



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, February 11, 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

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CALL TO ORDER

1st Vice-Pres. John Waller called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 1st Vice-Pres. John Waller, Treasurer Marcie Weinandt, and Secretary Jess Robertson

Absent: President Michael Bradley (with prior notice)

Staff Present: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Outreach & Grant Technician Molly Nelson, Watershed Technician/Inspector Will Roach, Project Manager David Petry, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stastica

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

Visitors: Tom Wesolowski-City of Shoreview, Brian Ludwig, David Swearingen-City of Arden Hills, Tim Payne-City of Lino Lakes

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

28 **READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL**

29 **Minutes of the January 28, 2026, Board of Managers Regular Meeting. Motion by Manager**
30 **Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion**
31 **carried 3-0.**

32

33 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-123	Lexington Meadows, LLC	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 8 items

40

41 **It was moved by Manager Waller and seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the consent**
42 **agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer’s**
43 **Findings and Recommendations, dated February 4, 2026. Motion carried 3-0.**

44

45 **Water Quality Grant Program Cost Share Application**

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Total Project Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R26-01	Scott Barnes	1472 County Road C2 W, Roseville	Raingarden & Porous Pavers	\$19,939.75	Vol: 3,695 Cu-ft/yr TSS: 70.76 Lbs./yr TP: 0.28 lbs./yr	Cost share of \$9,969.87 not to exceed 50% of total eligible cost; or \$10,000, whichever cost is lower.
R26-02	White Bear Township	W Bald Eagle Blvd & St. Anthony Ave	Shoreline Stabilization & Restoration	\$16,390.00	Vol: 3,931 Cu-ft/yr TSS: 1,614.83 Lbs./yr TP: 0.92 lbs./yr	Cost share of \$8,195.00 not to exceed 50% of total eligible cost; or \$10,000, whichever cost is lower.

46 Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson gave a brief overview of the proposed projects as part of
47 the Water Quality Grant cost-sharing program.

48 **It was moved by Manager Weinandt and seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the**
49 **consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD Outreach**
50 **and Grants Technician’s Recommendations, dated February 3rd, 2026. Motion carried 3-0.**

51 **PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

52 1st Vice-Pres. Waller recessed the regular Board meeting and opened the public hearing on the
53 Rice Creek Watershed District’s proposed selection of projects for funding through the District’s
54 Stormwater Management Grant Program. The public hearing was noticed in accordance with
55 state law.

56
57 1st Vice-Pres. Waller stated the purpose of this hearing was to receive comments from the public
58 on the projects that the Board is considering for cost-share assistance in the Cities of Arden Hills,
59 Shoreview, New Brighton, and Lino Lakes. Before the District can provide funds for the capital
60 work of these applicants, state law requires that the board of managers hold a public hearing,
61 receive public comments, and make a judgment that each selected project is a sound and cost-
62 effective project to help fulfill our water resource goals.

63
64 1st Vice-Pres. Waller turned the meeting over to Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach.

65
66 Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach reviewed the 2026 Stormwater Management Grant
67 Program goals and guidelines. He noted the District received six applications from four
68 different applicants for funding through its 2026 Stormwater Management Grant program.

69
70 Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach provided a presentation and answered questions
71 regarding the six applications:

72
73 Arden Hills – 2026 PMP Street & Utility Improvements (Karth Pond)

74 This project proposes to construct a stormwater pond to provide water quality
75 treatment by reducing sediment and phosphorus reduction prior to runoff entering
76 Karth Lake. The target waterbody is both Karth Lake and Valentine Lake. The total
77 estimated project cost is \$174,582, and the request is for \$87,291.50. The project
78 benefit would be annual removal of 1,596.8 pounds of total suspended solids (TSS)
79 and 5.211 pounds of total phosphorus (TS).

80
81 Arden Hills – 2026 PMP Street & Utility Improvements (Karth SAFLs)

82 This project proposed the installation of two sump storm sewer structures with SAFL
83 baffles on Karth Lake Circle and Karth Lake Drive for the targeted waterbodies of Karth
84 Lake, Valentine Lake, and the adjacent wetland. The estimated project cost is
85 \$61,105, and the request is for \$30,552.50. The projected water quality benefits are
86 the annual removal of 514.12 pounds of TSS to Karth Lake and 1,616.76 pounds of TSS
87 to the wetland area.

88
89 Lino Lakes – Regenerative Air Sweeper & Enhanced Street Sweeping

90 This project proposes purchasing a regenerative air sweeper to initiate an enhanced
91 sweeping program with the area of focus including subdivisions with fully developed
92 tree canopies, areas where storm sewer discharges to receiving bodies without
93 treatment, and areas that have a combination of both, which totals 28.2 miles. The

94 targeted waterbodies are the Rice Creek chain of lakes, including Peltier, Baldwin, Bald
95 Eagle, and others. The estimated project costs are \$425,000, and the request is for
96 \$100,000, with the projected water quality benefit to be the annual removal of 1,987
97 pounds of TP.

98
99 New Brighton – Knollwood Pond Overflow
100 This project proposed a flood control project that would provide a primary means of
101 protection to an existing pond that does not allow for adequate low-floor protection
102 to adjacent properties during rainfall events for the targeted waterbodies of Rice
103 Creek/Knollwood Pond. The estimated total project cost is \$250,000, and the grant
104 request is for \$100,000. The projected flood control benefit would be a reduction in
105 100 year high water level of 887.93 to 887.15.

106
107 Shoreview- Target Pond Improvements
108 This project proposes the conversion of an existing sand filter into an iron-enhanced
109 sand filter to improve the scope of water quality treatment for Valentine Lake. The
110 estimated project cost is \$163,545, and the grant fund request is for \$81,722.50.
111 The projected water quality benefit would be the annual removal of 6.4 pounds of TP.

112
113 Shoreview – 2026 Storm Improvements
114 This project proposes to replace the existing roadway asphalt with permeable pavers
115 to allow water to infiltrate through the underlying material and reduce runoff to Island
116 Lake. The estimated total project cost is \$570,000, and the request is for \$100,000.
117 The projected water quality benefit would be 10,300 cubic feet of stormwater storage
118 and a reduction in TP loading to Island Lake.

119
120 Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach explained that each application had been reviewed by
121 District staff, the District Engineer, as well as the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and scored
122 and ranked according to a weighted average. He stated that Lino Lakes received a score of 92.6;
123 Arden Hills Karth Pond received a score of 82.5; Shoreview Pervious Pavers received a score of
124 82.3; Shoreview ISEF Pond and Arden Hills Karth SAFL received a score of 81.6; and New Brighton
125 Knollwood Pond received a score of 63.2. He briefly reviewed the funding recommendations for
126 each request, including: Lino Lakes - \$100,000; Arden Hills PMP street and utility improvements
127 for Karth Pond - \$89,447.50; Shoreview pond improvements - \$75,000; Arden Hills PMP street
128 and utility improvements – Karth SAFL - \$30,552.50; Shoreview storm improvements - \$75,000;
129 New Brighton - \$50,000.

130
131 Manager Weinandt noted that she and Manager Waller attended the CAC meeting and reviewed
132 the applications along with them. She stated that relating to Karth Lake, she believed it had
133 been communicated that it was a closed watershed and asked if it was a built outlet to Valentine
134 Lake.

135
136 Project Manager Petry explained that the city of Arden Hills was looking to take on a project to
137 retrofit its pumping operations. He stated that currently, when the lake fills up, the City, with

138 a permit from the DNR, will periodically go out and pump the lake down to Valentine Lake. He
139 noted that it was all part of a larger project for them.

140
141 David Swearingen, Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Arden Hills, gave an
142 overview of their plans for a larger 2026 PMP street and utility project.

143
144 Brian Ludwig, 2605 County Road H, New Brighton, shared some of his concerns with runoff and
145 noted that it seems like Knollwood pond system just doesn't work anymore. He stated that the
146 problems started around 2017, and he would like something to be done about this issue. He
147 noted that there had not been maintenance done, so he assumes some of the issues could just
148 be sediment and debris that are making the overall system not work anymore. He stated that he
149 had photographs on his phone that would help explain what had been happening.

150
151 1st Vice-President Waller asked Mr. Ludwig to share the photographs with District Administrator
152 Tomczik following the meeting.

153
154 1st Vice-Pres. Waller stated board action to select projects for funding is tentatively scheduled
155 for the February 25, 2026, regular board meeting. He closed the public hearing and reconvened
156 the regular board meeting.

157
158 District Administrator Tomczik noted that if the Board had any input regarding the proposed
159 funding of the projects would be helpful for staff before the next Board meeting.

160
161 Manager Weinandt noted that the Board had increased the yearly budget for this grant by
162 \$100,000 and felt that the applications showed that there continued to be a need and interest
163 from the city partners. She stated that she would like to see all of the projects receive some
164 funding and suggested that staff contact the cities and see if their projects would still be doable
165 with the recommended funding levels.

166
167 Manager Robertson stated that the recommended funding level information was not included in
168 the packet, which would have been helpful for any potential discussion. She suggested that the
169 better place to discuss that information may be at a workshop, so they had time to digest the
170 information shared by staff regarding the scoring and the recommended funding levels, and also
171 allow President Bradley to share his input.

172
173 District Administrator stated that staff's shared funding levels are based on the Board's program
174 structure and the Board can hold their full discussion on this item at their next meeting.

175
176 Manager Robertson stated that when the Board discusses this, she would also like to hear about
177 the byproducts of the flooding concerns shared by Mr. Ludwig during the public hearing.

178

179 **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

- 180 **1. Annual Designation of Depository and Newspaper**

181 District Administrator Tomczik explained that the designation of the official depository
182 and newspaper was an annual requirement. He noted that staff were recommending that
183 the District continue with their current depository and newspaper. He explained that
184 when it was appropriate and would serve a public benefit, the District also publishes legal
185 notices in some of the smaller circulatory papers.
186

187 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to designate PMA***
188 ***Financial Network, LLC. administering the 4M Fund with US Bank as the financial***
189 ***institution as the official depository, and St. Paul Pioneer Press, as the official***
190 ***newspaper of the Rice Creek Watershed District. Motion carried 3-0.***
191

192 **2. Jones Lake Outlet Modification, Dredging, and Restoration Project – Environmental**
193 **Assessment Worksheet (EAW) Findings of Fact**

194 Project Manager Petry reviewed the Jones Lake Outlet modification, dredging, and
195 restoration project related to the EAW and findings of fact and the comments received
196 from the MN Department of Health, the Met Council, MN Pollution Control Agency, and
197 the DNR. He stated that staff was recommending that the Board adopt the Negative
198 Environmental Impact Statement Declaration, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law
199 and Order. He noted that District Engineer Otterness was ill and wasn't able to attend
200 today's meeting in person, but was available online to walk through the comments.
201

202 District Engineer Otterness briefly reviewed the comments that the District had received
203 and the responses prepared by Houston Engineering.
204

205 Manager Weinandt asked if District Engineer Otterness was surprised by the comments
206 submitted by the DNR.
207

208 District Engineer Otterness noted that the only surprise was that there were a number of
209 things that had already been discussed with other DNR staff members.
210

211 District Attorney Kolb stated that there is criteria within the Environmental Quality Board
212 regulations that he felt was specifically relevant to the DNR comments, which is that they
213 may consider the extent to which the environmental effects are subject to mitigation by
214 ongoing public regulatory authority. He explained that staff concluded that the majority
215 of substantive comments are subject to subsequent regulation.
216

217 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adopt the Jones Lake***
218 ***Outlet Modification, Dredging, and Restoration Project Negative Environmental Impact***
219 ***Statement Declaration, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law and Order, and***
220 ***authorize the Administrator and Board President to execute the Order. Motion carried***
221 ***3-0.***
222

223 **3. Memorials to RCWD**

224 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District was informed of the passing of Gary
225 Krejcarek, who was a former member of the CAC. He noted that Mr. Krejcarek's
226 obituary included the opportunity for those grieving his passing to issue memorials to the
227 Rice Creek Watershed District and outlined the proposed process for such donations.

228
229 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adopt Resolution 2026-***
230 ***02 Krejcarek Memorial Donations:***

231 **THEREFORE**, the Board authorizes receipt and deposit of such funds; and

232 **FURTHER**, at such later date as a full accounting of donated funds is possible, the Board
233 directs its Treasurer and staff to provide a final accounting for approval by the Board, and

234 **FURTHER**, unless conditioned upon a specific use furthering the public purposes of the
235 Watershed District, the Board shall, at the time of final accounting, designate how such
236 funds shall be used.

237 **ROLL CALL:**

238 ***Manager Bradley – Absent***

239 ***Manager Robertson – Aye***

240 ***Manager Waller – Aye***

241 ***Manager Weinandt – Aye***

242 ***Motion carried 3-0.***

243

244 **4. Check Register Dated February 11, 2026, in the Amount of \$252,912.98, Prepared by**
245 **Redpath and Company**

246

247 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the check***
248 ***register dated February 11, 2026, in the Amount of \$252,912.98 prepared by Redpath***
249 ***and Company. Motion carried 3-0.***

250

251 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

252 **1. District Engineer Updates and Timeline**

253

254 **2. Administrator Updates**

255 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the City-County Partner meeting was held on
256 February 10, 2026, which was well attended. He noted that the Board had considered
257 the District's lobbying efforts at their workshop meeting on Monday. He explained that
258 they had reviewed the Park Street proposal, and the consensus was not to proceed with
259 it. He noted that he had been contacted by a staff member from the City of New
260 Brighton who asked if the Board would be willing to reconsider a lobbyist if the cities
261 helped pay for the lobbying efforts. He noted that after he got the message from the
262 City of New Brighton, he had reached out to the City of Roseville, which also indicated a
263 willingness to bring this before their city council. He reminded the Board that he was
264 sharing this as an informational item and explained that staff would see what the cities

265 may bring forth. He stated that the regulatory program is undertaking some outreach
266 efforts and asked Regulatory Manager Hughes to share some details with the Board.

267
268 Regulatory Manager Hughes stated that in 2 weeks, they will host an outreach event for
269 folks who have gone through the permit process before and other general
270 partners/stakeholders. He stated that they would like to get feedback on what people
271 value about water resources, what they are concerned about, and how that ties into the
272 District's regulatory program.

273
274 Manager Weinandt asked what feedback Regulatory Manager Hughes had gotten from
275 the City-County partner meeting, and asked if they had included the CAC in their
276 invitations to this outreach event.

277
278 Regulatory Manager Hughes stated that he had not received any direct feedback from the
279 City-County partner meeting, but many of the folks in attendance at that meeting will also
280 be coming to the outreach event.

281
282 District Administrator Tomczik stated that they could engage the CAC for this event, but
283 clarified that staff were technically looking for entities that have gone through the
284 process. He noted that he had just found out that the Minnesota Watersheds Summer
285 Tour is scheduled for August 26, 2026, conflicting with the board's meeting schedule and
286 noted that this may result in the need to change that and the budget schedule a bit.

287 288 **3. Manager Updates**

289 Manager Weinandt complimented staff on what she felt was a very successful City-County
290 Partner meeting. She reiterated that she and Manager Waller attended the CAC
291 meeting and appreciated the CAC's intent to advise the Board. She noted that the CAC
292 has requested that if the Board has something that they want the CAC to take a closer
293 look at or garner community feedback, they do so.

294
295 1st Vice-President Waller at the Washington County Consortium meeting, there was a
296 presentation regarding rainwater falls and their intensity, and he felt it was important to
297 look into. He shared information from the District's plan dated July 1974 and noted that
298 at the last Board meeting, his misspoke and clarified that the lake he mentioned with salt
299 problems he was referring to was actually Marshan Lake, which is on the 10-22-32 system.

300 301 **ADJOURNMENT**

302 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adjourn the meeting at***
303 ***10:20 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.***