



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

**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**

- 1
- 2 **CALL TO ORDER**
- 3 President Michael Bradley called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 9:00 a.m.
- 4
- 5 **ROLL CALL**
- 6 Present: President Michael Bradley, 1st Vice-Pres. John Waller, Treasurer, Marcie
- 7 Weinandt, and Secretary Jess Robertson
- 8
- 9 Absent: None
- 10
- 11 Staff Present: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Drainage &
- 12 Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (video-
- 13 conference), Communications & Outreach Manager Kendra Sommerfeld, Lake &
- 14 Stream Manager Matt Kocian, Project Manager David Petry, Office Manager
- 15 Theresa Stasica
- 16
- 17 Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI)
- 18
- 19 Visitors: Mark Fairbanks, Mike Perron
- 20
- 21 **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 22 President Bradley noted that the District had received written communication from Laura Shira\*
- 23 concerning a new housing development in Blaine and the possible elimination of over 200 large
- 24 oak trees, as well as concerns about the effect on local wildlife.
  
- 25 \*The written communication is signed as Laura Currier
  
- 26 Mike Perron, 7671 Peltier Lake Drive, and Mark Fairbanks, 7625 Peltier Lake Drive, addressed the
- 27 Board and explained that their concerns remained the same as they had shared last year,
- 28 primarily related to algae blooms and curlyleaf pondweed management. They expressed their

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29 appreciation to the District for their help in identifying issues on the lake, and their desire to  
30 identify and implement projects to address those issues.

31 Nyle Zikmund, Administrator, City of Mounds View, shared that they were planning to begin work  
32 on the ditch in Mounds View and thanked the Board for their involvement in this project. He  
33 explained that he was here to celebrate, educate, and commemorate the project. He noted that  
34 they were planning to restore and expand the wetland, which will become the first wetland bank  
35 in Ramsey County and possibly the entire metro area.

36 **SETTING OF THE AGENDA**

37 *Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the agenda as*  
38 *presented. Motion carried 4-0.*

39  
40 **READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL**

41 *Minutes of the January 12, 2026, Workshop and January 14, 2026, Board of Managers Regular*  
42 *Meeting. Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the*  
43 *minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.*  
44

45 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

49 **Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action**

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-109	Harley A Carlotta Flor Living Trust	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development Wetland Alteration Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 7 items
25-114	Sunset Rural Farms LLC	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development	CAPROC 7 items

58 Regulatory Manager Hughes reiterated that the District had received written comment from  
59 Laura Shira\*, who lives just east of the Flowerfield development. He explained that she had  
60 wanted to address the Board, but was unable to attend the meeting, and he gave her the  
61 opportunity to submit her comments in writing. He noted that he had shared with her the  
62 District’s rules and regulations and how they had worked through the project.

63 District Administrator Tomczik asked if the concerns noted by Ms. Shira were items addressed by  
64 the District rules.

65 Regulatory Manager Hughes shared examples of Ms. Shira’s concerns and how some of them  
66 would be addressed through the District rules, but noted that others were related to land use  
67 authority and design, which is not something that could be addressed via District rules.

68 Manager Robertson explained that the City of Blaine was aware of both of these projects,  
69 including the concerns of the nearby residents, particularly for the Flowerfield project. She stated  
70 that the Blaine City Council had reviewed them at a recent workshop and noted that she could  
71 bring this feedback to the council if Ms. Shira doesn't share it with them herself.

72 President Bradley explained that Manager Robertson sits on the Blaine City Council.

73 \*The written communication is signed by Laura Carrier  
74

75 ***It was moved by Manager Waller and seconded by Manager Bradley to approve the consent***  
76 ***agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's***  
77 ***Findings and Recommendations, dated January 20, 2026. Motion carried 4-0.***  
78

### 79 **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

#### 80 **1. RCWD Board Election of Officers**

81 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the slate of***  
82 ***existing officers, which included: Michael Bradley – President; John Waller – Vice***  
83 ***President; Jess Robertson – Secretary; and Marcie Weinandt – Treasurer. Motion***  
84 ***carried 4-0.***  
85

#### 86 **2. HEI Task Order 2026-004: Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plans** 87 ***(CWPMP) Annual Reporting***

88 Regulatory Manager Hughes reviewed the proposed Houston Engineering Task order  
89 related to the Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plans Annual  
90 reporting.  
91

92 Manager Weinandt confirmed that the \$17,000 for this had already been included in the  
93 2026 budget.  
94

95 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to authorize the Board***  
96 ***President to execute the HEI Task Order 2026-04 to prepare the 2025 CWPMP Annual***  
97 ***Monitoring Report in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.***  
98

99 Manager Waller suggested that the Board have a discussion around the loss of capacity  
100 for water storage in the District and gave an example of Rice Creek in Hugo.  
101

102 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the annual budgetary District program review  
103 at forthcoming workshops may be a good opportunity for the Board to discuss this matter.  
104

105 ***Motion carried 4-0.***  
106

#### 107 **3. HEI Task Order 2026-005: Hansen Park Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) Rehabilitation**

108 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt reviewed the proposed Houston Engineering  
109 Task Order to evaluate the function of the Hansen Park IESF and reminded the Board that  
110 this had already been included in the 2026 budget.

111  
112 District Engineer Otterness noted that an important part of their evaluation would be  
113 looking at updating the operations and maintenance of the IESF.

114  
115 Manager Weinandt asked if the required work, following the study, would be done by  
116 District staff.

117  
118 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that the work he was envisioning  
119 would be necessary, would be a contractor, and not District staff.

120  
121 Manager Weinandt stated that the Board has had many discussions about the IESFs, and  
122 staff have also been having discussions with other watershed districts that also have  
123 them. She asked if those discussions would continue and the District would learn as  
124 they go about how the IESFs work.

125  
126 District Administrator Tomczik acknowledged that the District has had several meetings  
127 regarding IESFs and planned to continue those meetings. He stated that the IESF at  
128 Hansen Park was one of the first of its kind, and what they know today about them is  
129 different than what they knew when it was first designed and installed. He noted that  
130 it is important for the Board and the public to know that the facility does indeed remove  
131 dissolved phosphorus from the water column.

132  
133 Manager Weinandt stated that this was an important facility for the District, especially as  
134 the Jones Lake project moves forward.

135  
136 President Bradley reminded the Board that the District had received grant money for this  
137 project and required a 25-year commitment to maintenance.

138  
139 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve Task Order***  
140 ***2026-005 Hansen Park IESF rehabilitation, not to exceed \$18,300, and further authorizes***  
141 ***the District Administrator to sign the task order.***

142  
143 Manager Waller stated that he realized there was a commitment from the District for  
144 maintenance. He noted that he would not vote against this Task Order, but wanted to  
145 point out that IESFs work really well when they work. He stated that the problem with  
146 the IESFs has been that they don't work consistently. He explained that he would like this  
147 study to help the District find some standard operating procedures that help them  
148 eliminate the constant loss of use of these facilities throughout the year.

149  
150 District Administrator Tomczik agreed that there have been problems with these systems  
151 and noted that they are District facilities, so there will be ongoing maintenance activities

152 that need to take place, similar to car ownership and the need to change the oil. He gave  
153 the example of an IESF maintenance activity that will be necessary, changing out the sand  
154 media and recognized that there will be ongoing costs.

155  
156 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

- 157  
158 **4. HEI Task Orders 2026-002: GIS and Ditch Records Maintenance; DrainageDB Annual**  
159 **Subscription & 2026-003: MS4Front Annual Subscription and Implementation Services**  
160 District Administrator Tomczik explained that these were annual Task Orders for the  
161 District for the foundational tools of the District supporting the continuance of its work  
162 and gave a brief overview of what they covered.

163  
164 Manager Waller asked if the engineering firm would provide the software solutions.

165  
166 District Administrator Tomczik confirmed that HEI would provide the software solutions.

167  
168 Manager Waller asked what provisions were in place in case HEI stopped working with  
169 the District.

170  
171 District Engineer Otterness explained that the documents would be stored in the cloud,  
172 and if the District chose to go away from HEI, the District would simply download those  
173 documents, so they would have access to them. He added that it has always been HEI's  
174 policy that there would be no cost to the District for transferring documents should the  
175 District elect to use a different engineer.

176  
177 Manager Waller explained that he brought this up because there was an annual cost to  
178 the software.

179  
180 District Engineer Otterness noted that the majority of the Task Order was for the time HEI  
181 was putting in to manage the District's data, and that the software subscription was a  
182 smaller portion of the cost.

183  
184 Board discussion

185  
186 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve HEI Task***  
187 ***Order 2026-002 in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 and authorize the District***  
188 ***Administrator to sign. Motion carried 4-0.***

189  
190 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve HEI Task***  
191 ***Order 2026-003 in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 and authorize the District***  
192 ***Administrator to sign. Motion carried 4-0.***

- 193  
194 **5. Winter Salt Week Proclamation 2026**

195 Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld briefly reviewed the proposed  
196 proclamation for Winter Salt Week 2026.

197  
198 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt the Winter Salt***  
199 ***Week 2026 Proclamation.***

200  
201 President Bradley shared information about a salt alternative product called Chick Grit  
202 that he had started using on his property.

203  
204 Manager Waller stated that another alternative North Dakota has used is a byproduct  
205 from the sugar beet industry.

206  
207 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

208  
209 **WINTER SALT WEEK PROCLAMATION**

210  
211 **WHEREAS**, all the salt applied to Rice Creek Watershed District’s roadways, parking  
212 lots, and sidewalks eventually ends up in our freshwater, polluting lakes, streams, and  
213 groundwater; and

214 **WHEREAS**, chloride contamination is increasing statewide, with measurable impacts  
215 on our drinking water; and

216 **WHEREAS**, even a small amount—just one teaspoon—can pollute five gallons of water  
217 to a level that is toxic for aquatic life, and removing salt from water is costly and  
218 challenging; and

219 **WHEREAS**, winter maintenance best practices not only protect our freshwater  
220 resources, but also minimize damage to infrastructure and property and reduce harm  
221 to aquatic plants and animals while maintaining public safety; and

222 **WHEREAS**, raising awareness among residents, businesses, and local governments  
223 about the responsible use of deicing salt is essential to balancing public safety with  
224 environmental stewardship; and

225 **WHEREAS**, Winter Salt Week serves as an opportunity to educate our communities on  
226 smart salting practices, including effective application methods and environmental  
227 considerations; and

228 **WHEREAS**, the residents of Rice Creek Watershed District can make meaningful  
229 contributions to salt pollution reduction by learning about smart salting practices,  
230 engaging in safe winter driving, and hiring trained service providers; and

231 **WHEREAS**, the Rice Creek Watershed District is committed to promoting winter  
232 maintenance strategies that ensure public safety while protecting the health of our  
233 freshwater resources for present and future generations; and

234 **NOW, THEREFORE**, the Rice Creek Watershed District proclaims January 26-30, 2026,  
235 as

236 **“WINTER SALT WEEK”**

237 And urges all residents, businesses, and state departments to take part in activities and

238 initiatives that promote the responsible use of deicing salt and encourage the adoption  
239 of winter maintenance strategies that maintain safety while reducing environmental  
240 harm.

241  
242 **6. Anoka County Ditch 55 Branch #8 Transfer Petition Schedule**  
243 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that the engineering report was  
244 completed, and staff are to consult with the Board to schedule the Public Hearing for the  
245 transfer petition for ACD-55 branch #8. He noted that staff was suggesting the Public  
246 Hearing be scheduled for February 25, 2026, during the Board’s regular meeting.

247  
248 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to schedule the ACD-55,***  
249 ***Branch #8 Transfer Petition Public Hearing for February 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. during***  
250 ***the Board’s regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.***

251  
252 **7. Check Register Dated January 28, 2026, in the Amount of \$289,479.64 and January**  
253 **Interim Financial Statements Prepared by Redpath and Company**

254  
255 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the check***  
256 ***register dated January 28, 2026, in the Amount of \$289,479.64 and the January Interim***  
257 ***Financial Statements prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 4-0.***

258  
259 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

260 **1. Chloride Pollution and the District’s Role**

261 Lake & Stream Manager Kocian gave a presentation regarding chloride pollution, which  
262 primarily comes from road salt application; outlined the problems it can bring, such as  
263 being toxic to many fish/invertebrates/amphibians; what the monitoring data show  
264 across the State and specifically within the District; demonstrating a trend of increasing  
265 chloride presence in surface waters and where there are chloride impairments in the  
266 District; what can be done to mitigate chloride pollution; and briefly reviewed the  
267 District’s role. He referenced the recent proclamation for Winter Salt week and noted  
268 that the District regularly supports training and workshops related to smart salting.

269  
270 President Bradley suggested that Lake & Stream Manager Kocian could give this  
271 presentation at the upcoming City/County partner meeting in March.

272  
273 District Administrator Tomczik noted that the City/County partner meeting was scheduled  
274 for February 10, 2026, and staff could include chloride pollution in that meeting.

275  
276 **2. Staff Reports**

277 Manager Weinandt asked if there was an update on Jones Lake and explained that a  
278 question that arose when they were discussing was how to manage the legislative body’s  
279 requests. She asked Project Manager Petry had reached out to the cities to see if their  
280 lobbyists could also track this.

281  
282 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District did not know if the District was  
283 included in the Governor’s bonding bill and noted that practically legislators would  
284 determine the District’s inclusion its session begins on February 17, 2026.

285  
286 Project Manager Petry reviewed the list of partners he had reached out to and possible  
287 funding through the State’s bonding bill, as well as grant applications.

288  
289 Manager Weinandt explained that she would advocate that the District have someone  
290 physically at the capital watching out for these interests.

291  
292 Manager Waller noted that there were other bills the District was interested in and hoped  
293 that staff were also working on those. He stated that for working with the cities, even if  
294 they don’t have lobbyists, he would suggest speaking with their administrators and having  
295 them contact the correct individuals at the League of Minnesota Cities. He suggested  
296 that they put together a map of the District and the various cities with their geographical  
297 limits superimposed on the map, along with the Senate and House districts, so they know  
298 the mayors, city administrators, and representatives for each city. He shared examples of  
299 other ways that may be useful to communicate and talk with individuals about these bills.

300  
301 **3. February Calendar**

302 District Administrator Tomczik reiterated that the City/County partner meeting was  
303 scheduled for February 10, 2026.

304  
305 **4. Administrator Updates**

306 District Administrator Tomczik stated that he and Project Manager Petry presented the  
307 City of New Brighton with the Mn Association of Floodplain Managers’ plaque for the  
308 Hansen Park project. He noted that District staff have continued to work on water  
309 quality at Silver Lake and referenced things that are being looked at for White Bear Lake.  
310 He noted the opening on the Board for a representative from Anoka County has been  
311 posted, and the county’s new manager appointment scheduled for later in February.

312  
313 **5. Manager Updates**

314 Manager Waller referenced a recent article regarding the City of Hugo and how they had  
315 handled the Family Leave Act issue. He explained that he had asked District staff to  
316 reach out to discuss.

317  
318 **ADJOURNMENT**

319 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Robertson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28***  
320 ***a.m. Motion carried 4-0.***

321