FLAT IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SIDE SLOPES ARE NO GREATER THAN 4H:1V BEFORE PLACEMENT OF MULCH AND PLANT MATERIAL.
 4. INSTALL 2-3"-THICK TWICE SHREDDED HARDWOOD MULCH OVER ENTIRE RAINGARDEN AND NATIVE PLANTING AREA. PLANT WITH NATIVE SPECIES [SEE PLANTING PLAN L200]
 5. FOR NATIVE PLANTING AREA AROUND RAINGARDEN WITH EXISTING LAWN/TURF/VEGETATION: AREAS SHOULD BE SPRAYED WITH WATER SAFE HERBICIDE TO KILL EXISTING VEGETATION. MINIMUM 1-2 APPLICATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY KILL ALL COMPETING VEGETATION. [DETAILS L200]
 6. TREE REMOVAL DETAILS ON L200
 7. NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO BE STORED UNDER TREE CANOPIES OR DRIVEN IN THE RAINGARDEN BASIN.
 8. CONTRACTOR TO SEED ALL AREAS OF DISTURBED SOIL WITH FESCUE SEED OR SIMILAR UPON COMPLETION OF PROJECT.
 9. CONTRACTOR TO POTHOLES NEAR/WITHIN PROJECT AREA TO VERIFY DEPTH AND LOCATION PRIOR TO MACHINE EXCAVATION.



1
SITE PREP
 Scale: 1" = 10'-0"



2
PLANTING PLAN
 Scale: 1" = 10'-0"

SITE PREP NOTES:

1. TREAT EXISTING GRASS/VEGETATION WITH 1-2 ROUND OF WATER SAFE HERBICIDE.
2. REMOVE ASH TREE AND EXISTING BLUE SPRUCE. GRIND OR REMOVE STUMPS TO 24" IN RAINGARDEN AREA TO ENABLE EXCAVATION.
3. REMOVE EXISTING ROCK AND RETAINING BLOCK.

PLANTING NOTES:

1. PLANT FORBS (2" PLUGS OR APPROVED EQUAL) ACCORDING TO PLANTING PLAN.
2. PLANT SEDGES (2" PLUGS OR APPROVED EQUAL) IN GRID AROUND AND BETWEEN FORBS. FILL IN GAPS IN PLANTING.
3. ADJUST PLANTING AROUND UTILITY POLE AS NEEDED. ADJUST AROUND REMAINING TREE ROOTS AS NEEDED.
4. EXCAVATE FIRST MAIN ORDER ROOT WHEN PLANTING WOODY MATERIAL. PLANT ON SURFACE.
5. BOX CUT POTTED STOCK.
6. SHRUBS TO BE 5 GAL POTTED STOCK OR SIMILAR.
7. TREES TO BE 10 GAL POTTED STOCK OR SIMILAR.
8. USE COLUMNAR MARCESCENT TREE SUCH AS BLUE BEECH (FIRESPIRE, RISING FIRE), SWAMP WHITE OAK (BEACON), OR ENGLISH WHITE OAK (REGAL PRINCE OR SIMILAR) FOR SCREENING TREES TO PROVIDE YEAR ROUND SCREENING.
9. SEE ATTACHED SPECIES LIST (L300). FINAL SPECIES LIST AND QUANTITIES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR FINAL APPROVAL PRIOR TO INSALLATION.

RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD
 2015 VAN DYKE STREET
 MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
 651-266-7280
 www.ramseycounty.us

PROJECT: REED RESIDENCE
 LOCATION:
 3532 W BALD EAGLE BLVD
 WHITE BEAR LAKE MN 55110
 WATERSHED DISTRICT:
 RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

RCWWD
 RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

DESIGNER: NICK NEYLON
 DATE: 2/5/2025
 REVISION:
 REVISION:
 REVISION:
 CHECKED BY: BTO
 TAA:

NOTES:
 -CONFIRM ANY PLAN CHANGES WITH SWCD STAFF BEFORE INSTALLATION.
 -ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: 11"x17"

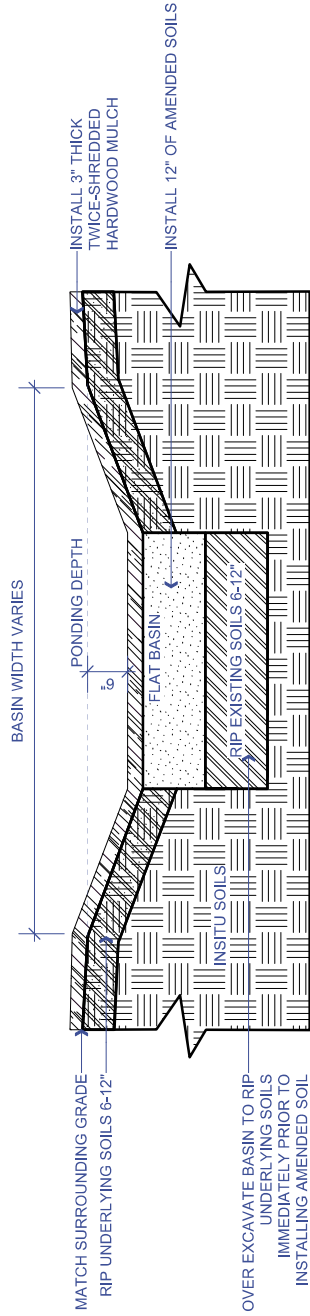
SCALE: 1"=10'-0"

PLANTING PLAN

L200

3 RAINGARDEN DETAIL

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD
 2015 VAN DYKE STREET
 MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
 651-266-7280
 www.ramseycounty.us

PROJECT: REED RESIDENCE
LOCATION:
 3552 W BALD EAGLE BLVD
 WHITE BEAR LAKE MN 55110
WATERSHED DISTRICT:
 RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT



DESIGNER: NICK NEYLON
DATE: 2/5/2025
REVISION:
REVISION:
REVISION:
CHECKED BY: BTO
TAA:

NOTES:
 -CALL GOPHER ONE TO MARK UTILITIES BEFORE DIGGING
 -ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: 11"x17"

SCALE: N

RAIN GARDEN DETAIL
 PLANT LIST

L300

PLANT SCHEDULE		
Qty	Latin Name	Common Name
9	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed
8	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Sweet Black-Eyed Susan
6	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Mountain Mint
5	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue Beech
24	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
4	<i>Cornus anonomum</i>	Red Dogwood
62	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge
118	TOTAL PLANTS	

ALL ITEMS AS SPECIFIED BELOW ARE FOR REFERENCE USE ONLY

Reed Residence
 5552 W Bald Eagle BLVD
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110
 BMP Type: Raingarden
 Number of BMPs: 1 of 1

County: Ramsey
 Date: 13-Feb-25

MATERIALS

Item	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Amount
Sod Removal; Raingarden Excavation/Grading & Soil Loosening	14.50	CY	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,305.00
Soil Amendment (80% Washed No.2 Sand; 20% MnDOT Grade II Compost)	7.75	CY	\$ 105.00	\$ 813.75
Site Prep (removal of existing vegetation - water safe herbicide application, stump grinding)	1.00	LS	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Twice Shredded Hardwood Mulch (MnDot Type 6 Mulch)	5.00	CY	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00
Native Plant: 2" Plug or similar	85	EA	\$ 6.50	\$ 552.50
Native Shrub: 5 Gallon	28	EA	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,680.00
Native Tree: 10 Gallon	5	EA	\$ 380.00	\$ 1,900.00
Site Restoration (repair any turf damage to landscape outside project area)	1.00	LS	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Mobilization	1.00	LS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Deliveries	3.00	EA	\$ 125.00	\$ 375.00
Disposal / Soil Haul-away (material from clearing vegetation and grading)	14.50	CY	\$ 55.00	\$ 797.50
			Subtotal	\$ 11,523.75

ADD/DEDUCT BID ITEMS (AS NECESSARY)

1]			\$ -	\$ -
2]			\$ -	\$ -
3]			\$ -	\$ -
4]			\$ -	\$ -
5]			\$ -	\$ -
6]			\$ -	\$ -
			Subtotal	\$ -

PROJECT TOTAL

Project Estimate	\$	11,523.75
:-10%	\$	10,371.38
:+10%	\$	12,676.13
Estimated WD/WMO Grant Award:		\$8,642.81
Estimated BEAA Grant Award:		-
Potential Grant Award Total:		\$8,642.81
Estimated Landowner Cost:		\$2,880.94



Rock N' Block LLC

5749 Lake Elmo Avenue North | Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042
 6513212023 | outdoorservicesjm@gmail.com | WWW.RockNBlockllc.com

Quote #1274

Sent on	Feb 24, 2025
Total	\$12,825.41

RECIPIENT:

Bill Reed

5552 West Bald Eagle Boulevard
 White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
Sod Removal; Raingarden Excavation/Grading & Soil Loosening	Approx. 14.50 CY of material to be removed + E35 W thumb	2	\$2,451.00	\$4,902.00
Soil Amendment	(80% Washed No.2 Sand; 20% MnDOT Grade II Compost) Sand: S1 Comp: BB	7.75	\$70.40	\$545.60
Site Prep	(removal of existing vegetation - water safe herbicide application, stump grinding) includes falling of 4 spruce trees stump grinding for 4 spruce trees and one ash tree. Ash tree to be cut down and all brush removed prior to start of project leaving a reasonable stump only that is not more then 18" above grade.	1	\$2,520.00	\$2,520.00
Installation of Twice Shredded Hardwood Mulch	per cy S1	5	\$82.80	\$414.00
Installation of plants	Subs made based on anticipated inventory in spring. All subs will be verified prior to install with Ramsey County. Price subject to change based on size and species installed. EUPAT MAC JOE PYE WEED #1 x9 RUDBE SUB SWEETBLACKYES3.5"/18T x1 LAMIUM MAC WHITE NANCY 10CELL/4" x1 SYMPHO ORB RED SNOWBERRY #2 x24 CORNUS REDTWIG DOGWOOD #5 x4 CAREX MUS OEHME #1 SEDGE x62 CARPINUS CAR BLUE BEECH #10 x5 Install notes: 15HoL	1	\$3,379.81	\$3,379.81
Site Restoration	repair any turf damage to landscape outside project area all damages repaired with topsoil seed and straw as needed	1	\$239.00	\$239.00



Rock N' Block LLC

5749 Lake Elmo Avenue North | Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042
6513212023 | outdoorservicesjm@gmail.com | WWW.RockNBlockllc.com

Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
Deliveries	per load	5	\$75.00	\$375.00
Disposal / Soil Haul-away	material from clearing vegetation and grading appox 14.5 CY BB	3	\$150.00	\$450.00

Total **\$12,825.41**

Thank you for your Business!

This quote is valid for the next 30 days, after which values may be subject to change.



Letourneau Landscaping, Inc.

Estimate

5656 Centerville Road
White Bear Township, MN 55127
(651) 426-0410

DATE	ESTIMATE #
2/27/2025	1539

Letourneau Landscaping, Inc has over 35 years experience. We are a licensed and insured corporation.

NAME / ADDRESS of CUSTOMER
BILL & CHARLOTTE REED 5552 WEST BALD EAGLE BLVD. WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

To accept this estimate, please sign below and return with your down payment within 14 days. We will contact you with an approximate schedule of the job start date.

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Rain Garden Project (approximate 570 square foot area on Northwest side of home)	0.00
Herbicide application to grass area of Rain Garden.	200.00
Tree Removal not provided by Letourneau Landscaping. This part of the project will need to be completed before project starts by a Tree Removal Specialist. Letourneau Landscaping does not provide tree removal.	0.00
Stump Grinding, and excavation of tree stumps. (Ash tree stump will need to be ground and excavated to remove as many roots as possible. Spruce tree stumps can possibly be pulled out).	1,400.00
Labor Charge for removal of retaining wall block on pallets and removal of landscape rock in spruce tree area.	1,500.00
Equipment and Manual Labor charge for Excavation of approximate 570 square foot area. 12" of soil will be removed (approximately 21 cubic yards will be hauled away (Hauling/trucking charges will be listed separately on this estimate). 12" of soil below the above layer, will be scarified and broken up by equipment to remove compaction of soil.	3,500.00
21 cubic yards of Amended Garden Soil for Rain Garden (includes sales tax)	682.76
Equipment and Manual Installation of 21 cubic yards of Garden Soil into new Rain Garden Area.	525.00
Plant Material: Five (5) Blue Beech Trees (Carpinus caroloniana) #10 (includes sales tax)	1,132.52

To Accept Estimate and be Placed on Project List, Please Sign and Return Estimate, along with Down Payment. Down Payment Due With Signed Estimate = 1/2 of the Estimated Amount Listed. Final Payment is Due Upon the Day of Project Completion. No Exceptions.

TOTAL ESTIMATE

Listed on Last Page of Estimate

Payment Options: Cash or Check. Electronic and Credit Card payments are accepted. Please Note: A 4 % Transaction Fee will be added to Credit Card payments.

Customer Acceptance Signature

By signing this contract, the customer accepts all terms and conditions listed.
Customer also agrees to pay final balance upon project completion.

Credit Card Information:

Name on Card	Credit Card Number	Exp Date	CVV
_____	_____	_____	_____

*****The estimate above is an approximate cost for the work listed. Any extra labor and materials not listed above, WILL BE added as an additional cost on your invoice. Access Agreement: Occassionally turf or other damage may occur from equipment accessing the job area. Repair is not included in this estimate, unless specified above. Any damage can be repaired at an additional cost to the above estimate. Estimate expires in 30 days.**

Final payment will be due upon the day of project completion. No Exceptions!

Pre Lien Notice: Please note that a lien and judgement may be filed against your property, if the final invoice is not paid. Any interest, legal, collection, court, attorney fees will be added to the balance owed. Any over due balances will be charged a 4.5% interest charge per month.

Limited Guarantee's: All hardscaping has a one year limited guarantee for Installation issues. All plants except B & B trees have a Limited 1 Year Plant Guarantee. Plants are only covered if there is problem from the nursery, NOT an act of Mother Nature or damage occurring after installation. There is a trip charge for plant replacement of \$100. We do not offer a Turf/Grass Seed Guarantee.

A signed estimate may be cancelled with written notice. However, there is always re-stocking fees for any materials that have been purchased for your job. These fees will be charged to the customer and taken out of the down payment. A refund will be sent for any remaining down payment.



Letourneau Landscaping, Inc.

Estimate

5656 Centerville Road
White Bear Township, MN 55127
(651) 426-0410

DATE	ESTIMATE #
2/27/2025	1539

Letourneau Landscaping, Inc has over 35 years experience. We are a licensed and insured corporation.

NAME / ADDRESS of CUSTOMER
BILL & CHARLOTTE REED 5552 WEST BALD EAGLE BLVD. WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

To accept this estimate, please sign below and return with your down payment within 14 days. We will contact you with an approximate schedule of the job start date.

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Plant Material: Twenty Four (24) #2 (cannot locate #5 size) Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus)	702.00
Plant Material: Four (4) #5 Cardinal Red Dogwood (Cornus Sericea) substitution for Cornus amomum)	143.01
Plant Material: Native perennials 3.5" size : Sixty Two (62) Palm Sedge (Carex muskingumensis), Nine (9) Spotted Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium maculatum), Eight (8) Sweet Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia subtomentosa), Six (6) Bergamont (Monarda fistulosa) substitute for Mountain mint. 85 perennials at \$4.45 each, plus tax)	409.93
Plant Installation Labor	3,625.00
5.25 Cubic Yards of Double Ground Hardwood Mulch	227.59
Mulch Installation Labor	367.50
Equipment Rental and Equipment Mobilization Fee:	1,050.00
Truck Delivery Charges - 5 loads	1,500.00
Truck Hauling/Removal Charges - 4 Loads	1,200.00
Soil Dump Charges - 3 Loads Rock and Wall Block Dump Charges - 1 Load	800.00

To Accept Estimate and be Placed on Project List, Please Sign and Return Estimate, along with Down Payment. Down Payment Due With Signed Estimate = 1/2 of the Estimated Amount Listed. Final Payment is Due Upon the Day of Project Completion. No Exceptions.

TOTAL ESTIMATE \$18,965.31
Listed on Last Page of Estimate

Payment Options: Cash or Check. Electronic and Credit Card payments are accepted. Please Note: A 4 % Transaction Fee will be added to Credit Card payments.

Customer Acceptance Signature
By signing this contract, the customer accepts all terms and conditions listed.
Customer also agrees to pay final balance upon project completion.

Credit Card Information:	Name on Card	Credit Card Number	Exp Date	CVV
	_____	_____	____/____/____	____

*****The estimate above is an approximate cost for the work listed. Any extra labor and materials not listed above, WILL BE added as an additional cost on your invoice. Access Agreement: Occassionally turf or other damage may occur from equipment accessing the job area. Repair is not included in this estimate, unless specified above. Any damage can be repaired at an additional cost to the above estimate. Estimate expires in 30 days.**

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Limited Guarantee's: All hardscaping has a one year limited guarantee for Installation issues. All plants except B & B trees have a Limited 1 Year Plant Guarantee. Plants are only covered if there is problem from the nursery, NOT an act of Mother Nature or damage occurring after installation. There is a trip charge for plant replacement of \$100. We do not offer a Turf/Grass Seed Guarantee.

A signed estimate may be cancelled with written notice. However, there is always re-stocking fees for any materials that have been purchased for your job. These fees will be charged to the customer and taken out of the down payment. A refund will be sent for any remaining down payment.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. Open Meeting Law – RCWD (Nick Tomczik)

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: April 3, 2025
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Nick Tomczik, Administrator
Subject: Open Meeting Law- RCWD

Introduction

The District is bound to adhere to the State’s open meeting law and needs to reconsider the District’s adopted open meeting law declaration and how virtual participation best serves the District and its members.

Background

The District needs to consider its open meeting protocols; a past declaration and virtual participation.

The District adopted a COVID-19 health pandemic declaration under the State’s open meeting law’s pandemic and emergency provisions (MN State Statute 13D.021). The declaration provided managers on advice from a health care professional to virtually participate from a non-public location. The pandemic past, and the State amended MN Statute 13D; the RCWD declaration no longer has a reasonable basis and appears obsolete. The Board should consider rescinding April 7, 2022, declaration. However, MN Statute 13D provides for remote manager participation. The details are outlined in the attached Rinke Noonan memo.

The Rinke Noonan memo identifies that the open meeting law gives the public the right to attend District Board meetings in order to watch and listen to the proceedings. Although the law does not guarantee the right to speak at an open meeting, the District has a long history of providing the opportunity to speak with the board under “open mic” agenda item. However, the virtual software has limitations for facilitating virtual participation without inviting the unauthorized individuals that have previously, more than once, gained access to the District’s virtual meeting link and briefly disrupted proceedings with inappropriate interruptions. This activity is wholly unrelated to the District or other governmental business.

To ensure that our Board meetings remain professional, accessible, and productive, the Board may comply with the law while limiting virtual participants to only *monitor* the meeting. Yet, staff and consultants may virtually participate through secure links to the meeting. Following the previous and recent disrupted proceedings with inappropriate interruptions, the meeting format is as stated consistent with open meeting law, providing for public monitoring and staff, consultants via secure meeting links. The Board of course may elect to explore alternative meeting arrangements.

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board rescinding April 7, 2022, “COVID” declaration and provide any additional direction to staff and consultants.

Proposed Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize rescinding Revised Declaration under Minnesota Open Meeting Law, §13D.021 April 7, 2022

Attachments

- RCWD - Revised Declaration under Minnesota Open Meeting Law, §13D.021 April 7, 2022
- Rinke Noonan Memo April 2, 2025

Revised Declaration Under Minnesota Open Meeting Law, §13D.021

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §13D.021, subdivision 1, I previously determined on September 2, 2021 that on the basis of the developments of the COVID-19 health pandemic, and specifically the high community transmission rates in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that it was not practical or prudent for all members of the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, and any committee thereof, to convene in person and in a public setting in accordance with requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

On March 9, 2022, based on current information and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health, I determined that it is now practical and prudent for the members of the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, and any committee thereof, to convene in person and in a public setting in accordance with requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. Nevertheless, while COVID-19 transmission rates have declined significantly, COVID-19 infections are still occurring. Members of the Board of Managers may have medical reasons, such as COVID-19 exposure or infection, for not being in a public place based on advice from a health care professional.

Accordingly, until further notice, all meetings of the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, shall be in person and open to the public, while also recognizing that a Manager may, based on advice from a health care professional, have a legitimate reason for not attending a meeting in a public place in person, such as COVID-19 exposure or infection, and in such circumstances may participate in the meeting remotely. Further, the Rice Creek Watershed District will continue to provide for the option of remote participation by a member of the public through telephone or other electronic means, which option shall be made available to any member of the public at no cost.



Patricia Preiner, President
Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers

Date: April 7, 2022



1015 W. St. Germain St., Ste. 300, P.O. Box 1497
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302-1497
Telephone 320-251-6700, Fax 320-656-3500

Memorandum

To: Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
From: Hannah J. Schacherl Jansen, Attorney and John C. Kolb, Attorney
Re: Post-Pandemic Remote Meeting Participation and Minnesota Open Meeting Law
Our File: 16266-0002
Date: April 2, 2025

During the COVID-19 pandemic, RCWD adopted a Revised Declaration authorizing remote participation in RCWD meetings during the pandemic pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D, also known as the Open Meeting Law. The Open Meeting Law lists different criteria in order for remote participation in a meeting to be in compliance with the statute compared to the criteria for remote participation during a non-pandemic time. RCWD's declaration is still in effect and should be rescinded because the pandemic has subsided. The existing Declaration does not have an expiration date and does not differentiate between remote participation generally and remote participation during the pandemic. With the rescission of the Declaration, the RCWD Board of Managers has the option to continue to allow remote manager participation in limited circumstances and remote public observation of the meeting as well.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.02, RCWD may authorize managers to participate in a meeting remotely. The criteria for a manager's remote participation in a RCWD meeting are as follows:

1. All RCWD managers participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear and see one another and can hear and see all discussion and testimony presented at any location at which at least one manager is present;
2. Members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the RCWD can hear and see all discussion and testimony and all votes of the managers;
3. At least one RCWD manager is physically present at the regular meeting location;
4. All votes are conducted by roll call so each manager's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded; and
5. Each location at which a manager is present is open and accessible to the public.
 - A. If a manager participates from a location not open or accessible to the public, they may still participate in the meeting and have their presence accounted for quorum if they have not participated more than three times in a calendar year from a location that is not open or accessible to the public, and they either are:

- i. serving in the military and at a required drill, deployed, or on active duty;
or
 - ii. have been advised by a health care professional against being in a public place for personal or family medical reasons.
- B. A manager who does not meet the criteria listed in subpart A may monitor the meeting as a member of the public, but they are not considered present for the purposes of determining a quorum and they may not vote.

If the Board elects to authorize remote manager participation in RCWD meetings, meetings and managers that comply with the above-listed criteria are considered in compliance with the Open Meeting law and are not treated differently than in-person meetings and managers. For example, each RCWD manager “participating in a meeting by telephone or interactive technology is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.” Minn. Stat. § 13.02, subd. 2.

Generally, the open meeting law gives the public the right to attend meetings of public bodies in order to watch and listen to the proceedings. It does not guarantee the right to speak at an open meeting. If RCWD chooses to allow public comments, RCWD can set the rules for commenters, including that they must be in-person to provide those comments. The statute governing the use of remote technology during open meetings requires that to the extent practical, a person is allowed to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location if a manager is utilizing the remote technology to participate as well. Minn. Stat. § 13D.02, subd. 3. The statute does not require a person be allowed to provide public comment or otherwise participate in the meeting remotely and the statute does not require RCWD to provide a remote option for the public if there are no managers participating remotely.

If the Board so chooses to continue to allow for remote manager participation in public meetings, it may adopt a new declaration adopting that policy, subject to the above-listed criteria. Additionally, as part of a remote participation declaration, the Board may set the standards for remote public participation or indicate that public participation generally may only occur if the member of the public participates in person.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

2. Curlyleaf Pondweed Management Agreements (Matt Kocian)

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: March 26, 2025
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Matt Kocian, Lake and Stream Manager
Subject: 2025 Curlyleaf Pondweed Management

Introduction

Seeking Board approval for 2025 curlyleaf pondweed management activities – vendor contracts and lake association cost-share agreements

Background

Curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) is an invasive aquatic plant found in many Twin Cities Metro Area lakes. Curlyleaf has an unusual life cycle; unlike native aquatic plants, which grow early-summer through late-fall, curlyleaf *begins* growing late in autumn. It survives under the ice during the winter and grows rapidly after ice-out, often creating dense mats that displace native plants. Around mid-summer the plant dies and decomposes, releasing accumulated phosphorus into the water column. The phosphorus contributes to algae growth and declines in water clarity. Additionally, the void in aquatic plants created by the mid-summer decline in curlyleaf further exacerbates algae blooms by exposing nutrient-rich lake sediments to resuspension, and by reducing habitat for algae-eating zooplankton. For this reason, the RCWD has actively managed curlyleaf using aquatic herbicides. Permanent control (i.e. eradication) is not possible. However, annual herbicide treatments are effective at reducing the impacts of curlyleaf pondweed.



The purpose of managing curlyleaf pondweed is 1) to improve water clarity, via the mechanisms described above, and 2) to promote the growth of healthy, native lake plants. Although the herbicide used to control curlyleaf is not selective, it is applied during the early-spring when only curlyleaf is growing. Non-target impact to native plants is minimal, and RCWD collaborates with other scientists to use best management practices, consistent with the latest research.

Managing curlyleaf pondweed is consistent with RCWD's Aquatic Invasive Species Policy, as well as RCWD's goals for protecting and improving water quality. The RCWD has partnered with lake associations for over 20 years to reduce the abundance of curlyleaf pondweed using aquatic herbicides. Lakes are selected for management based on need (a problem exists), and lake association desire and

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District



willingness to financially partner; costs are split 50/50 between the District and lake associations, after applicable DNR grants.

For 2025, District costs are *estimated* to be \$8,000 – \$14,000. However, the District must pay upfront costs, prior to reimbursements from DNR grants and lake associations. Thus, we are asking the Board to approve total estimated costs of up to \$35,000. The District’s 2025 budget for curlyleaf pondweed management is \$50,000; our costs are well under budget.

Notes on cost:

- The estimated 2025 costs are conservative. The actual 2025 costs will depend on early-season curlyleaf pondweed surveys and lake homeowner willingness to cost-share. It’s common for actual costs to be much lower than estimated costs. For example, the total *estimated costs* in 2020 were \$35,000, but the total *actual costs* were about \$18,300.
- As in past years, if curlyleaf pondweed is not found in sufficiently large and dense patches, or if lake homeowners do not wish to financially partner, treatment will not occur.
- Consistent with the RCWD Aquatic Invasive Species Policy, only large (> 1 acre), dense, and monotypic areas of curlyleaf pondweed are managed.
- Also per our policy, the District does not treat near-shore areas on lakes (within 150 feet); by DNR rule, treatment in these areas requires the permission of the landowner.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Board approve RCWD 2025 curlyleaf pondweed management activities and expenditures outlined in this memo.

Proposed Motions

1. Manager _____ moves to authorize the Administrator to enter into cost-share agreements with lake associations for curlyleaf pondweed treatments in 2025.
2. Manager _____ moves to authorize the Administrator to enter into professional services agreements for herbicide treatment of curlyleaf pondweed with the total costs not to exceed \$35,000.

Attachment:

- RCWD AIS Policy

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District

Board Approved: January 11, 2017

To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Matt Kocian, Lake and Stream Spec.
Subject: RCWD Aquatic Invasive Species Policy
Enclosed: RCWD AIS Flowchart

Date: January 4, 2017

Purpose

This memorandum presents a policy for the management of *aquatic invasive species* by and within the Rice Creek Watershed District.

Background

Over the past several decades, aquatic invasive species (AIS) have been introduced to lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota. Some AIS, like curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and common carp, are ubiquitous in the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). Newer arrivals, like zebra mussels or starry stonewort, are rare or unreported in the RCWD. These AIS have the potential to drastically alter they systems into which they are introduced. Possible effects include more frequent and intense algae blooms, loss or alteration of native plant communities, alteration of food web dynamics, and recreational nuisance.

Watershed Districts around Minnesota have responded differently to AIS introductions. Some Districts have been very involved in education, monitoring, rapid response, and long-term management of AIS. Other Districts have been less involved, relying on state or county agencies for AIS services. To date, the RCWD has been moderately involved. The precedent provided by the RCWD Board of Managers has limited RCWD involvement to AIS with a direct link to “water quality”. In other words, those AIS that contribute to algae blooms and decreased water clarity have been actively managed by the RCWD, while other AIS have not. AIS that do not directly impact water quality, but may affect ecology or recreation, have received guidance and technical support from the RCWD. Currently, scientific evidence indicates that curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are linked to water quality degradation and algae blooms. Managing invasive species to improve water quality is consistent with the mission and goals defined in the RCWD’s 2010 Watershed Management Plan. Examples illustrating the current RCWD precedent are provided below.

Example 1: Curlyleaf pondweed is an invasive aquatic plant with an unusual life cycle that can grow at very high density. Unlike native lake plants, curlyleaf begins growing each fall, survives under lake ice, grows rapidly to high density in the spring, and dies mid-summer. Displacement of native aquatic plants and decaying plant matter contribute to algae blooms. Due to the direct link between the AIS and water quality, the RCWD has provided matching funds to lake associations for herbicide treatments to control curlyleaf pondweed. Additionally, RCWD staff have procured permits and managed herbicide contractors.

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District

Board Approved: January 11, 2017

Example 2: Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive species that can become very dense and outcompete native plants. In some instances, heavy growth creates a mat across the lake surface, inhibiting recreational use. However, a direct link between Eurasian watermilfoil and algae blooms has not been identified. Therefore, RCWD has not provided direct funding for management. Supporting technical services, such as water quality monitoring and plant mapping, have been provided by RCWD staff when time and budgets allow.

Example 3: Lake associations are frequently interested in promoting practices that reduce the spread of AIS. RCWD staff have supported lakeshore owners and lake associations by finding and distributing existing educational materials on AIS (e.g. from MN DNR or Sea Grant).

This existing Board precedent has not been captured in an official policy, either within the 2010 Watershed Management Plan, or as standalone document. Adopting a policy on AIS management will provide guidance for RCWD staff and clarity for RCWD citizens. A RCWD policy for AIS is provided below.

The policy outlined below is presented in the enclosed *RCWD AIS Flowchart*.

RCWD Policy on Aquatic Invasive Species

Goal: Effectively manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) that directly contribute to water quality degradation, assist local partners in managing other AIS, and support existing state and local education programs aimed at stopping the spread of AIS

- 1) Action: For AIS linked to algae blooms and degradation of water quality:
 - a) Working independently, or in cooperation lake associations, endeavor to manage AIS densities at a threshold below which they degrade water quality
 - i) Using best available management tools, reduce the distribution and density of aquatic invasive plants that degrade water quality
 - (1) Adhere to *management guidelines for invasive aquatic plants to improve water quality**
 - ii) Develop a long-term management plan for common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)
 - (1) Monitor common carp populations
 - (2) Remove adult carp and reduce reproductive success
 - iii) Coordinate actions, including applicable permits and contractor management
 - b) Monitor water quality in resources where the RCWD is actively managing AIS
 - c) Regularly assess scientific evidence linking AIS to water quality
 - 2) Action: For AIS not linked to algae blooms and degradation of water quality:
 - a) Provide supporting technical services to local partners
 - i) Aquatic plant survey services (as time and budget allows)
 - ii) Advise and consult with local partners on potential management actions
 - (1) Advise on: available grant programs, regulatory requirements and permitting process, and AIS monitoring and identification

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District

Board Approved: January 11, 2017

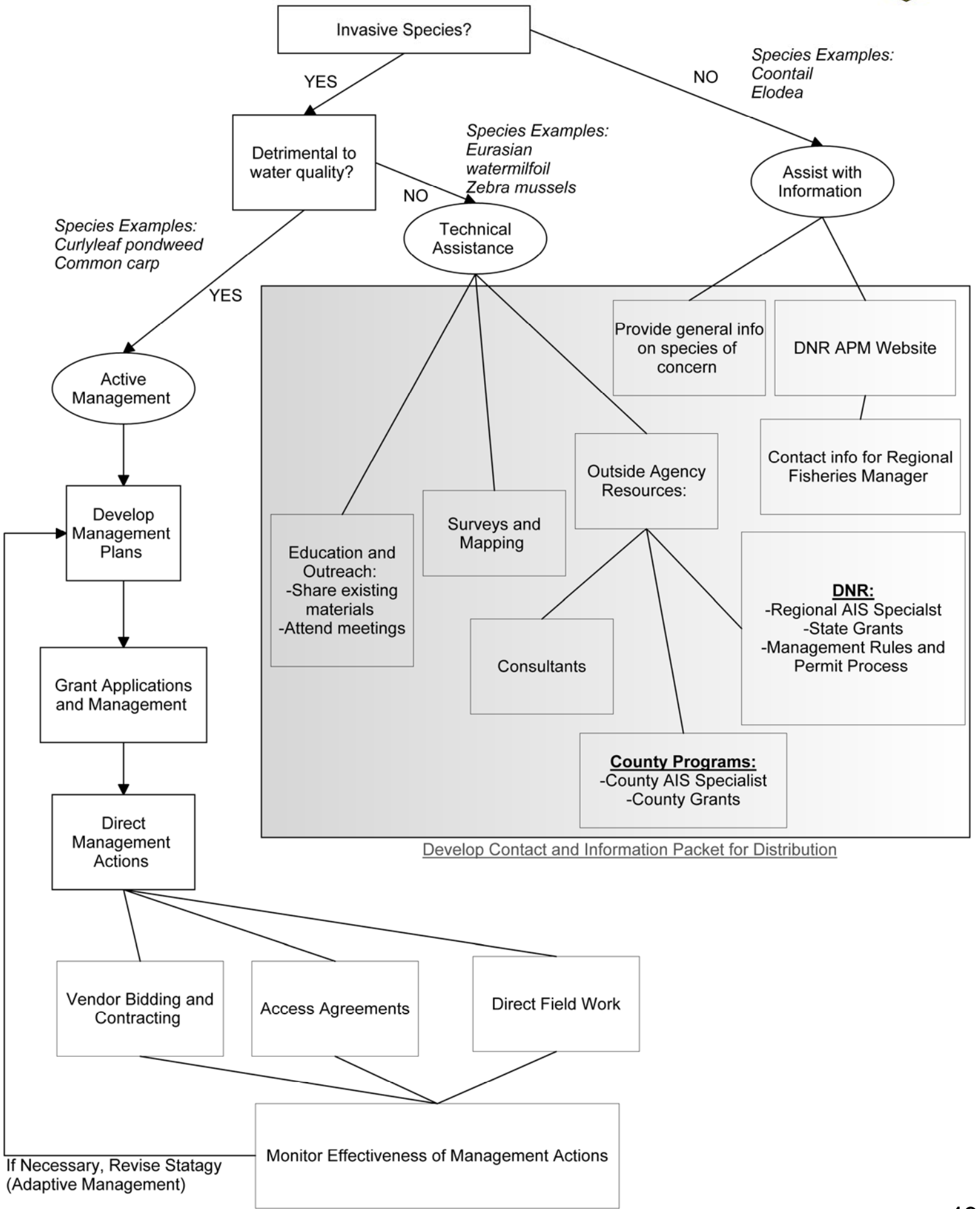
- 3) Action: For all AIS
 - a) Support existing AIS educational programs
 - i) Utilizing existing AIS educational materials for education and outreach activities (e.g. from MN DNR or Sea Grant)
 - ii) Advise and consult with local partners on stopping the spread of AIS
 - b) Maintain webpage with basic information and links to applicable AIS resources
- 4) Action: Develop supporting information webpage and/or document
 - a) Develop a flowchart to provide guidance for RCWD decisions regarding AIS management
 - b) Develop, maintain, and regularly update a hub of supporting information
 - i) The supporting information will be intended for public distribution, to quickly and efficiently provide support to lakeshore owners and lake associations
 - ii) The supporting information will include resources for AIS management, including contact information for state, county, and local AIS Specialists and grant programs

****RCWD Management Guidelines for Invasive Aquatic Plants to Improve Water Quality***

- Funding for invasive aquatic plants will come from the RCWD's *Water Quality Cost-Share Program*
- Whenever possible, acquire available matching AIS management grants (e.g. from MN DNR)
- Working with local partners, fund up to 50% of management costs (after grants)
- RCWD will not manage invasive aquatic plants with herbicides within 150 feet of lake shorelines
- Local partners will be asked to acknowledge water quality treatment goals:
 - Treatment areas will be a minimum of 1 acre in size, and sufficiently dense to warrant management
 - Management actions should have little or no impact on native aquatic plants
 - Management should benefit native aquatic plants
 - RCWD will not actively manage native aquatic plants or invasive plants that do not degrade water clarity and enhance algae blooms
 - RCWD will not actively manage any invasive aquatic plants for the sole purpose of improving lake access or recreational use

RCWD Aquatic Invasive Species Services Flow Chart

November 2016



ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

3. RCWD Annual Report Approval (Kendra Sommerfeld)



MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District

Date: March 25, 2025
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Kendra Sommerfeld, Communications & Outreach Manager
Subject: RCWD Annual Report Approval

Introduction

Rice Creek Watershed District is required to submit an annual activity report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources of the Department of Natural Resources within 120 days of the end of the District’s fiscal year.

Background

The content of this annual activity report includes an assessment of the previous year's annual work plan including progress made towards WMP goals and objectives, a projected work plan for the next year, and several other administrative criteria.

The format and reporting are aligned with the RCWD Watershed Management Plan 2020 – 2029 and include documentation of information required by the MS4 permit.

The report has been completed as a draft for Board review.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the 2024 Annual Report with any necessary formatting and non-substantive changes for submission to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and other required recipients by the deadline.

Proposed Motion

Motion by Manager _____ to approve the 2024 Annual Report with any necessary formatting and non-substantive changes and authorize submission to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and other required recipients by the deadline.

Attachments:

Draft 2024 Annual Report



Rice Creek Watershed District

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



About Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)

Address:

4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive
Suite 611

Blaine, Minnesota, 55449-4539

Phone: (763) 398-3070

Fax: (763)398-3088

District Administrator:

Nick Tomczik

Email: ntomczik@ricecreek.org

www.ricecreek.org



Clickable Links

Website



Clickable Link





About Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)

- A special-purpose unit of government
- Established by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on January 18, 1972, upon petition by county boards with support from citizens and cities.
- Approximately 186 square miles of urban and rural lands in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties.
- Includes all or portions of 28 cities and townships. (Arden Hills, Birchwood Village, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus, Dellwood, Falcon Heights, Forest Lake, Fridley, Grant, Hugo, Lauderdale, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Mahtomedi, May Township, Mounds View, New Brighton, Roseville, Saint Anthony, Scandia, Shoreview, Spring Lake Park, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township and Willernie).



RCWD Mission

To manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the District through flood control and water quality projects and programs.



RCWD Watershed Management Plan 2020-2029

- Completed in 2019 (approval and adoption in 2020).
- Board adopted Resolution 2021-08 on May 26, 2021, to approve several minor updates



Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Map

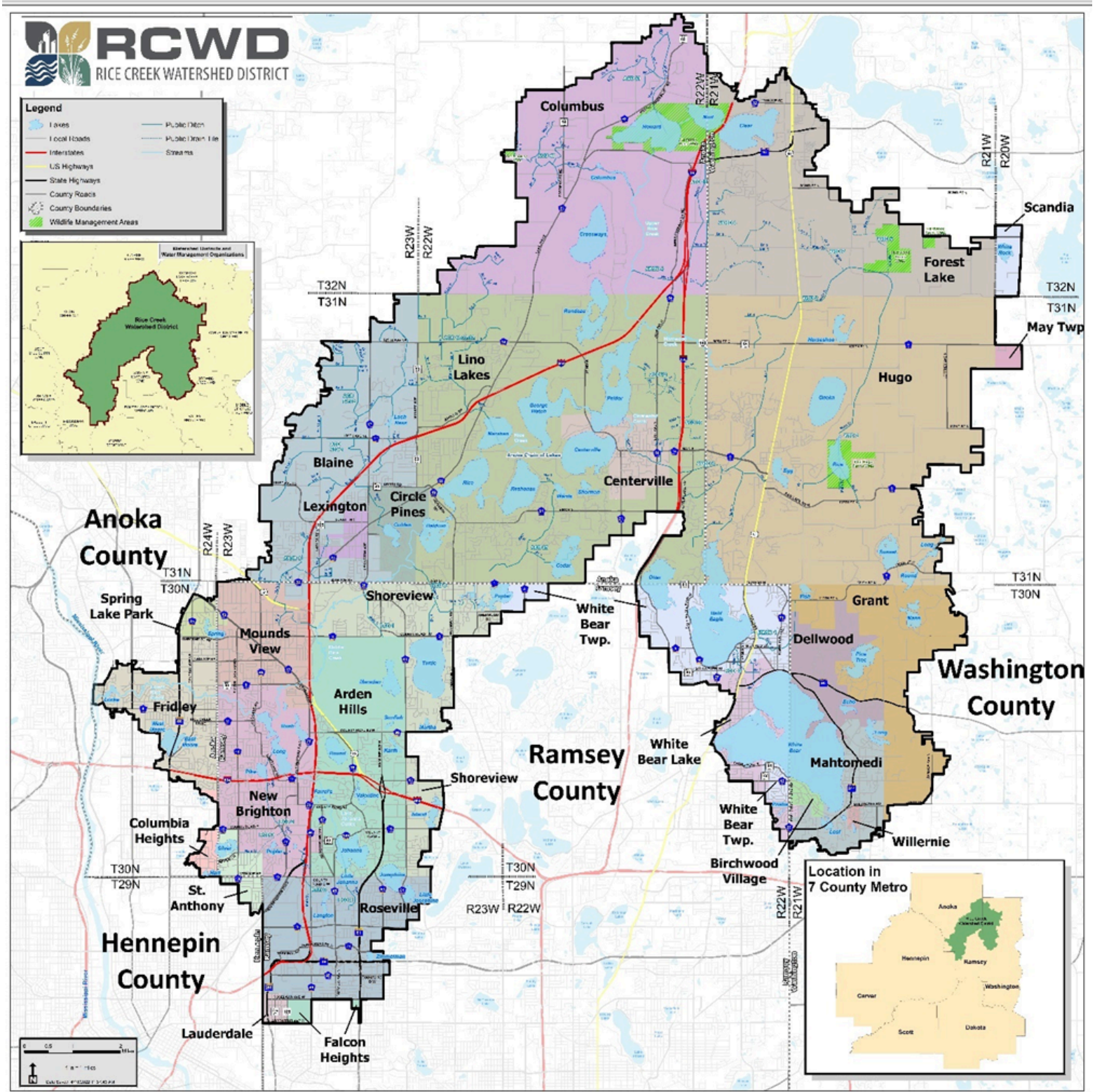


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Budget, Expenditures & Revenue

Based on Audit

Expenditures/Programs	2024 Budget	2024 Expenditures	2024 Project Anticipation Fund 99	2025 Budget
General Administration	\$523,535	\$444,628		\$535,272
Environmental Education	254,068	221,836		305,389
Information Mgmt/Technology	271,146	174,384		316,014
Water Resource Restoration	2,165,193	932,098	2,700,000	2,922,551
Regulatory	1,590,761	1,103,529		1,565,687
Ditch & Creek Maintenance	1,741,000	1,334,263	1,400,000	1,955,483
Lake & Stream Mgmt/Monitoring	1,147,001	828,433	200,000	1,155,911
District Facilities	641,635	281,114	200,000	654,307
Total Program Expenses	8,334,339	5,320,285	4,500,000	9,410,614

2024 Board of Managers & Advisory Committee

2024 Board of Managers

Mike Bradley, President

Email: mbradley@ricecreek.org

County: Ramsey

Term Expires: January 2026

John Waller, 1st Vice President

US Mail Only

County: Washington

Term Expires: January 2028

Steve Wagamon, 2nd Vice President

Email: swagamon@ricecreek.org

County: Anoka

Term Expires: January 2028

Marcie Weinandt, Treasurer

Email: mweinandt@ricecreek.org

County: Ramsey

Term Expires: January 2026

Jess Robertson, Secretary

Email: jrobertson@ricecreek.org

County: Anoka

Term Expires: January 2026

2024 Citizen Advisory Committee

Dave Anderson, Anoka County

Megan Forbes, Ramsey County

Peter Larsen, Washington County

William Lazarus, Ramsey County

Douglas Ramseth, Washington County &
Clear Lake Association

Heidi Schleicher, Anoka County

Michael Schroeder, Liaison from Ramsey
Conservation Department

Mary Jo Truchon, Supervisor & Liaison from
Anoka SWCD

Teresa O'Connell, Anoka County

Andrew Kovacs, Ramsey County

Richard Thompson, Washington County

Rebecca Keller, Anoka County

2024 Staff

Nick Tomczik – District Administrator
Ali Chalberg- Watershed Technician and Inspector
Kendra Sommerfeld- Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Anna Grace – Regulatory Technician
Molly Nelson – Outreach and Grants Technician
Patrick Hughes – Regulatory Manager
Matthew Kocian – Lake & Stream Manager
Catherine Nester – Water Monitoring Technician
Tom Schmidt – Drainage and Facilities Manager
Theresa Stasica – Office Manager
Kelsey White – Permit Technician
Abel Green – Operations and Maintenance Inspector
Will Roach – Watershed Technician/Inspector
Erik Larson – Watershed Inspector
Emmet Hurley – Program Support Technician
Sara Belden – Project Technician
Sarah Struntz – Watershed Inspector
Connor Price – Technical Field Assistant
David Petry – Project Manager



Figure 1 RCWD All Staff paddle day down Rice Creek

2024 Legal, Professional, and Consulting Services

RCWD solicited statements of interest for legal, technical, accounting, human resource, and information technologies professional services in 2024. Following solicitation, the RCWD selected Rinke – Noonan for legal counsel, Redpath and Company for accounting, and Houston Engineering for technical, RYMARK for informational technologies, and no firm for human resource services. During 2024 RCWD contracted with Smith Partners for legal counsel and Career Enhancement Options, Inc. for human resources.

RCWD maintains a list of professional service providers to call upon for assistance with engineering, design, construction, and general consulting. Companies complete and submit the Professional Services Sign-up Form to be considered for potential work with the RCWD.

Legal Counsel

Rinke Noonan
John Kolb, Hannah Schacherl
Suite 300, US Bank Plaza
PO Box 1497
St. Cloud, MN 56302
Phone: 320-251-6700



Consulting Engineers & Other Services

Houston Engineering
Chris Otterness, P.E.
6901 E Fish Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Phone: 763-493-4522



Redpath & Company - Accounting & Auditing
Mark Gibbs
4810 White Bear Parkway
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone: 651-426-7000



RYMARK
6200 Shingle Creek Parkway, Suite 595
Minneapolis, MN 55430
Phone: 612-328-8900



Introduction

This annual report is a review and assessment of the previous year's work and its efforts towards the goals of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). RCWD 2020-2029 Watershed Management Plan: [2020 Watershed Management Plan - Rice Creek Watershed District](#).

Purpose of Annual Report

The purpose of the annual report is to fulfill the requirements set forth in Minnesota Statute Chapter 103D.351, which requires watershed districts to file an annual report with the Board of Soil and Water Resources and the Department of Natural Resources. Minnesota Regulation MR 8410.0150 requires the report to contain certain information.

What's in the Annual Report?

The RCWD WMP includes 9 management categories, organized to provide a review and assessment of RCWD efforts in these categories and includes implementation activities. Implementation activities include projects and programs that directly address management issues and associated measurable goals.



Figure 2 Howard Lake

The nine management categories include:

- 103E Public Drainage Systems
- Other Drainage Systems
- District Facilities
 - section includes documentation of MS4 activities*
- Flooding
- Water Quality Management
- Funding
- Collaborations
- Regulatory
 - section includes documentation of MS4 activities*
- Communication, Outreach, and Education
 - section includes documentation of MS4 activities*

*RCWD has an MS4 permit through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for portions of the public drainage system. This annual report includes documentation of information required by the MS4 permit.

2024 Highlights

Public Drainage Program

- Completed 126 inspections and 45 maintenance projects on 15 of 22 different public drainage systems (68%). Exceeds MS4 permit requirement.
- Completed major repair of Ramsey County Ditch #4 and allocated costs using a blend of ad valorem and water management district funds.
- Completed repair of Anoka-Washington Judicial Ditch 3 Branches 1, 2, & 4

District Facilities Program

- Completed 23 facility inspections (64% of all District facilities).
- Focus on troubleshooting/repairing Iron iron-enhanced sand Filters
- Regional Flood Control and Stormwater Management
 - Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3 & 5 Basic Water Management Project: Continued efforts with the Cities of New Brighton, Saint Anthony, and Roseville to complete Phase 3, Jones Lake construction, of this project and to detail an anticipated implementation schedule and priorities, cost allocations, and revenue generation methods.

Water Quality Program

- District staff monitored 9 lakes, 10 long-term stream and ditch sites, and four synoptic or project-specific sites
- Partners and volunteers monitored an additional 17 lakes
- District staff collected 423 water samples on lakes, streams, and ditches 2,170 individual laboratory analyses were conducted
- Centerville Alum Treatment Project- Clean Water Fund grant supported. 1st half of the alum treatment completed
- Clearwater Creek / JD3 Feasibility Study completed in 2024
- Hwy 61 Ponds Project was initiated in 2024
- Aquatic Invasive Species
 - The Carp Management Program
 - 1,029 adult carp were removed from the Long Lake / Lino Chain of Lakes system
 - Since program inception, 56,881 carp have been removed from the Long Lake Lino Chain of Lakes system, which is approximately 40,000 lbs.
 - Overall, carp density has been reduced by nearly 90%, and long-term management goals were met for the first time in 2023
 - Solely based on phosphorus content in carp tissue, this program has removed approximately 1,700 lbs. of phosphorus from the Long Lake / Lino Chain of Lakes
 - Phosphorus concentrations are declining, and native aquatic plants are increasing in the system
 - RCWD partnered with three lake associations to manage curlyleaf pondweed

Grant Programs

- Stormwater Management Grant Program
 - Awarded \$300,150 to 5 cities to implement five water quality and/or flood control projects
- Water Quality Grant Program
 - 15 projects were awarded approximately \$119,705.84 to assist landowners with the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve the quality of surface waters within the District.

- Mini-Grants Program
 - \$10,000 was available. A total of 20 mini-grants were issued: 5 grants for rain barrels, 2 grants for low-mow turf, 1 grant for water outreach and education, and 18 for native plantings.

Permit/Regulatory Program

- Received 85 permit applications
- 73 permits issued
- 120 permits closed
- Successfully completed a revision to the rule set (Board approved on 11/13/2024 and implementation took effect on 01/01/2025)

Outreach Program

- (See Outreach & Communications section)



Figure 4 Hansen Park, Iron Enhanced Sand Filter, New Brighton, MN

MS 103E Public Drainage Systems

The District has identified “MS 103E Public Drainage Systems” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Management and maintenance of public drainage systems in its role as Drainage Authority (County and Judicial Ditches established under MS 103E).” There are 3 key issues within this category: Public Drainage System Maintenance, Repair, and Management Approach; Repair Project Financing; and Stakeholder Outreach on Drainage System Roles and Expectations.

Public Drainage System Maintenance, Repair, and Management Approach

The District has identified the need to comprehensively manage public drainage systems to provide the necessary level of service to both current and future development. The complexity of managing public drainage systems has led to several challenging issues faced by the District, including reestablishing the as-constructed and subsequently improved condition (ACSIC); prioritization and scheduling of drainage system inspection and maintenance; maintaining drainage records in centralized locations and providing for public access to these records; and managing the public drainage systems to serve multiple land uses as well as current and future development without exceeding the geometry and conveyance of the ACSIC.

Goal: Schedule, prioritize, and execute inspection and maintenance of the District’s public drainage systems to preserve and/or restore drainage function for multiple uses.

Measurable Goal: Inspect each of the District’s public drainage systems over each 5-year period of the Plan. RCWD Board adopted 4 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

As the public drainage authority, RCWD is responsible for maintaining approximately 114 miles of public drainage systems.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District completed 126 inspections and 45 maintenance projects on 15 of 22 different public drainage systems in 2024. This is 68% of the total drainage systems, which exceed the minimum of 20% goal identified in the watershed management plan—completed 17 of 17 scheduled inspections.

These inspections also involve illicit discharge detection in public drainage systems identified by the MPCA as part of RCWD's MS4.

Examples of 2024 Public Drainage Maintenance Projects include (but not limited to):

- ACD 10-22-32 –main trunk Beaver dam removal and channel excavation from East of Jodrell to south of Pine Street.
- ACD 72 – replacement of existing clay tile with HDPE tile on various branches
- ACD 46 – bank failure repair.
- ACD 53-62 – stabilization of main trunk repair access points.
- Beaver activity was at a record pace in 2024, with 15 unique Beaver-related maintenance projects totaling \$19,126.50 across multiple systems.
- WJD 5 – Completion of main branch replacement of existing clay tile with HDPE tile /repair from County Road 50 to branch 1, Installation of surface intakes/ inspection ports.

2025 Work Plan

The District will continue to inspect and maintain the public drainage systems and complete maintenance projects as recommended by the Public Drainage Inspector and in accordance with the inspections schedule. The District will continue to promote agreements with municipal partners to increase maintenance activities on public drainage systems.

Efforts planned by the Public Drainage Inspector include (but not limited to):

- ACD 72 – replacement of existing clay tile with HDPE tile on various branches
- ARJD 1 – Work with City of Mounds View to coordinate maintenance
- ARJD 1 – main trunk tree & brush removal from County Road J to 93rd Ave; main trunk excavation; Restwood Rd. to Flowerfield Rd. and Naples to I-35W
- Drainage system right-of-way maintenance on various systems as possible, such as ditch bank mowing.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) previously deemed that some of the public drainage systems are considered part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). During public drainage systems inspections, illicit discharges are included in the items being inspected and, if found, are noted in the inspection report and reported as required.

RCWD has evaluated the land use around the public drainage systems that are included in the District's MS4 and determined that priority areas are not present. However, District staff regularly monitor the open systems, remove obstructions, and evaluate opportunities to prevent pollutants and improve water quality.

Public drainage staff are trained each year in illicit discharge recognition. The District will continue to inspect public drainage systems for illicit discharges.

In 2024, MPCA requested updated mapping and data regarding its MS4 features. Current guidance from MPCA suggests public drainage systems (PDS) and current District owned facilities may not meet MPCA's requirements to necessitate RCWD holding an MS4 permit. MPCA has provided a petition for RCWD to request reevaluation of its MS4 status.

Repair Project Financing

The District has identified a need for establishing an equitable means of apportioning the cost of MS 103E public drainage system repair projects.

Goal: Equitably apportion costs of public drainage system repairs.

Measurable Goal: Utilize 100% of the District's established cost allocation methodology.

The District has one policy to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2025 Work Plan

Continue to allocate the costs of public drainage system repairs through implementation of the hybrid legal framework, which includes MS 103E, 103D, and 103B.

Charge allocations for the ACD 53-62 Main Trunk repair project begin in 2022. Forty percent of the preliminary cost is allocated to the whole district via ad valorem funds. The other 60% is allocated to landowners directly draining to the system (WMD charge). Landowners with WMD charges will pay a single-year annual charge (collected through property taxes) for amounts less than \$300. In instances where the parcel's charge incurred exceeds \$300, the landowner will pay three equal annual installments (still collected through property taxes). No interest will accrue in the first three years.

Stakeholder Outreach on Drainage System Roles and Expectations

The District has identified the need to ensure communication to stakeholders is clear about the condition of the public drainage system, the effect of proposed repairs, and the District's roles and authorities.

Goal: Use communication and outreach tools as an integral element in managing public drainage systems to credibly convey District roles and authorities and system data and information, thereby increasing knowledge, awareness, and capacity among stakeholders.

Measurable Goal: Send at least 1-2 project communications to affected landowners and stakeholders in addition to MS 103E legal requirements; release one press statement for each major repair project; and update the RCWD website's drainage page quarterly with project updates.

The District has three policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

Accomplishments and Activities:

In an effort to communicate landowner rights to convey the District's role and authority, the District continues to update the Drainage Portal, which is available online and maintains the official drainage systems records.

2025 Work Plan

The District will continue to hold informational meetings prior to public hearings. The District will also ensure the use of consistent terms and definitions when communicating about drainage. The District will continue to send notices in advance of maintenance activities when feasible.

Non-103E Systems

The District has identified “Non-103E Drainage Systems” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as “Management of drainage systems not established under MS 103E and stormwater conveyance systems within the District boundary.” There is one key issue within this category: Management of Non-103E Systems.

The District has identified that despite the limited role and authority of the District in managing non-103E systems, these systems can impact upstream and downstream water quantity conveyance and water quality and may serve a public benefit.

Goal: In consideration of the District’s limited role, address conveyance concerns on non-103E systems within the framework of District policy.

Measurable Goal: Address 100% of all non-103E system concerns as determined by the District's Natural Channel Management Policy.

The District has 2 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

Continued to engage in collaboration with private partners to address existing issues according to its policies. The RCWD Natural Channel Management Policy guides any work in and around natural waterways specifying the triggers and actions related to RCWD’s role in maintaining natural or recreational systems.

Communicated to landowners and partners the RCWD Natural Channel Management policy when an inquiry was received regarding private drainage and natural conveyances. District staff followed the policy to assess the involvement of the District in these private matters.

2025 Work Plan

Continue to use consistent messaging when engaged in non-103E drainage systems and follow the Natural Channel Management Policy. RCWD’s new website does include information on the Natural Channel Management Policy.

District Facilities

The District has identified “Management of District Facilities” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Operation and maintenance of water management structures and property constructed and/or owned by the District.” The key issue within this category is Management of District Facilities.

A “District facility” is defined as a physical water management project constructed and/or owned and maintained by the District for purposes of addressing water quality, regional flooding, or wetland habitat. In recent years, the District has focused on understanding what District facilities exist, where they are located, what their current condition is, and whether the facilities need maintenance or repair. In some cases, access to the facilities is an issue, and the District has been researching and documenting both the physical condition and legal access to each District facility.

Goals:

- Sustain an updated District program that focuses on the construction, inspection, maintenance, and/or operation of District facilities in accordance with their water management purposes and gauges their effectiveness over time.
- Strive to obtain and maintain legal access for the operation and maintenance of those District facilities that currently do not have legal access.

Measurable Goal: Inspect 100% of District facilities over the 10-year period of the watershed management plan (2020-2029) and obtain legal access to 75% of District facilities over that same time period.

The District has 5 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved towards these goals.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

District staff tracks all facility inspection activities as well as maintenance or repairs completed each year. Of the 32 total inventoried facilities, 23 were inspected in 2024, 42%. At the end of 2024, the District had legal access to 20 of 32 facilities (63%). A breakdown of these general activities can be found in the following table.

ID	Facility Name	Inspected	Maintenance	Notes	MS4
CB-1	Walls Bros. Wetland Restoration	X	X	Vegetation management	X
LL-2	Rondeau Lake Outlet Channel	X			
LL-3	Rondeau Lake Fish Barrier	X	X	Pulled and replaced sections according to DNR permit	X

LL-4	Hardwood Creek Restor. (2012)				
SV-5	Middle Rice Creek Restor. (2005)				
AH-6	Middle Rice Creek Restor. (2016)	X			
FD-7	Locke Lake Sedimentation Basin				
NB-8	Long Lake Sedimentation Basin	X			
NB-9	Jones Lake Outlet				
NB-10	35W Wetland Treatment Area				
AH-11	E2 Wetland Weir	X	X		X
AH-12	Lake Johanna Outlet				X
AH-13	Floral Park Berm & Outlet	X			
AH-14	Hwy 10 & 694 Outlet	X			
WBT-15	RWJD1 & Hwy 61 Treatment Ponds	X			X
WBT-16	RWJD1 Fish Barrier	X			X
MM-17	Hall's Marsh Outlet	X			X
RV-18	Oasis Pond Sediment Basin & Weir	X			X
AH-19	Lake Josephine Outlet				X

FL-20	Lamprey Pass	X			X
RV-21	Little Josephine Outlet	X			
CB-22	Browns Preserve	X			X
NB-23	Hansen Park Sediment Basin	X	X	Pond buffer maintenance	X
NB-24	Hansen Park IESF	X	X	IESF vegetation management and buffer	X
AH-25	Bethel North				
HG-26	Oneka Ridge Golf Course Reuse *				
FL-27	Rehbein Farms	X	X	Vegetation management	
RV-28	Oasis Pond IESF *	X	X	IESF vegetation management and buffer	X
WBL-134	Priebe Lake Outlet	X			
FD-139	Lower Rice Creek Stabiliz. (2020)	X	X	I inspected this and we repaired a section as a result, repair work was finished in October 2023.	X
WBT-138	Bald Eagle Lake IESF	X	X	IESF vegetation management and buffer	X
	Lake Johanna Fish Barrier	X	X	Has a tendency to get blocked with plant material, cleaned as needed.	X
Total		23	10		17

** RCWD has only a limited role in operating and maintaining these facilities.*

^ RCWD has interpreted generic MS4 permit language from the MPCA to assess which facilities may be relevant to the District's MS4 annual report. RCWD and MPCA have engaged in discussions regarding the capture of public drainage and facilities into MS4 jurisdiction.

The following is a summary of non-routine facility maintenance completed by the District and other unique takeaways from 2024.

Iron-Enhanced Sand Filters: All 3 IESF sites were inoperable for the majority of 2024. The IESF at Hansen Park treated 0 gallons of RCD 2 runoff in 2024 (Hansens Park had a pump damaged by animals and was inoperable, the pump has been repaired and is in working order for the 2025 season).

With the repairs of a cracked pipe completed, Oasis Pond is expected to operate during the 2025 season.

The IESF at Bald Eagle Lake treated 0 gallons of RCD 11 runoff in 2024. The Electronic Control Unit on site was faulty and had internal damage in 2024. We will retrofit this site with an updated Electronic Control Unit for the 2025 season.

2025 Work Plan

District staff will continue to inspect its facilities for proper operation and identification of maintenance needs. Many facilities are inspected annually or more frequently, while some are only inspected on an as-needed basis. At a minimum, all facilities will be inspected once every ten years. The District began a more detailed evaluation of each facility in relation to its physical location and condition based on site inspection. Staff will continue this investigation in 2025 and make recommendations for the next steps for each facility.

The District conducts active operational activities at Hansen Park and Bald Eagle Lake IESFs and provides support to the City of Roseville at the Oasis Pond IESF and to the Oneka Ridge Golf Course for its stormwater reuse irrigation system. These activities will continue in 2025.

The District established the Priebe Lake Outfall Project (PLOP) in 19XX. This flood control project was limited to its operable outlet and discharge pipe conveyance. In recent years, concerns were raised by landowners regarding water elevations and water quality at the outlet as well as landowners on Priebe Lake concerned with water quality. This initiated collaborative discussions as to how all parties may achieve the future condition. The District will continue to work with its partners to establish an agreeable framework for clear operational terms in collaboration with partner cities to be incorporated into the Priebe Lake Outfall Project MOA. Once the MOA is fully executed, the District will fulfill its obligations.

The District anticipates further engagement from the MPCA regarding the defined jurisdiction of the MS4 permit

Flooding

The District has identified “Flooding” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Managing the peak rate and volume of runoff from the landscape in an attempt to reduce potential flood damages in receiving surface waters.” There are three key issues within this category: Addressing Existing Flooding Issues; Impacts of Future Developments on Downstream Rate and Volume; Modeling and Mapping.

Addressing Existing Flooding Issues

To prevent increases in the magnitude and duration of flooding, one of the District’s primary functions is the maintenance of its public drainage system, which serves as the sole outlet for many areas of the District. The District also has an interest in managing the peak rate and volume of runoff from the landscape to reduce potential flood damage on properties adjacent to downstream receiving surface waters. Within the District, opportunities exist to decrease the risk and impact of known flooding issues through collaboration with local partners. The District has completed studies and analyses that demonstrate that District stormwater management rules (Rule C) alone cannot meet current and future flood management needs. Instead, the District utilizes a combination of regulation, projects, and programs to provide a multi-faceted approach for managing flooding.

Goal: Decrease the risk and impact of known flooding issues through collaboration with local municipal partners.

Measurable Goal: Collaborate with partners to implement District-prioritized flood risk reduction projects to accrue 200 acre-feet of new live flood storage during the 10-year lifespan of the watershed management plan (2020-2029), aimed at reducing the rate and volume of runoff.

The District has 4 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Activities:

The District has several ongoing efforts, in collaboration with several municipal partners, aimed at developing suites of future capital projects that will create substantial volumes of new flood storage across the watershed:

- **Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3 & 5 Basic Water Management Project:** The current focus of the water management project is Jones Lake Improvements. Implementation of this project is critical for achieving regional flood risk reductions and must be completed prior to implementation of the other projects identified in the plan.
- **Stormwater Management Grant Program:** In 2024, three of the District-funded capital improvement projects resulted in reductions in rate control and/or runoff volume (listed below).
Note: Additional issue-specific information on this cost-share program is provided in the water quality and collaborations sections of this report.
 - City of Roseville – C2 & Simpson Underground Infiltration - \$100,000
 - Washington County – CSAH 12 Improvements - \$10,000
 - City of New Brighton – Public Works Facility Flood Mitigation Project - \$100,000

Priebe Lake Outfall Project (PLOP): RCWD continues to work extensively with its partners (Birchwood Village, Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake) in response to landowner and City of Birchwood concerns at the PLOP outlet location in Hall’s Marsh. POLP transverses the 3 communities and there are inputs to the pipe system beyond Priebe Lake.

District rules require volume reduction and rate control. A project's proposed peak stormwater runoff rates for the 2, 10, and 100-year rainfall events must not exceed the existing peak rates. Further, for projects within the Flood Management Zone, the peak runoff rates for 2, 10, and 100-year events must be reduced to 80% or less of the existing peak rates.

2025 Work Plan

The District anticipates continuing its work with partners to implement components of the Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3 & 5 Basic Water Management Project in 2025. Finding adequate funding sources, both internal and external, has proven difficult for the large “prerequisite” project components, but the District is pursuing funding from the MN DNR, MPCA, legislature, and other grant opportunities.

The RCWD annually allocates funds to the effort. Efforts, \$200,000 in 2024 and cumulatively over \$5M so far on Hanson Park, Mirror Pond, and RCD 2,3,5, (with approx. \$1.2M on consulting (engineering) and \$4.1M on construction.)

The District has allocated \$300,000 in Stormwater Management Grant Program funding for 2024 to assist public and private entities with implementation of projects that provide stormwater quality treatment, runoff volume reductions, peak runoff rate control and/or reductions in groundwater usage.

The District will continue to work with its municipal partners to ensure successful operation of the Priebe Lake Outfall Project, including the outlet structure.

Impacts of Future Development on Downstream Rate and Volume

As the headwater portions of the District and various drainage areas are developing, downstream flooding is an increased concern. To identify the location and scope of these flooding locations, the District developed hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of future developed conditions based on current and future community land use maps and application of District rules.

This analysis shows that projected future development will result in regional increases in runoff rate and volume, even with current District rules in place. Additionally, the limited conveyance of several public drainage systems that serve as the primary outlet for stormwater in some communities has raised awareness of volume constrained areas. Within these areas the runoff volume increases from future development will exacerbate existing and/or create new flood issues.

Goal: Understand the effects of future development on runoff volume, flow rates, and flooding, and work to minimize those effects through regulation, projects, and programs.

Measurable Goal: Update its Future Conditions Model at least once during the 10-year lifespan of the watershed management plan (2020-2029) to account for realized and proposed land development and modeled changes in regional precipitation patterns.

The District has 5 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District's regulatory permit program implements RCWD rules and considers flooding concerns related to development. These include individual project site controls, regional storage, implications from conveyance, and outlet downstream implications on flood elevations. Property development in the CSMP area must comply with the terms of the CSMP.

2025 Work Plan

The District will continue to communicate on this issue to its community partners as individual sites develop and contribute to the regional plan. The District will respond to applications in the CSMP area with the District tracking the municipalities and developers' capacity and allocations to other developments. An update of the District's Future Conditions Model will occur later in the ten-year plan cycle.

Modeling and Mapping

The District initiates maintenance of its modeling products to ensure the continued value of the models and their results. This maintenance includes annual updates to models to reflect changing infrastructure and land use, correcting deficiencies and errors, and adding new details and data where and when it becomes available. The District has developed a District Modeling Update Policy, including updates in tools and the development of MS4Front, to guide implementation of this maintenance effort.

Goal: Maintain and update District hydrology and hydraulic models to reflect changing conditions and adapt to evolving technology.

Measurable Goal: Complete an update to the District-wide model (existing conditions) annually (throughout the 10-year lifespan of the watershed management plan).

The District has 4 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

RCWD engaged its engineer to complete the annual update of the District-wide model, incorporating landscape-scale changes from new developments and major capital projects that were completed in the watershed over the previous year. In October 2024, a boundary change petition was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources requesting changes to the legal watershed boundary in the southwest portion of the District to better reflect the current hydrologic boundary. The petition was accompanied by written statements of concurrence in the petition from the governing bodies of all affected cities, towns, and watershed management organizations having jurisdiction over the territory proposed to be added or transferred.

2025 Work Plan

The City of New Brighton has submitted a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for the area around Hansen Park. The District's Hansen Park project required significant modeling of the area and resulted in a much-improved understanding of the floodplain. The District will be supporting the City through cost-share and modeling detail in its application and intended relief to landowners.

Water Quality Management

The District has identified “Water Quality Management” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Protecting and/or improving the water quality of District streams, rivers, lakes, and other watercourses.” There are six key issues within this category: Accelerated Sedimentation; Aquatic Invasive Species; Wetlands; Nutrient Enrichment, Algae, and Cultural Eutrophication; Surface Water Monitoring; and Surface Water / Groundwater Interactions.

Accelerated Sedimentation

As changes in land use and rainfall patterns continue to occur within the RCWD, increases in runoff volume, flow, and velocity are experienced in portions of the watershed. These hydrologic changes can cause sedimentation rates to accelerate, leading to negative ecological and economic impacts. accelerated sedimentation can lead to a reduction in the storage capacity of lakes, ponds, and plunge pools, resulting in costly maintenance dredging efforts to restore storage capacity. Rice Creek flows through two lakes prone to rapid sedimentation: Long Lake in New Brighton and Locke Lake.

The District maintains sediment basins adjacent to Long Lake, in Locke Lake, on Ramsey County Ditch 2 within New Brighton’s Hansen Pond, on Ramsey County Ditch 4 within Roseville’s Oasis Pond, on Ramsey-Washington Judicial Ditch 1 just upstream of U.S. Highway 61, and on Ramsey County Ditch 11 just west of Eagle Street in White Bear Township.

Goals:

- Employ District regulatory authority and collaborate with partners (e.g. state, municipalities) on inspections to minimize sediment loading from erosion associated with land disturbance, land development, increases in impervious surface, or other changes in landscape construction sites that contribute to accelerated sedimentation.
- Pursuing collaborations to implement agricultural and urban BMPs to address sediment delivery to District water resources.
- Reduce in-channel erosion throughout the RCWD, and particularly in Lower Rice Creek and Middle Rice Creek, through the implementation of programs and practices to stabilize eroding channels and banks.

Measurable Goals:

- Reduce the average number of sediment-related permit violations per active construction site to less than one per site per year (by the end of the 10-year 2020-2029 watershed management plan timeframe);
- Continuing the annual implementation of cost share programs for water quality BMPs resulting in a total reduction of TSS loading to receiving waters of 100 tons (during period of the plan); and
- Pursue implementation of at least one BMP that addresses in-channel sediment delivery in Lower Rice Creek and one BMP that addresses in-channel sediment delivery in Middle Rice Creek (during the period of the plan).

The District has 6 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Activities:

RCWD completed inspections of **one** of its three stream stabilization and restoration sites. With minor

exceptions, the sites were found to be in good condition and continue to provide the intended benefit – i.e. reducing streambank erosion and sedimentation.



Figure 5 Golden Lake Iron Enhanced Sand Filter at Golden Lake Park in Circle Pines

Projects funded through the **2024 Stormwater Management Grant Program** are anticipated to reduce annual pollutant loading to District surface waters. Annual total suspended sediment (TSS) is expected to be reduced by approximately 1.3 tons, and annual total phosphorus (TP) loading is expected to be reduced by approximately 8 lbs.

Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) Projects All 3 IESF sites were inoperable for the 2024 season. The IESF at Hansen Park treated 0 gallons of RCD 2 runoff in 2024 (Hansens Park had a pump damaged by animals and was inoperable, the pump has been repaired and is in working order for the 2025 season).

With the repair completed Oasis Pond is expected to operate during the 2025 season.

The IESF at Bald Eagle Lake treated 0 gallons of RCD 11 runoff in 2023 (After extensive trouble shooting the reason the site was having so many pumps and operation faults; we realized the Electronic Control Unit was faulty and had internal damage. We will be retrofitting this site with an updated Electronic Control Unit for the 2025 season.

2025 Work Plan

The District's **Stormwater Management Grant and Water Quality Grant Programs** (and the Mini-Grants program) will continue operation. Collectively, they offer over \$500,000 to District local governments, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders who aim to implement water quality improvement projects and best management practices within the District. After repairs to all 3 sites the IESFs at Hansen Park, Oasis Pond, and Bald Eagle Lake are expected to operate for the 2025 season reducing sediment and nutrient loads in Ramsey County Ditches 2, 4, and 11, respectively.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Consistent with its mission, the RCWD takes an active role in managing those AIS that impact water quality or contribute to algae blooms and decreased water clarity. For other AIS that do not directly impact water quality, but may affect ecology or recreation, the District offers supporting services (i.e. data collection and general guidance). Research suggests that curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are linked to water quality degradation and algae blooms. For this reason, the District plays an active role in managing these species.

Goals:

- Mitigate adverse water quality impacts of common carp by reducing and maintaining their density with a long-term, sustainable approach.

- Partner with lake associations and homeowner groups to manage curly-leaf pondweed to improve water quality and native plant diversity.

Measurable Goals:

- Develop three system-specific common carp management plans, with priority to Clear-Mud-Howard Lakes, Peltier-Centerville Lakes, and Silver Lake (by 2029)
- Implement plans over the long-term to reduce carp density below their adverse impact threshold (100 kg/ha) on a per system basis.
- Work towards achieving 100 kg/ha carp density in the Long-Lino Chain (during the WMP time period).



Figure 6 Johanna Creek Carp Barrier at New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, MN

- Implement annual curly-leaf pondweed management programs in District lakes that have lake association and/or landowner support with DNR technical guidance.

The District has 3 policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District partnered with seven lake associations to manage curlyleaf pondweed in 2024.

On Bald Eagle, Clear, Centerville, Peltier, Reshanau, Golden, and Silver Lakes, the District delineated beds of curlyleaf pondweed and procured permits from the DNR. On Bald Eagle and Peltier Lakes, the District also hired a contractor to apply herbicide as stipulated by the DNR permit. District staff attend technical conferences and collaborate with colleagues at the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to ensure that best practices are followed to minimize negative impacts on native plants and promote water quality protection and improvement.

Continued implementing its Long Lake / Lino Chain of Lakes Carp Management Plan. In 2024, a total of 1,029 adult carp were removed from the system. The removal total was lower because the population was lower.

Since program inception, 56,883 carp have been removed from the system. Carp biomass increased slightly in 2024 to about 110 kg/ha, but still near the long-term goal of <100 kg/ha, and MUCH less than before program implementation (~700 kg/ha).

A carp population survey on Centerville Lake found the density to be very low – approximately 23 kg/ha. Box-netting was used to remove 91 carp, bringing the density to 20 kg/ha - well below the ecological



Figure 7 RCWD Staff lake monitoring

damage threshold of 100 kg/ha. Currently, carp do not appear to be a problem in Centerville Lake. In frequent population surveys (~ every 5 years) will continue in the future.

2025 Work Plan

The District plans to partner with the same homeowner groups to manage curlyleaf pondweed.

The District will continue implementing the Long Lake / Lino Chain of Lakes Carp Management Plan. Primary activities will include adult carp removal during spring migration using the NEPTUN electronic guidance system and a new electrical aggregating system. The Johanna Creek Carp Barrier was installed and completed in 2023 with Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Carp removal, monitoring and barrier maintenance will continue in 2025.

Wetlands

Managing wetlands is critical to many District interests including water quality and flood control. The availability of banked wetland credits (public or private) is vital to District projects.

Goal: Manage wetlands in a manner which improves diversity and ecological integrity on a District-wide basis, consistent with the Wetland Conservation Act and augmenting Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plans (CWPMP) and local opportunities for preservation, enhancement, and restoration, while balancing multiple resource issues.

Measurable Goals: Continue implementation of the WCA and CWPMPs and complete annual reports summarizing implementation of the CWPMPs.

The District has 3 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Activities:

The RCWD is the Local Government Unit (LGU) responsible for the implementation of the State Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), except for within the cities of Hugo, Circle Pines, and most recently Mounds View, or associated projects on state lands, such as those involving MnDOT and the DNR. Both WCA and District rules specify sequencing processes to avoid and minimize wetland impacts and replacement requirements for unavoidable impacts to wetlands. The District's role as the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Authority is also a key issue in the RCWD regulatory program and incorporated into that section of this report.

In addition, the RCWD maintains a set of rules that govern wetlands within special areas of the District, which are known as CWPMP areas. The CWPMP rules were developed as a component of Resource Management Plans (RMPs), which were developed for several locations in the District experiencing rapid urbanization, and included wetland management, public drainage systems, and water quality/quantity management considerations. The CWPMPs, RMPs, and Rule F were implemented as an effort to balance

the responsibilities of the RCWD as LGU for the WCA, drainage authority for MS 103E public drainage systems, and as a manager of water quality and quantity.

The District continued its administration/implementation of the WCA and CWPMPs. In addition to the review and noticing of WCA applications, the District reported all 2023 WCA activity to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and will be completing an audit review of Circle Pines, Hugo, and Mounds View permitting administration as cities within the District that have accepted the LGU responsibility.

Nutrient Enrichment, Algae, and Cultural Eutrophication

Several lakes and streams in the RCWD have issues related to nutrient enrichment and cultural eutrophication. The RCWD has worked diligently to address the impacts of nutrient enrichment and cultural eutrophication by conducting diagnostic studies and assessments to mitigate excess nutrient loading to District waterbodies. These studies and assessments are essential tools in targeting actions, such as implementation of best management practices (BMPs), that diminish the effect of cultural eutrophication and will be relied upon by District staff to prioritize protection and TMDL implementation efforts.

Goal: Protect and improve water quality conditions in District resources by managing nutrient loading and restoring aquatic ecosystems.

Measurable Goals: Decrease the number of District lakes classified as "restoration" and increase the number of District lakes classified as "protection" by 2 over the next 10 years using the District's Lake Classification System. This will be accomplished through the annual implementation of cost share programs for water quality BMPs which results in a cumulative total reduction of total phosphorus loading to receiving waters of 300 pounds per year (during the WMP 10-year time period).

The District has five policies to ensure adequate progress is achieved toward meeting this goal.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

Projects funded through the Stormwater Management Grant Program are anticipated to reduce annual pollutant loading to District surface waters. Annual total suspended sediment (TSS) loading is expected to be reduced by approximately 1.3 tons, and annual total phosphorus (TP) loading is expected to be reduced by approximately 8 lbs.

In 2024, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency removed four lakes from the *Impaired Waters* list. These lakes were listed as impaired for excess nutrients. Monitoring data from the RCWD and partners suggested that the lakes – Bald Eagle, Golden, Island, and White Rock – were meeting state nutrient criteria. "De-

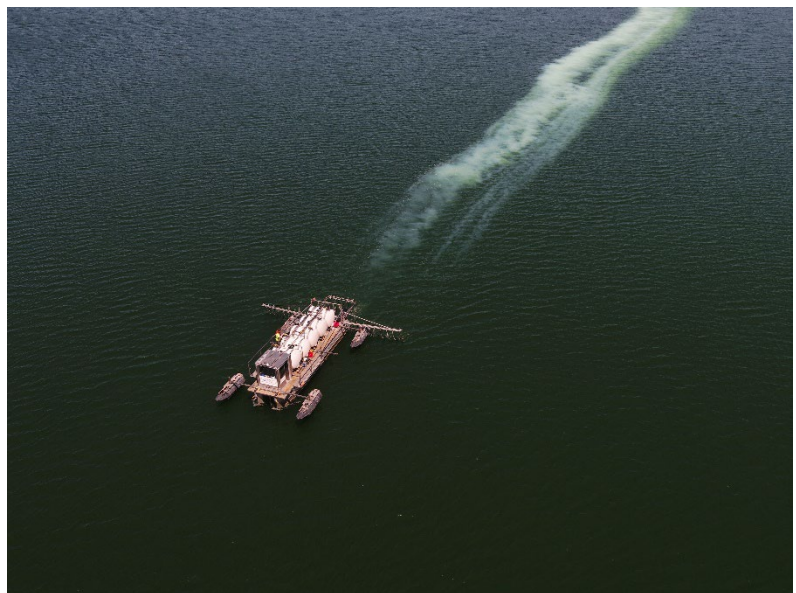


Figure 8 Centerville Lake alum treatment.

listing" celebrations were held with several lake associations and cities in 2024. These lakes transitioned from the "restoration" to the "protection" phase, thus accomplishing the District's Measurable Goal for *Nutrient Enrichment, Algae, and Cultural Eutrophication*.

2025 Work Plan

The District's Stormwater Management Grant and Water Quality Grant Programs will continue operation. Collectively, they offer over \$500,000 to District local governments, residents, businesses and other stakeholders who aim to implement water quality improvement capital projects and best management practices within the District.

IESFs at Hansen Park, Oasis Pond, and Ramsey County Ditch 11 will continue operation in 2024 and beyond, reducing sediment and nutrient loads from Ramsey County Ditches 2, 4 and 11, respectively.

The District will continue tracking water quality project information through the MS4Front database and utilize the information to monitor TMDL progress and reduce water quality treatment gaps in the landscape.



Figure 9 Centerville Lake Alum Treatment Public Information Meeting, Matt Kocian, Lake and Stream Manager presenting.

Surface Water Monitoring

Surface water monitoring is a core function of the RCWD. The Monitoring Program Plan establishes monitoring goals and objectives, describes program organization, and identifies data quality objectives.

Monitoring data is used to inform an array of RCWD activities. Monitoring at long-term, fixed sites provides insight into resource conditions and long-term water quality trends. Synoptic monitoring allows District staff to determine if projects achieve predicted water quality benefits if similar projects should be pursued in the future, and how similar projects might be optimized to attain greater pollutant reductions. One-time (investigative) samples are also collected by the District typically to address a perceived transient or short-term water quality problem. Monitoring data is used to calibrate hydrologic, hydraulic, and water quality models that are relied upon by the District in implementation, collaboration, and regulatory efforts.

In addition to monitoring efforts conducted by RCWD staff, the District supports several volunteer monitoring programs. Volunteers monitor lake water quality through the Metropolitan Council's Community Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). Through Friends of the Mississippi River, volunteers in the Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP) track biological health by collecting and documenting aquatic macroinvertebrates. The District partners with county conservation districts to measure lake levels. Finally, the District partners with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to operate a stream gauging station on Rice Creek in Mounds View.

Goals: Monitor District resources to aid in the planning and evaluation of RCWD management activities.

Measurable Goal:

- Annually update and implement the RCWD Monitoring Schedule, guided by the RCWD Monitoring Program Plan.

The District has 5 policies to ensure adequate progress towards this goal.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

- District staff collected 423 water samples on lakes, streams, and ditches; a total of 2,170 individual laboratory analyses were conducted. District staff regularly monitored 9 lakes throughout the watershed, collecting water samples and physical lake measurements (e.g. temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen). District partners and volunteers monitored another 17 lakes.
- District staff monitored water quality and physical parameters at 10 long-term stream and ditch sites and at 4 synoptic sites.
- The District continued its partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey to operate a continuous USGS stream gauging station on Rice Creek.



Figure 10 Ali Chalberg, Watershed Technician, lake monitoring on Locke Lake.

- Aquatic plant surveys were conducted at 10 lakes to manage invasive species and qualify overall lake health.

2025 Work Plan

District staff will monitor water quality and physical parameters on District streams and ditches, and partner with the USGS to operate their stream gage. District staff, cooperators, and volunteers will continue to monitor lake water quality throughout the watershed. The District will continue to support the SHEP program and conduct aquatic plant surveys on area lakes.



Figure 11 Water Monitoring staff stream monitoring.

Surface Water / Groundwater Interactions

The District's role in the management of groundwater resources is primarily as a collaborator and advisor through funding stormwater reuse projects and directing infiltration where appropriate. The RCWD is also responsible for conforming with groundwater plans developed by relevant counties and will review and submit comments to the DNR for water appropriation permits.

Goal: Protect groundwater-reliant District resources by implementation of surface water management activities.

Measurable Goal: Promote implementation of at least one BMP annually that benefits groundwater-reliant natural resources, such as stormwater infiltration practices or stormwater reuse projects.

The District has 5 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

RCWD received and approved 18 permit applications that proposed at least one infiltration or filtration stormwater BMP. Together, these permit applications result in 10 infiltration and 18 filtration BMPs constructed throughout the District.

2025 Work Plan

Continue to promote the reuse of stormwater for its benefits to groundwater resources and improvement of surface water quality. Support and promotion can come through direct funding appropriation when a project is aligned with the 2020 WMP or through one of the District's grant programs. The District expects to continue developing these types of projects with its partners.



Figure 12 Golden Lake shoreline and native plants

Funding

The District has identified “Funding” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Prioritized budgeting of costs for District programs and projects and identification of revenue sources.” There are two key issues within this category: Financing and Funding Sources *and* Funding Distribution.

Financing and Funding Sources

The District needs reliable sources of funding and sound financial management policies in order to carry out its mission.

Goal: Develop and implement an effective framework for sourcing the District and external financing and revenue to implement projects and programs to achieve the District’s goals.

Measurable Goal: Develop effective and actionable framework by 2022. Implementation of the framework to assess 100% of District program and capital improvement projects to address financing and funding needs consistent with the framework.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

Examined and revised its General Fund Balance Policy. The revision establishes a benchmark by which to provide a fund balance cash flow operating reserve. The reserve being comprised of two elements:

- An unassigned fund balance within the General Fund of not less than 40 percent of the General Fund budget.
- **An assigned fund balance within the Implementation Fund of not less than 40 percent of the next year’s administrative budget lines.**

This is to capture the administrative needs of each fund, and the amount will fluctuate with each year’s specific budget objectives.

The District is attentive to its budget and works to document the allocation of funds. The District structured further documentation in its annual budget for clarity. The effort recognizes the importance of a reasonably consistent levy and its achievement through planning and saving for future needs. This includes the previously noted administrative cash flow reserve of both General Fund and its Implementation Administrative Budget, Restricted Funds, Committed Funds, Implementation Fund and Assigned Fund Balance. The definition of each classification follows:

- General Fund – covers the general administrative expenses of the District, including salaries, benefits, and office expenses.
- Implementation Administrative Budget – covers the administrative costs of preparing or amending the District’s plan and the administrative costs of implementation of the plan through projects and programs, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.241.
- Restricted Fund – amounts are subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions, such as funds levied in a Water Management District (WMD) which are restricted to the defined purpose.
- Committed Fund - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority, such as grant program awards. The commitments may be changed or lifted only by the government taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally.

- Program/Project Anticipation Fund – funds accumulated and committed as an alternative to issuing bonds to finance improvements based on findings as to the potential future need of funds for a particular purpose.
- Assigned Fund - amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose.

RCWD values sound financial management policies to ensure financial stability of the District for the benefit of residents and businesses. The financing and funding of District efforts are carried out using a variety of funding methods. The Board of Managers strives to provide a balance between equity in paying for activities and a streamlined process minimizing administrative costs.

These financial methods can be grouped into two subcategories:

1. District-derived funds and
2. Outside funding sources.

The District can use ad valorem taxes (property tax to all taxable property within the District); the establishment of water management districts (WMDs) (property tax specific to local benefitted parcels, restricted funds) for the purpose of collecting revenues and paying for costs of projects initiated under 103D. Fees and charges are collected based on services provided for permit applications and other services.

RCWD developed its 2024 budget to align with the watershed management plan and deliver improved transparency for long-term financial stability. This is part of an effort to develop and implement an effective framework that supports balanced and steady District levy financing. There was a 5.25% levy increase for 2024 and a 4.65 rise in taxable market value, yet as always, a future year’s changes in market value, economic conditions may result in changes to the levy rate. (The District is in four separate metropolitan counties; the District estimates its levy impact on every \$200,000 of taxable market value to be \$36.) The remainder of the revenue came from water management districts, fees, grants, investment income, and use of the District’s fund balance.

The RCWD has frequently used the concept that the responsibility of paying for the completion of a project should be borne by and in proportion to the relative benefits received. When the benefits are regional in nature serving the public, ad valorem revenue is used. As the benefits become more localized, the different funding mechanisms will be considered, sometimes in combination.

Fund balance reserves are an important component of the financial health of RCWD and ensure the District has enough funds to meet contingency and cash-flow needs. The District’s 2024 budget followed the District’s General Fund Balance Policy and maintained a 40% assigned and unassigned fund balance. The District fund balance also includes a process to save and self-finance for future large projects. This “forced self-saving of funds” earmarks dollars for these future projects and eliminates the need to borrow funds and mitigates large swings or increases in the District’s levy. The “forced self-saving of funds” are identified in the 2024 budget under the project anticipation fund. These are the best financial practices and as stated above in this section additional documentation in developing the 2024 budget.

Outside Funding Sources:

Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

BWSR’s Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) remains a key source for RCWD and its partners, with allocations by watershed.

RCWD assists BWSR with the WBIF process by informing the watershed municipalities and partners about the program and by helping facilitate the convene meetings and coordinating with the voting members of the convene. The voting members consist of representatives from Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District, Washington Soil and Water Conservation District, Washington County, Ramsey County, the City of New Brighton, the City of Mounds View, and the Watershed District. The voting members of the convene review and discuss project proposals and hold a vote on each one to determine whether it should be recommended to BWSR for funding. For the FY24-25 program year, the RCWD received approval to apply for funds to be used for the design of concepts to restore and stabilize a portion of Anoka Washington Judicial Ditch 3 (Clearwater Creek) that is downstream of I-35W.

Clean Water Fund

The District continues seeking external funding, including state grants like the Clean Water Fund.

The District can borrow funds to finance activities over the interim timeframe between project implementation and receipt of dedicated project funding. The District does not have any of the low-interest Clean Water Partnership Act Revolving Fund loans (from the MPCA) currently.

Funding Distribution

The Board of Managers continues to refine its process for prioritizing the funding and implementation of projects and programs using a variety of funding sources that are available to the District.

Goal: Prioritize funding of projects and programs to most effectively meet the goals of the District.

Measurable Goal: As a part of each annual budgeting cycle, re-evaluate prioritization of District capital projects for the upcoming 5-year period.

The District has established 2 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category:

The Board of Managers values the equitable prioritization of projects throughout the District. 100% of communities and counties participated in the development of the watershed management plan; all requested and identified projects were included. The Board of Managers completes an annual budget that considers the District's capital projects and the requests of our stakeholder communities. They may consider the following factors when establishing priorities:

- Location
- Sustainability
- Consistency with District Programs
- Consistency with local plan priorities
- Capital and maintenance costs
- Expected benefits
- Multiple benefits

The Board works to prioritize requests for financial assistance to preferentially place District-led and cooperative regional projects within those geographic locations which provide the most flood control and water quality benefits to the region. The intent of prioritizing is to facilitate decisions regarding which projects provide the greatest benefit within the District compared to the fiscal investment with

the realization that this may not always be possible. In 2023, District staff continued to actively engage our partner communities regarding upcoming capital projects and budgetary needs for consideration in developing the 2024 District budget. It is anticipated that several projects that were discussed through this effort will be able to be funded by the RCWD Board in the coming year.

When the prioritization of proposed projects based on the factors above is comparable, the Board will strive to ensure that geographic funding equity is maintained across the District.

2025 Work Plan

Continue to develop a transparent budget in consideration of its mission and the needs of residents and stakeholders. The Board will re-evaluate the prioritization of District capital projects and protection of past public dollar infrastructure investments during the annual budgeting cycle and continue to develop an effective framework for secure funding.

Evaluate any new concerns or assistance requests with consideration to the urgency of the problem, the nature of the District’s responsibility, and the capacity of the District to respond (including available funding and staffing considerations). The Board requires that all cases be fairly considered and evaluated.

When the prioritization of proposed projects (based on the factors listed above) is comparable, the Board will strive to ensure that geographic funding equity is maintained across the District.



Figure 13 Lake Johanna Shoreline

Collaborations

The RCWD has identified “Collaborations” as one of its nine management categories. This category is defined as: “developing and maintaining positive, collaborative relationships and agreements with other agencies and partners to better carry out the District’s mission.” There are two key issues within this category: Collaborations with Local, State, and Federal Partners *and* Collaborations with Private Partners.

***See Outreach and Communications section for additional information on Collaborations.*

Collaborations with Local, State, and Federal Partners

Goals: Continue collaboration with local, state, and federal partners through project implementation, outreach programs, and city/county partner meetings to better carry out the District’s mission.

Measurable Goal: Hold one or more city/county partner meetings annually. It will also implement cost-share programs with public partners annually.

The District has 2 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

Collaborations with Private Partners

Goal: Collaborate with private partners through voluntary action or cost-share incentives by effectively implementing the Natural Waterway Management Program, Stormwater Management Grant Program, and Water Quality Grant Program to achieve District and landowner goals.

Measurable Goal:

Continue to fund its existing cost-share incentive programs annually.
The District has 2 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District partners with its 28 member cities and townships and 4 counties (Washington, Ramsey, Anoka, and Hennepin) on various initiatives to complete or progress District goals.



Figure 14 Committee Hearing for Jones Lake funding with District Admin, Nick Tomczik and Representative Sandra Feist

The Municipal Capital Improvements – Early Coordination Program enables staff to work closely with cities and other agency partners to identify voluntary capital improvement opportunities for water quality and water quantity conservation. The program works to provide cities (and other qualified applicants) access to funds from the District’s Water Quality Grant Program and the Stormwater Management Grant Program.

The District helps municipalities through coordination of Local Water Planning efforts. *All 28 communities now have RCWD Board-approved Local Water Management Plans.*



Figure 15 Fall 2024 City County Partner Meeting at Moore Lake in Fridley, MN

The Modelling and Planning Program impacts the effectiveness of collaborations but also addresses water quality and flooding issues (see those sections for additional information). RCWD collaborated with The US Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within our District. RCWD collaborated with FEMA about their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). RCWD also collaborated with the Met Council, DNR, MPCA, MDH, and the USGS on various water quality monitoring initiatives. RCWD continues to work with communities and surrounding watershed districts on its Boundary Management Program. Ongoing efforts to update watershed boundaries will continue.

The Stormwater Management Grant Program and the Water Quality Grant Program are grant programs implemented annually. The Stormwater Management Grant Program is a grant program that funds capital improvements constructed by counties, cities, townships, school districts, libraries, and other entities, to enhance water quality (e.g., sediment, nutrient, & chloride management), alleviate flooding issues, or increase groundwater recharge. The District’s cost-share programs have substantial impacts on water quality and flooding issues; they also support the efforts of programs including the Groundwater Management & Stormwater Reuse Assessment Program. Issue specific information on this program is included in the Water Quality and Flooding sections of this report.

Approved project funding for the 2024 Stormwater Management Cost Share Program is laid out in the table below:

Applicant	Project Title	Total Funding Amount
City of Fridley	Street Rehabilitation Project No.ST2024-01	\$30,000
White Bear Township	Bellaire Ave Stormwater Pond	\$93,000
City of Arden Hills	2024 Street & Utility Improvements	\$70,000
City of New Brighton	4 th Street NW Storm Sewer Improvements	\$74,000
City of Willernie	Craig Place Storm Sewer Improvements	\$33,150
TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED:		\$300,150

The Water Quality Grant Program provides funding and assistance for landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) or projects that aim to improve the quality of surface water within the District. The RCWD has technical services agreements with Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Soil and Water Conservation Division (RSWCD), and Washington Conservation District (WCD) to assist with site assessments, project design, and landowner applications.

RCWD allocated \$175,000 for 2024 projects. A total of 2 projects in Anoka County, 10 projects in Ramsey County, and 3 projects in Washington County. Most projects in 2024 focused on lake shoreline restoration for erosion control and rain gardens for stormwater infiltration. This year, green roofs were introduced to the program as a BMP eligible for cost-share. The City of Fridley partnered with the RCWD Water Quality Grant Program on a road reconstruction project to install four curb-cut raingardens within the catchment area of the road project. Forest Lake Area High School partnered with RCWD Water Quality Grant Program, the Minnesota Water Stewards, and the BWSR Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) to restore an infiltration basin and install a prairie conversion project near the entrance of the school. This project will be incorporated into the FLAHS environmental education program to teach water quality and habitat enhancement.

2024 Water Quality Grant Program Project Summary:

- Five Shoreline Restorations
 - Six Curb-Cut Raingardens
 - One raingarden treatment train (3 raingardens)
 - One raingarden retrofit
 - One Wetland Shoreline Restoration
- One infiltration basin restoration and prairie conversion
- One farmland to prairie conservation cover
- One pervious paver and downspout redirect raingarden



Figure 16 Figure 4 Water Quality Grant Project installed in 2024 in Shoreview, MN

2025 Work Plan

Hold two City/County Partner Meetings

Continue collaborations with our partners through the Stormwater Management Grant Program and other grant funding sources. The District continues its goal to expand the quantity and type of projects funded through the program by continuing to conduct outreach to the agricultural and rural landowners of the District. RCWD will prioritize targeting projects in TMDL areas, projects identified in completed sub watershed assessment reports, and city's local water plans.

Regulatory

RCWD has identified “Regulatory” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “administration of District rules to manage District water resources.” There are three key issues within this category: District Rules, the District’s Role as WCA Authority, and Permitting and Enforcement.

District Rules

The District has adopted a set of rules to guide its decision-making regarding stormwater management, soil erosion and sediment control, floodplain alterations, wetland alterations, illicit discharge, and other activities within the boundaries of the District. These rules also incorporate the State’s NPDES and MS4 requirements.

Goal: Ensure that implementation of District rules adequately protects RCWD resources while providing enough flexibility that the program does not unreasonably hinder land use.

Measurable Goal: the District will annually implement the District’s rules through the permitting program and will solicit stakeholder input on the District rules every five years.

The District has 2 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

The District underwent a rulemaking effort in 2024. The purpose was to provide clarity, flexibility, and better align with the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. The process of revising the rules included multiple opportunities for stakeholder input through an early feedback request, formal comment period, and public hearing. The revised rule set was adopted by the Board of Managers on November 13, 2024, and took effect on January 1, 2025. Consistent with the RCWD Watershed Management Plan, the District will continue to assess its rules for any needed revisions and receive input on its regulations to have an efficient and effective regulatory program.

District’s Role as Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Authority

The District is responsible for the implementation of WCA (as augmented by the CWPMPs) to achieve no net wetland loss while recognizing the need to develop land and manage the maintenance/repair of public drainage systems.

Goal: Fulfill the District’s responsibility as the designated WCA LGU, as outlined in MN Rule 8420.

Measurable Goal: Implement the District’s wetland permitting program and annually report the LGU administration of the rule.

The District has 3 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District is the Local Government Unit (LGU) responsible for the implementation of the state Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), except for within the cities of Hugo, Circle Pines, and Mounds View, or associated projects on state lands, such as those involving MnDOT and DNR.

RCWD maintains a set of rules that govern wetlands within special areas of the District, which are known as CWPMP areas. The CWPMP rules were developed as a component of Resource Management Plans

(RMPs), which were developed for several locations in the District experiencing rapid urbanization, and included wetland management, public drainage systems, and water quality/quantity management considerations. The CWPMPs, RMPs, and Rule F were implemented as an effort to balance the responsibilities of the RCWD as LGU for the WCA, drainage authority for MS 103E public drainage systems, and as a manager of water quality and quantity.

Staff reported all 2024 WCA activity to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and will complete an audit review of Circle Pines, Hugo, and Mounds View as permitting administration cities within the District that have accepted the LGU responsibility.

2025 Work Plan

- Continue its administration/implementation of the WCA and CWPMPs.
- Participate in the BWSR Wetland Conservation Act rulemaking effort and consider what, if any, changes are needed to RCWD rules as a result.
- Review and notice all WCA applications.



Figure 17 Golden Lake Shoreline/Buffer Zone

Permitting and Enforcement

In accordance with District rules, permits are issued to protect public health and welfare and the District's natural resources.

Goal: Create efficiency and flexibility in the permitting process, while maintaining the intent of the rules.

Measurable Goal: Survey permit applicants to consider solutions to issues of stormwater and wetland permit flexibility, at least once during the 10-year implementation period of the Plan.

The District has 3 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.

2024 Accomplishments and Activities:

The District continued to implement an efficient regulatory program in 2024. The District remains committed to improving the application review process with simplified "insufficient" emails, increased phone calls on application review status, and pre-application meetings. Staff continue to improve the new online permit application. Applicants can submit their application information into guided fields and upload their application materials rather than fill out an application form by hand and submit their application through email or physically through the mail or dropping off materials at the office.

The permit application fee schedule was most recently adopted by the Board on December 9, 2021, and implemented on January 1, 2022. Thus far, the fee schedule has been successful in meeting the goals of the Board of Managers of simplifying the submittal process, recuperating approximately 60% of private permit fee review costs, and improving equity in the cost of permit review for compliance with the rules. No changes have been recommended to the fee schedule, but the Board of Managers sees value in continuing to assess the fee schedule on a yearly basis.

The District has a publicly available GIS viewer which is found on the District's Permitting Information webpage. The viewer contains map layers for roads, waterways, floodplains, RCWD's public drainage system (ditches and tiles), wetlands, topography, aerial imagery, and more. The viewer intends to assist landowners, cities, consultants, and others in project planning. In addition, RCWD completed its third full year of the permit database, MS4Front. The database has improved RCWD's effectiveness in tracking permits, stormwater BMPs, inspection reporting, and annual MS4 reporting among other benefits.

The Cities of Circle Pines, Hugo, and Mounds View continued to assume administrative delegation of District Rules C, D, E, and F. Staff continue to provide support to these cities when requested (e.g. questions on rule administration or as a WCA TEP member) and will complete the annual audit soon to ensure proper administration of District rules/standards.

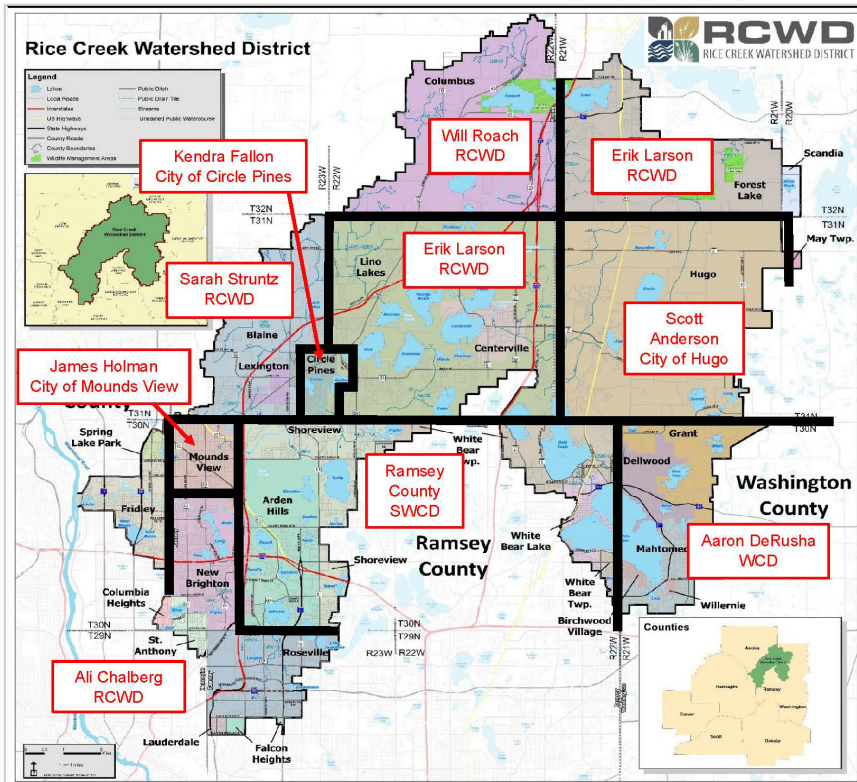
Inspections

The RCWD is geographically subdivided into inspection areas served by separate staff with multiple duties (not including the City of Hugo, the City of Circle Pines, and the City of Mounds View who have permitting authority for RCWD Rules C, D, E, and F—see map below). The RCWD continues to contract with the Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division (Ramsey SWCD) (formerly Ramsey Conservation District) and Washington Conservation District (WCD) for inspection services within portions of the District. The inspection service agreement term with Ramsey County SWCD was extended in 2024 and will expire on December 31, 2026. The inspection service agreement with WCD

was also extended in 2024 and will expire on December 31, 2025. The relationship with both Ramsey County SWCD and Washington Conservation District continues to substantially contribute to the RCWD's overall inspection activity. Internally, the regulatory staff has expanded to include two full-time inspectors and two part-time inspectors that share time with other RCWD programs. The map below shows the current inspector areas within the District.

**Rice Creek Watershed District
Inspector Area Map**
October 7, 2024

Ali Chalberg (RCWD) – achalberg@ricecreek.org / 763-398-3078
 Will Roach (RCWD) – wroach@ricecreek.org / 763-398-3085
 Erik Larson (RCWD) – el Larson@ricecreek.org / 763-398-3074
 Sarah Struntz (RCWD) – sstruntz@ricecreek.org / 763-308-3120
 Aaron DeRusha (Washington Conservation District) – aderusha@mwcd.org / 651-796-2231
 Alexis Lipstein (Ramsey County SWCD) – alexis.lipstein@co.ramsey.mn.us / 651-266-7274
 Nick Neylon (Ramsey County SWCD) – nick.neylon@co.ramsey.mn.us / 651-266-7275
 Kendra Fallon (City of Circle Pines/WSB) – kfallon@wsbeng.com / 612-201-1361
 Scott Anderson (City of Hugo) – SAnderson@ci.hugo.mn.us / 651-762-6326
 James Holman (City of Mounds View) – jame.holman@moundsviewmn.org / 763-717-4035



Aaron (WCD)	Erik (RCWD)	Sarah (RCWD)	Will (RCWD)	Ali (RCWD)	Ramsey County (SWCD)	Scott (City of Hugo)	Kendra (City of Circle Pines/WSB)	James (City of Mounds View)
Birchwood Village Dellwood Grant Mahtomedi Willernie	Centerville Lino Lakes Forest Lake Scandia May Twp	Blaine Lexington Spring Lake Park Fridley	Columbus	Columbia Heights New Brighton St. Anthony Falcon Heights Lauderdale Roseville	Arden Hills Shoreview White Bear Twp White Bear Lake	Hugo	Circle Pines	Mounds View

The District has continued a partnership with the City of Centerville through a JPA which started as a pilot program during the spring of 2021. Through this partnership program, RCWD has conducted erosion and sediment control inspections for City/District permitted projects to assist with meeting Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 4 requirements while billing the city a specific hourly rate for services under the JPA. Both organizations find value in the JPA and partner on necessary enforcement action to influence permit compliance. The JPA was first amended on February 24, 2023, to continue services into early 2024. In February, 2024 the JPA was again amended. The most recent JPA amendment incorporates a two-year automatic term renewal and utilizes the District's administration fee schedule.

The RCWD inspectors continue to maintain a regular presence on active construction sites while balancing the need to resolve older, inactive/historical permits. Inspectors prioritize efforts on active construction sites to close out active permits in a timely manner. Inspectors review the open permit list regularly; this review routinely shows a decrease in the number of outstanding historical permits. Regulatory staff will continue to make efforts in closing inactive/historical permits.

Inspectors will continue working towards the established goals of inspecting each active construction site at least once a month and contacting permittees at least once per year for inactive/historical or stabilized sites with remaining permit requirements.

The following table shows the quantification of permit applications, inspections, and enforcement actions from 2022 – 2024 (last three years):

Year	2022	2023	2024
Review Files (WCA-only decisions, complaint files, and other site reviews)	297	250	224
Permit Applications	118	81	85
General Permits Issued	108	92	73
Variances Issued	1	2	3
Enforcement Actions Taken	0	0	0
Construction sites inspected	242	207	247
Notices of violation - includes all inspection reports issued containing at least one non-compliant item (including minor compliance issues)	98	139	176
Total inspections	729	664	962
Stop work orders (10-day notice)	5	10	5
Frequency at which construction site inspections are conducted	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Permits closed	83	113	120
Previously permitted sites inspected for permanent Stormwater BMP maintenance	1	1	0
Board Orders	0	0	0

2024 Activities:

- Received 85 Permit applications
- 73 permits were issued in 2024; this includes applications from 2024 and previous years

The District measures the success of permit review by the issuance of permits and the closure of permits. District inspectors review permits to ensure that they meet the permit obligations. When deficiencies are observed inspectors continue to document the issues and actively work with applicants to bring their sites into compliance.

2025 Work Plan

- Ensure that permits are processed in a timely and professional manner
- Continue improvements to the regulatory department to increase efficiency of permit processing
- Utilize the District database (MS4 Front) to administer permitting, increase inspection efficiency, assist the District with MS4 permit compliance tracking (permitting and regulatory administration), and meet other program needs
- Work with cities to ensure that the RCWD rules are well-understood by city staff through RCWD partnership meetings and direct communications with municipalities and shared applicants.
- Ensure the District's permit program and responsibilities as the WCA Local Government Unit (LGU) are applied fairly and uniformly throughout the District
- Promote electronic permit application materials to make files more accessible and reduce paper usage
- Ensure permit holders and municipalities are using and encouraging proper erosion control measures at development sites through regular site inspections
- Continue to provide best project value to citizens by expending local efforts in coordinated regulation of MnDOT design-build approach to projects
- Improve readability of regulatory materials on the District's website
- Continue to hold an annual/semi-annual RCWD and consulting engineer permit team training seminar
- Continuing to encourage early project coordination with pre-application meetings
- Utilize site compliance verification memo to determine "level of risk" for permit compliance
- Continue contracted MCM 4 erosion and sediment control inspections under the amended JPA with the City of Centerville
- Continue to coordinate with Ramsey SWCD and Washington Conservation District for inspection services under agreements
- Review open, unresolved permit files and develop strategies for closure
- Review and consider changes to enforcement procedures for non-compliant sites
- Review and consider changes to surety fee schedule

Communications, Outreach, and Education

The District has identified “Communications, Outreach, and Education” as one of its nine management categories. The category is defined as, “Implementation of effective outreach efforts related to District priorities, policies, activities, and projects. Outreach efforts tailored to four main audiences: General Public; Counties; Cities; and State Agencies.” Communications and outreach efforts were documented and aligned with the requirements of the MS4 permit.

Communication Opportunities and Strategies

RCWD must identify and implement communication strategies and education opportunities for stakeholders to facilitate informed decision-making related to District resources.

Goal: Communicate with District constituents to define RCWD priorities and available data, to highlight activities and projects, and receive constituent input

Measurable Goals:

- Participate in at least 6 constituent meetings annually (homeowners’ associations, lake associations, neighborhood groups, or other city-hosted events).
- Post monthly updates to District social media platforms.
- Complete an information sheet and maintain current project information on the District website for all RCWD capital improvement projects.
- Complete an annual report and post it on the District website.

Goal: Ensure adequate resources are available to District constituents to ensure broad communication of the District’s mission.

Measurable Goal: Distribute at least 6 articles per year to partners and media on topics supporting the District's mission and produce/provide stormwater-related outreach materials to District partners at least two times per year.

The District has 4 policies to ensure adequate progress in this category.



Figure 18 Blue Thumb Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop in New Brighton, MN

2024 Activities and Accomplishments:

Workshops & Community Engagement

- Hosted Blue Thumb workshops on shoreline and turf alternatives.
- Led rain garden maintenance workshops in Shoreview and Roseville.
- Held a trivia night on watershed knowledge in Blaine at a local business.
- Engaged with cities at events like Earth Day at Mahtomedi and the Moore Lake Park Open House.

- Completed one-on-one meetings with cities to discuss water resource projects.
- Developed a public engagement plan for the Centerville Lake alum project.

Education & Partnerships

- Collaborated on Friends of Mississippi River "On the Water" programming. [Read more](#)
- Partnered with Growing Green Hearts for hands-on education at schools and libraries. [Read more](#)
- Supported educational programs with Centennial Library, Blaine Wetland Sanctuary, and New Brighton Library.
- Hosted a Blaine SNA walking tour with Anoka SWCD.
- Met with Ramsey County on climate resiliency plans.
- Funded and participated in a watershed education video with Friends of the Mississippi River. [Watch here.](#)



Figure 19 Growing Green Hearts working with students from Hayes Elementary in Fridley, MN

Lake & Stormwater Initiatives

- Centerville Lake Public Meeting for alum treatment.
- Created educational signs for Moore Lake Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter.
- Celebrated the delisting of four lakes from MN's impaired waters list. [Read more](#)
- Golden Lake and Bald Eagle Lake Celebration Events for being delisted from MN Impaired Waters List.
- Completed Lake Johanna targeted mailing (200 postcards on lake-friendly lawn care).



Figure 20 Bald Eagle Lake "Delisting" Celebration Event and Annual Meeting, White Bear Lake, MN

Stormwater & Green Infrastructure

- Partnered with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa on rain garden maintenance in Fridley, including native plantings and pretreatment chamber cleanings.
- Supported stormwater education at city and county partner meetings, highlighting Fridley's stormwater projects.

- Collaborated with Hayes Elementary teachers, incorporating macroinvertebrate ID and water testing in classroom.

Awards & Recognition

- Won 2024 Program of the Year from MN Watersheds for the Invasive Carp Management Program.

Creative & Digital Outreach

- Launched a water steward art project at Fridley Moore Lake Park. [Read more](#)
- Set up a newsletter process to submit info to cities/counties and improved the RCWD website.
- Created Rain Garden Maintenance and Rain Barrel Maintenance guidance documents.
- Daily to weekly updates and informational articles posted on social media platforms.



Figure 21 Matt Kocian, Lake and Stream Manager, holding award for Program of the Year

Other Accomplishments

- Engaged citizens in volunteer programs including the Minnesota Water Steward Program and Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP).
- Supported communities and regional partners in their outreach efforts by providing content, resources, and appropriate assistance. This included shared content and materials, creation of targeted materials, expertise, and cost-share and incentive programs for partners to use with (including but not limited to) newsletters or community publications, social media and websites, community events or presentations, school programs, targeted audience or topic outreach, or implementation of a BMP program.
- Shared information on District programs, projects, policies, priorities, and activities with cities, townships, counties, legislators and legislative staff, state officials and staff, and partner organizations.
- Completed an annual report and posted it on the District website.
- Supported community and regional outreach partners including East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), Blue Thumb (and Lawns to Legumes), and Metro Watershed Partners.
- Supported cities with direct outreach for Adopt a Drain program.
- Met with various cities one on one to discuss stormwater management projects, grant programs, and outreach activities.

Grant Programs

The District implemented three incentive programs with two specifically targeting individuals (the Mini-Grant and Water Quality Programs). \$10,000 was provided through the Mini-Grant program. A total of 20 mini-grants were issued: 5 grants for rain barrels, 2 grants for low-mow turf, 1 grant for water

outreach and education, and 18 for native plantings. Of the 21 mini-grant awards, 1 award was forfeited.

2025 Work Plan

- Develop a targeted outreach plan to prioritize locations and water resource issues to focus on and engage those communities.
- Create toolkits and informational packets for RCWD’s Grant program applicants.
- Establish new partnerships with local organizations and collaborate on outreach/education projects.
- Support and increase art-related activities throughout the District related to water resources.
- Continue promoting and educating the public about grant programs.
- Continue to host city-county partner meetings and meeting with cities one on one to discuss water resource needs.
- Develop and create more GIS tools to communicate with public
- Continue to host workshops with Blue Thumb, EMWREP, and other partners.
- Continue support for East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), Blue Thumb (and Lawns to Legumes), and other non-profit organizations.
- Continue volunteer programs like SHEP and CAMP with partners.
- Develop new video material to engage the public to be used on our website, social media platforms, and at meetings.



Figure 22 Blue Thumb Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop, Roseville, MN

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ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

4. Anoka County Ditch #72 Maintenance Work Order (Tom Schmidt)

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: April 2, 2025
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Tom Schmidt, Drainage & Facilities Manager
Subject: Anoka County Ditch # 72 Maintenance Work Order

Introduction

Staff is seeking Board approval of a work order to maintain the terminus of Anoka County Ditch #72 (ACD #72).

Background

The District completed several minor tile repair projects on ACD #72 Branch #1 in 2024. Both staff and landowners observed and reported that the performance of the drain tile, particularly Branch #1, seemed to be compromised by the condition of the outlet channel leading to Peltier Lake following the spring snowmelt. Upon closer inspection, staff determined that the outlet channel requires both tree and vegetation removal, as well as minor sediment and debris removal. Additionally, staff requested that the District Engineer survey the outlet channel to the lake to confirm the areas most in need of excavation, as well as the extent of the channel into the lake/surrounding wetland.

Staff have solicited quotes for the maintenance from Hugo's Tree Care Inc. The estimate for the excavation work (\$17,050.00) is within the amount delegated to the Board President for approval. However, as the estimate for tree removal (\$22,500.00) exceeds the delegated authority, staff are seeking Board approval for the tree removal work.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Board of Managers approve the work order for Hugo Tree Service for tree removal along the outlet channel of ACD #72, estimated at \$ 22,500.00. The excavation work will proceed under the delegated authority, as outlined in a separate work order.

Proposed Motion:

Manager _____ moves to approve the work order for Hugo Tree Service, estimated at \$22,500.00, seconded by Manager _____.

Attachment

Work Order # 25-022

**Rice Creek Watershed District
DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT
Work Order #25-022
For Staff Documentation & Contractor Information**

ACD 72 Repair #25-022



OVERVIEW

Date Repair Was Created:	2025-03-13	Branch:	Main
Problem/Proposed Work:	Clear trees along ditch bank		
Ditch Repair:	Tree Clearing		
Tile Repair:			
FEMA Event:	None	FEMA Date:	None

REPAIR LOCATION DETAILS

County:		Township:	Lino Lakes
Twp:	31	Range:	22
Section:	11	Qtr-Qtr Section:	
Latitude:	45.18876657437659	Longitude:	-93.0474630202295
Parcel Number:			
Location Details	West from Tile outlet to end of outlet channel.		

PERSON REQUESTING REPAIR

Name	Address	Phone
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**Rice Creek Watershed District
DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT
Work Order #25-022
For Staff Documentation & Contractor Information**

Abel Green	4325 Pheasant Ridge Dr. NE #611	6125975031
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LANDOWNER

Name	Address	Phone
None	None	None

STATUS LOG

Action	Date	Initials	Notes
For Review	03/13/2025	agreen	None

DRAINAGE AUTHORITY ACTIONS

Action	Date	Board Date	Initials	Notes
For Approval	2025-04-09	2025-04-09	tschmidt	Estimated Cost: \$ 22,500.00.

REPAIR ESTIMATES

Order	Date	Contractor	Total Cost	Notes
1	2025-03-20	Hugo's Tree Care Inc.	\$22500	Tree Removal.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

5. Check Register Dated April 9, 2025, in the Amount of \$109,611.87
Prepared by Redpath and Company

Rice Creek Watershed District
Check Register
March 27, 2025 - April 9, 2025
To Be Approved at the April 9, 2025 Board Meeting

Check #	Date	Payee	Description	Amount
26437	04/09/25	Barr Engineering	Engineering Expense	\$4,665.00
26438	04/09/25	City of Mounds View	Professional Services	200.00
26439	04/09/25	Gierke Jungbauer Human Capital, Inc.	Contracted Services	3,200.00
26441*	04/09/25	Plaudit Design	Professional Services	912.00
26442	04/09/25	Rinke Noonan	Legal Expense	9,002.20
26443	04/09/25	Rymark	Computer Equipment	3,150.00
26444	04/09/25	Timesaver Off Site Secretarial	Professional Services	283.25
26445	04/09/25	Winnick Supply, Inc.	Construction	4.50
26446	04/09/25	Tom Hoffman	Contracted Services	1,000.00
11389V	04/01/25	Aveda Corporation, Inc.	Surety Release - #22-053	(1,000.00) Void
11388V	04/01/25	Mike Schoonover	Surety Release - #22-045	(3,100.00) Void
11450	04/09/25	Aveda Institute	Surety Release - #22-053	1,000.00 Re-issue
11451	04/09/25	Riley Bosch	Surety Release - #22-052	1,000.00
11452	04/09/25	Fridley Assisted Living LLC	Surety Release - #10-028	1,500.00
11453	04/09/25	Landucci Homes Inc.	Surety Release - #17-097	1,000.00
11454	04/09/25	Mike Mezzenga	Surety Release - #21-008	2,300.00
11455	04/09/25	MGS Properties LLC	Surety Release - #22-045	3,100.00 Re-issue
Payroll	04/15/25	Apr 15th Payroll (estimate)	Apr 15th Payroll (estimate)	39,038.81
EFT	04/09/25	Card Services-Elan	March/April Credit Card	1,814.12
EFT	04/09/25	Comcast	Telecommunications	319.89
EFT	04/01/25	Medica	April Employee Benefits	13,458.51
EFT	04/09/25	Wex Bank	Vehicle Fuel	253.07
EFT	04/09/25	Xcel Energy	Telecommunications	13.19
EFT	04/09/25	Xcel Energy	Telecommunications	17.11
EFT	04/09/25	US Bank Equipment Finance	Equipment Lease	669.32
EFT	04/15/25	Internal Revenue Service	4/15 Federal Withholding (estimate)	13,649.65
EFT	04/15/25	Minnesota Revenue	4/15 State Withholding (estimate)	2,392.00
EFT	04/15/25	Empower Retirement	4/15 Deferred Compensation	1,085.00
EFT	04/15/25	Empower Retirement	4/15 Roth IRA	115.00
EFT	04/15/25	Health Equity	4/15 HSA	453.83
EFT	04/15/25	PERA	4/15 PERA (estimate)	8,115.42
Total				<u><u>\$109,611.87</u></u>

*26440 Void - entered incorrectly.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

1. District Engineer Updates and Timeline



District Engineer - Monthly Project Report March 2025 Rice Creek Watershed District



Date Prepared:
Prepared by:

2-Apr-25
C. Grandbois

Project Name	Task Order Manager	Estimated Budget	Cost to Date	Remaining Budget	Project Complete / Transfer Funds?	Estimated Progress Based on Work Completed	Percentage of Budget Utilized	Within Budget? (Y/N)	District Billed for Exceedence of Budget? (Y/N)	Initial Target Completion Date	Items of Interest / Concern
ACD 53-62 Branches 5 & 6 Repair Report	Adam Nies	\$82,200	\$88,211	(\$6,011)	N	98.0%	107.3%	N	N	30-Apr-24	The final repair report is completed. The report will be presented to the public at an informational meeting
RCD 4 Final Plans/Specs, Bidding and Construction Management	Adam Nies	\$68,000	\$60,010	\$7,990	N	95.0%	88.3%	Y	N/A	31-Dec-24	The contractor has completed major work items. Project will be closed out in spring once vegetation establishment has been confirmed. RCWD has awarded work for a 2nd phase to stabilize selected bank areas.
GIS and Ditch Records Maintenance; DrainageDB Annual Subscription	Brian Fischer	\$16,000	\$4,691	\$11,310	Y	25.0%	29.3%	Y	N/A	31-Dec-25	Drainage records are being added to DrainageDB on a quarterly basis.
MS4Front Annual Subscription and Implementation Services	Brian Fischer	\$16,000	\$940	\$15,060	Y	25.0%	5.9%	Y	N/A	31-Dec-25	We continued to make updates on an as-requested basis.
Enhanced Street Sweeping Initiative	Rachel Olm	\$29,000	\$29,978	(\$978)	N	99.0%	103.4%	Y	N/A	31-Dec-24	HEI has completed a draft report which will be presented at the May Board Workshop
2024 District Wide Modeling Program Annual Updates	Bret Zimmerman	\$30,900	\$29,646	\$1,254	N	90.0%	95.9%	Y	N/A	1-Nov-24	We are continuing model revisions based on updated data and changes to conveyance system in 2024

Values in red are either potential budget concerns or changes in schedule.

The "overage" for those projects shown as "over budget" is not billed to the District. The cost to date column reflects HEI's actual internal cost. Projects are considered within budget if ± 5%.

District Engineer
 Monthly Progress Report (Actual & Estimated Progress)
 Through March 2025

