



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, March 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

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. Jess Robertson, Treasurer Marcie Weinandt, Secretary Janet Hegland

Absent: None

Staff Present: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Project Manager David Petry, Outreach and Grants Technician Molly Nelson, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld, Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineer Adam Nies from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) & District Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (videoconference)

Remote Visitors: Josh Norman-BWSR, Michael

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

District Administrator Tomczik requested the addition of Board action item Houston Engineering Task Order 2026-001: Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3, 5 Flood Impact Simulation.

Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the agenda as amended to include the addition of Houston Engineer Task Order 2026-001: Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3, 5 Flood Impact Simulation. Motion carried 5-0.

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READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

Minutes of the February 25, 2026, Board of Managers Regular Meeting.

Manager Hegland identified changes to the minutes page 6 packet - line 51 - Items requiring board action – motion carried 3-0 - correct to “motion carried 5-0”, page 6 packet – line 71 – consent agenda – motion carried 4-0 - correct to “motion carried 5-0”, page 12 packet – line 275 – last word of line is “care” correct to “carp” to clarify voting and correct a typographical error.

Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the minutes, with the changes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

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 an opportunity for discussion:

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-046	Hal Leibel	Lino Lakes	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development Public/Private Drainage System Wetland Alteration Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 14 items
25-118	Jeffery & Susan Kempf Dorothy M McKinley Trustee	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development Public/Private Drainage System Wetland Alteration Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 20 items
26-007	Independent School District 624	White Bear Lake	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 3 items

It was moved by Manager Waller and seconded by Manager Bradley to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the Table of Contents above, in accordance with the RCWD District Engineer’s Findings and Recommendations, dated March 3, 2026. Motion carried 5-0.

Water Quality Grant Program Cost Share Application

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Total Project Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R26-03	City of Arden Hills	Lexington Ave N & Victoria St S	Shoreline Stabilization & Restoration	\$74,940.00	Volume: 248 cu-ft/yr TSS: 123.14 lbs./yr TP: 0.0795 lbs./yr	Cost share of \$10,000.00 not to exceed 50% of total eligible cost; or \$10,000.00 whichever cost is lower

65 ***It was moved by Manager Weinandt and seconded by Manager Hegland to approve the***
66 ***consent agenda as outlined in the Table of Contents above, in accordance with the RCWD***
67 ***Outreach and Grants Technician’s Recommendations, dated March 5, 2026.***

68 Manager Weinandt expressed her appreciation to Outreach and Grants Technician Nelson for
69 her time last Saturday at the Home and Garden Show booth in Mounds View.

70
71 **OLD BUSINESS**

72 **1. Tabled Item: RCWD Lobbying Efforts (David Petry)**
73 President Bradley motioned to remove this item from the table, seconded by Manager
74 Weinandt and stated the prior motion before it was tabled.

75
76 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, upon confirmation from***
77 ***the Cities of New Brighton and Roseville of equal cost-share with the District, and upon***
78 ***the advice of counsel, to authorize the Administrator to execute a contract with Park***
79 ***Street Public for professional services as a contract lobbyist for the 2026 Minnesota***
80 ***Legislative Session, not to exceed \$20,000.***

81
82 President Bradley asked if staff had any updates.

83
84 Project Manager Petry reminded the Board that they had discussed this item briefly
85 during their recent workshop meeting. He stated that the City of New Brighton had
86 approved a 1/3 cost share for the lobbying fee, but the City of Roseville had not yet
87 responded. He stated that the proposed motion would make execution of the
88 agreement contingent on the resolution being passed by the City of Roseville.

89
90 President Bradley stated that he would like the Board to support this legislation and the
91 request from their cities to cost-share for this project.

92
93 Manager Robertson reiterated her mindset, which she has held since this first came up.
94 She explained that she believes this session at the State has not been ideal and stated
95 that she speaks with people on the ground every day at the Capitol and does not have
96 confidence that this will be the year to allocate dollars to this. She stated that she
97 wanted to make clear that she understood the importance of the project, but that she
98 has difficulty spending taxpayer dollars on something that may not yield results, and
99 would not vote in favor of it.

100
101 President Bradley asked whether the District had funds in its budget for this.

102
103 District Administrator Tomczik confirmed there is budget funding for this.

104
105 Manager Waller explained that he would also vote no on this motion because he felt it
106 was a little late in the game this year and briefly shared conversations he had with some
107 legislators regarding the cuts.

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Manager Hegland stated that she echoed Managers Waller and Robertson's statements and noted her experience at the State. She explained that she felt the likelihood that this would see the light of day was very small. She stated that, although it was a small amount of money and included in the budget, she preferred they not move forward with it in 2026, but rather put it toward 2027 and a more robust effort. She noted that there may also be significant turnover among those serving in the legislature. She reiterated that she did not think this was the year to proceed.

Manager Weinandt reminded the Board that this was a major project and impacts an area of the watershed that has experienced flooding. She stated that staff and Board members have been working with elected officials in the area. She noted that the Ramsey County League of Cities has provided a letter of recommendation in support of this project. She stated that, in her opinion, making a small investment to have someone on the ground at the Capitol would be an investment in the future possibility of funding.

Motion failed 2-3 (Waller, Robertson, and Hegland opposed).

District Administrator Tomczik stated that staff would continue to pursue and bring back funding options for this project, WMD, ad valorem grant applications.

Manager Weinandt suggested that the Board schedule a visit to Jones Lake to assess the area, as she felt a Board tour was overdue.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. Houston Engineering Task Order 2026-001: Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3, 5 Flood Impact Simulation

District Administrator Tomczik stated that the task order deliverable is likely to be mid to late summer and is not directly tied to the District's bonding efforts.

Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld explained that this task order was for a Flood Impact Model and Simulation Tool. She explained that it was a GIS tool, which is a 3D animation simulation that Houston Engineering would create for the Jones Lake project. She stated that the idea was to identify ways to show people the potential flooding and to communicate the urgency and need for this project.

Manager Robertson clarified that the \$20,500 for this task order would be for Jones Lake, and if the District wanted a simulation created for ACD 10-22-32, that would require a separate task order and have a similar price tag.

Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld stated that she wasn't sure about the pricing, but it would be a separate task order.

152 District Administrator Tomczik agreed and stated that the area of interest includes
153 Hansen Park, Jones Lake, and Interstate 35W flooding areas, not just Jones Lake.

154
155 Manager Robertson explained that she understood this, but wanted to emphasize that
156 this was only a simulation for this project.

157
158 Manager Waller stated that he liked the overall concept but felt it was insufficient and
159 should cover a larger area to show the entire problem. He suggested they go back to
160 the drawing board and review how they want to proceed, because the problem isn't
161 limited to the New Brighton/Roseville area and extends into Fridley. He reiterated that he
162 felt they should go back to the drawing board before this task order is approved.

163
164 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the proposed simulation was tied to a petition
165 that came before the Board on this issue, which is why their effort was to communicate
166 the challenge at hand and how the District's work could address it. He noted that
167 developing a simulation covering a larger portion of the District where flooding may occur
168 would likely be very expensive, and the District had not budgeted for such an expense.

169
170 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve Houston***
171 ***Engineering, Inc. Task Order 2026-001: Ramsey County Ditches 2, 3, 5 Flood Impact***
172 ***Simulation not to exceed \$20,500, and direct the Administrator to sign the task order.***

173
174 Manager Robertson reiterated a point made by Manager Hegland regarding the previous
175 agenda item. She noted that a more comprehensive conversation was needed. She
176 suggested that a conversation about this expense would make more sense in the broader
177 context of the 2027 budget and, potentially, a 5-year capital improvement plan.

178
179 President Bradley stated that his understanding was that the Board was trying to provide
180 support for either bonding or WMD recovery as they work through the next few years to
181 determine how they would get this job done. He noted that, to do that, they need
182 something that describes what would happen if they don't have this specific project. He
183 stated that he felt this was a reasonable cost to address a specific problem, given that
184 they have received a petition from 3 cities. He noted that he agreed this was not a 1-
185 year project and that it needed to be done regardless of the District's 10-year plan.

186
187 ***Motion failed 2-3 (Hegland, Robertson, and Waller opposed).***

188
189 Manager Hegland stated that she had not seen or heard the previous discussions on this
190 item, but wanted it on the record that she was not against this project, but thinks that it
191 would be helpful in terms of lobbying for this or future projects, to have information on
192 what the additional costs would be for adding more areas to the simulation. She stated
193 that she would like to see this come back after they have that conversation with HEI and
194 clarified that she was not voting against this because she didn't think they should do it.

195 She noted that it was more in line with what Manager Waller had shared: she would like
196 to see it brought back to the Board when they have more information.

197
198 District Administrator Tomczik suggested that staff provide an update on the project
199 implementation, phasing, at a future workshop to demonstrate that a plan is in place.
200

201 **2. Apex Drainage LLC Partial Pay Request #1 – Anoka County Ditch 53-62 Branch 5 & 6**
202 **Repair Project**

203 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt reported that the repair project on ACD 53-62 was
204 substantially complete and that staff recommended issuing payment for the completed
205 work. He reminded the Board that the costs would be apportioned 60% to the Water
206 Management District and 40% to ad valorem.

207
208 District Engineer Adam Nies acknowledged that the project was substantially completed
209 and the contractor would be working on punch list items, including final grading of the
210 spoil and seeding this spring. He reviewed the payment request and noted that they
211 would withhold approximately \$40,000 in retainage until the punch list items are
212 completed.

213
214 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve Apex***
215 ***Drainage, LLC's partial pay request as submitted and certified by the District Engineer,***
216 ***and directs staff to issue payment of \$176,733.63.***

217
218 Manager Robertson asked about the overall budget for this project.

219
220 District Engineer Neis stated that the original engineer's estimate was around \$300,000,
221 but the bids were favorable, and Apex Drainage came in below the estimate.

222
223 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

224
225 **3. ACD 10-22-32 Branch #2 – Maintenance Work Order**

226 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that this work order request is for tree
227 and brush removal on ACD 10-22-32, Branch #2, from the Nature's Refuge development
228 to the Robinson Landscaping and Sod Farm area.

229
230 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the work order***
231 ***for Dunaway Construction, estimated at \$48,800.00. Motion carried 5-0.***

232
233 **4. RCWD 2026 Board of Managers Calendar Adjustment**

234 District Administrator Tomczik explained that because the Minnesota Watersheds
235 Summer Tour was scheduled for August 24 – 26, 2026, it would conflict with the regular
236 Board meeting. He stated that staff was recommending the Board move the conflicting
237 meeting from August 26, 2026, to August 24, 2026.
238

239 *Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, to move the Board's second*
240 *meeting in August to Monday, August 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.*
241

242 **5. Check Register Dated March 11, 2026, in the Amount of \$152,597.37, Prepared by**
243 **Redpath and Company**

244 Manager Weinandt noted that the total number listed on the check register was incorrect,
245 it did not include all the items listed. The correct amount of the check register is
246 \$152,597.37.
247

248 *Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the check*
249 *register dated March 11, 2026, in the Amount of \$152,597.37, prepared by Redpath and*
250 *Company. Motion carried 5-0.*
251

252 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

253 **1. District Engineer Update and Timeline**

254 District Administrator Tomczik reminded the Board that the items listed on page 76 of the
255 packet were open task orders that Houston Engineering was processing on behalf of the
256 District, and noted that page 77 contained a graph illustrating the funds expended.
257

258 **2. Administrator Updates**

259 District Administrator Tomczik asked Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt to provide
260 an update and clarify his presentation and the rationale for budgeting for the coming
261 years.
262

263 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that, due to time constraints during the
264 workshop, he was unable to reach his final few slides. He reiterated that, in 2026, they
265 recommended a 30% increase in the public drainage maintenance budget and did not
266 foresee a large increase for 2027; any increase would be one sufficient to account for
267 inflation. He stated that for District Facilities maintenance, there was a typographical
268 error in his report, and it should read that it was a 20% increase for 2026, and not an 84%
269 increase. He explained that he expects a flat budget for 2027 for facility maintenance.
270

271 District Administrator Tomczik noted that, for public drainage repairs, the District receives
272 estimates from HEI for the next scheduled systems, these have their own line item within
273 the budget.
274

275 **3. Manager Updates**

276 Manager Waller provided a brief overview of the conversations he had and the
277 presentations he heard while at the Capitol recently.
278

279 Manager Weinandt stated that she was also in attendance at the legislative conference.
280

281 Manager Waller stated that he heard great comments about Manager Weinandt's work.
282

283 Manager Robertson noted that she attended the CAC meeting last week and briefly
284 reviewed the items they discussed.

285

286 **ADJOURNMENT**

287 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58***
288 ***a.m. Motion carried 5-0.***

289