



APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, February 9, 2026

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: Jess Robertson, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt

3 Absent: Mike Bradley (with prior notice)

4 Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt,
5 Project Manager David Petry, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley

6 Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering Inc., District Attorney
7 John Kolb-Rinke Noonan

8 Visitors: Molly Jansen-Park Street Public

9

10 **Rice Creek Watershed District Lobbying Efforts**

11 District Administrator Tomczik discussed the current status of the Jones Lake project and
12 lobbying efforts for the \$8 million project, noting that many state grants require a 50% match. As
13 a part of this effort, the Board considered a proposal from Molly Jansen, a lobbyist for Park Street
14 Public. Molly Jansen discussed their lobbying services and explained the role of a lobbyist as an
15 advocate, or “the eyes and ears,” at the Capitol.

16 The Board discussed her proposal, current lobbying efforts, cost, and potential for a bonding bill.
17 The Board by majority consensus agreed it wasn’t the right time to hire a lobbyist.

18

19 **Anoka County Ditch 55 Transfer Petition Cost Apportionment**

20 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that the District has accepted the City of Lino Lakes
21 petition for partial drainage system transfer of ACD 55 Branch #8 and has initiated the
22 proceedings.

23 Staff explained that Minnesota Statutes requires the petitioner to cover these costs. The Board
24 by consensus agreed that the City should cover the costs associated with the petition per state
25 statute.

26

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**BOARD OF
MANAGERS**

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

27 **Administrator Updates**

- 28 • Administrator Tomczik provided a 2027 budget schedule to the Board.
- 29 • Administrator Tomczik continues to review MNPFL plan options for 2027 including private
- 30 options.
- 31 • A plaque was created/purchased for Steve Wagamon to recognize him for his years of
- 32 service as a board member. Staff will engage Mr. Wagamon to deliver it to him; the Board
- 33 may direct staff on anything further.

34

35 The workshop was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

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