

APPROVED

**RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP**

Monday, January 8, 2024

Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room  
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota  
and

Meeting also conducted by alternative means  
(teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote locations

- 1 The Board convened the workshop at 9:00 a.m.
- 2 Attendance: Board members Mike Bradley, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt, Steve Wagamon
- 3 Absent: Jess Robertson (with prior notice)
- 4 Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Lake and Stream Program Manager Matt Kocian, Drainage &
- 5 Facilities Manager Ashlee Ricci, Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt, Permit Intake
- 6 Technician Anna Grace (videoconference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica
- 7 Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering, Inc. and District Attorney
- 8 Louis Smith-Smith Partners
- 9 Videoconference Visitors: City of Columbus Engineer Kevin Bittner, City of Columbus Council
- 10 Member Janet Hegland, City of Columbus Interim City Administrator
- 11 Visitors: Catherine Decker, Chris Stowe
- 12 **BWSR - Mn Watersheds 103D Housekeeping**
- 13 District Attorney Smith reviewed the proposed revisions with the Board.
- 14
- 15 **Centerville Lake In-Lake Treatment Financial Approach, Next Steps**
- 16 Lake and Stream Program Manager Kocian informed the Board the District’s grant application for
- 17 the Centerville Lake Alum Project was approved on December 14,2023, for their full grant request
- 18 of \$954,500. Lake and Stream Program Manager Kocian discussed and reviewed his workshop
- 19 packet memo with the Board. The memo outlined 3 different funding scenarios and the
- 20 possibility of a future phase two treatment. The Board by consensus directed staff to reach out
- 21 to the project partners to share in the remaining cost of the project instead of creating a water
- 22 management district. The Board also decided that they would only proceed with the Phase 1
- 23 project.
- 24
- 25 **Anoka County Ditch (ACD) 10-22-32 ACSIC Available Documentation Overview, HEI Task Order**
- 26 Manager Bradley informed the Board that he requested this task order be created to provide
- 27 background to the managers of the ACSIC process because managers have changed during this
- 28 ACSIC process. The Board discussed and reviewed the task order with staff and District Engineer
- 29 Otterness. The Board by consensus directed staff to bring the approval of this task order to the
- 30 January 24, 2024, meeting.
- 31

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32 **ACD 10-22-32 Alt. 4 - Pine St. Culvert - Wetland Impact Evaluation**

33 Administrator Tomczik and District Engineer reviewed the workshop packet report to summarize  
34 calculations performed to determine the likely effect of lowering the Pine Street culvert on  
35 adjacent wetland drainage and estimate mitigation.

36 Chris Stowe addressed the Board regarding concerns about the lowering of the culvert and the  
37 effects it would have on his property and noted that it was already lowered three years ago.

38 Drainage and Facilities Manager Ricci and District Engineer Otterness responded to Mr. Stowe's  
39 concerns and noted that there was a misunderstanding as to the "Pine Street" culvert Mr. Stowe  
40 referenced. Staff and Engineer Otterness clarified that the portion of ACD 10-22-32 that is on Mr.  
41 Stowe's property is Branch 4 and noted that this is not the culvert referenced in the HEI memo  
42 in the packet which discusses the main branch crossing of Pine Street, located further west of  
43 Mr. Stowe's property. Engineer Otterness identified that the lowering of the Pine Street crossing  
44 on the main branch would not impact Mr. Stowe's property.

45 Administrator Tomczik stated staff wanted to share the work to date which has been done  
46 using the approved ACSIC. At this point, work will be put on hold until the Board's subsequent  
47 meetings regarding the ACSIC.

48  
49 The Board took a 5-minute break.

50  
51 **Public Drainage Beaver Management Policy**

52 Drainage & Facilities Manager Ricci reviewed the draft policy with the Board. The Board agreed  
53 it was important to make the public aware that landowners and other entities may also be  
54 trapping and that this information be added to the policy. The Board agreed the policy should  
55 be made available on the website. The Board by consensus directed staff to bring the updated  
56 policy to Wednesday's agenda for consideration.

57  
58 **Draft Compensation Philosophy**

59 Administrator Tomczik reviewed the information with the Board. The Board by consensus  
60 directed staff to bring this information to Wednesday's agenda for consideration.

61  
62 **Administrator Updates**

63 Public Drainage Inspector Schmidt gave the board an update on Mobitrac auction and results.  
64 The Board by consensus agreed the equipment need to be sold and to accept the maximum bid.

65  
66 Administrator Tomczik updates:

- 67 • ACD 53/62 Main Truck Project and the City of Circle Pines' updated invoice for sewer  
68 work and the city's continued concern regarding pond sedimentation
- 69 • Preibe Lake Outlet Project update and City of Birchwood Village Councilmember  
70 McCarthy's email regarding their data request. Administrator Tomczik provided the  
71 email to the Board. He informed the Board that District Attorney Kolb is reviewing this  
72 request and will be providing an update in the new future.

74 Administrator Tomczik distributed a copy of the District's organizational chart with the  
75 managers.  
76  
77 The workshop was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.