



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**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

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. Steve Wagamon, Secretary Jess Robertson, and Treasurer Marcie Weinandt

Absent: None

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

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

Visitors: Dan Coughlin-University of Northwestern, Don Peterson-City of Mounds View Public Works

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

District Administrator Tomcik stated staff proposed amend to the agenda adding a new Action Item #2, Clearwater Creek Stabilization Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). He noted that Public Works Director Don Peterson with the of Mounds View should have some time to visit the meeting and give the Board an update on its Stormwater Management Grant that they received from the District.

4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE #611 | Blaine, MN 55449 | T: 763-398-3070 | F: 763-398-3088 | www.ricecreek.org

**BOARD OF
MANAGERS**

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Steven P. Wagamon
Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

Minutes of the April 23, 2025, Board of Managers Regular Meeting. Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to approve the minutes 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 opportunity for discussion:

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
25-022	City of Falcon Heights	Falcon Heights	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 4 items
25-032	Menlo Capital Partners, LLC	Lexington	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 8 items
25-034	City of Forest Lake	Forest Lake	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 3 items

Regulatory Manager Hughes explained that there was one error that needed to be corrected in the Board's information. He directed them to page 22 of the packet, related to Permit No. 25-022, and stated that within the table for biofiltration basin, the volume provided was incorrectly listed and should be 2,798 cubic feet, instead of 1,039 cubic feet.

Manager Weinandt noted that it appeared that they cannot get any farther south in the District as it relates to this proposal.

Regulatory Manager Hughes stated that Permit No. 25-022 in Falcon Heights was recently added to the District with the boundary change.

Manager Waller referenced Permit No. 25-034 and noted that the mapping did not show where old Branch 1 was, which was now under the authority of the City of Forest Lake. He stated that he felt it would be nice to see how that would flow into the District's system.

It was moved by Manager Weinandt, and seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the consent agenda as amended in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated May 6, 2025, with the correction as described by Regulatory Manager Hughes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R25-03	Yi He & Mei Chen	Roseville	Raingarden	\$8,118.00	Volume: 5,136 cu-ft/yr TSS: 17.48 lbs/yr TP: 0.096 lbs/yr	75% cost share of \$8,118.00 not to exceed 75%; or \$10,000 whichever cost is lower
R25-04	Lorna Alamri	Shoreview	Raingarden & Upland Native Plant Restoration	\$16,328.75	Volume: 6,508 cu-ft/yr TSS: 22.14 lbs/yr TP: 0.12 lbs/yr	50% cost share of \$16,328.75 not to exceed 50%; or \$10,000 whichever cost is lower
R25-05	Shane & Sherry Gydesen	White Bear Township	Shoreline Stabilization & Restoration	\$18,450.00	Volume: 680 cu-ft/yr TSS: 2,802.31 lbs/yr TP: 0.24 lbs/yr	50% cost share of \$18,450.00 not to exceed 50%; or \$10,000 whichever cost is lower

70
71 Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson gave a brief overview of each cost-share application
72 request.

73
74 President Bradley highlighted some of the conversation at the CAC related to the use of bio logs
75 versus riprap and explained that the CAC had recommended approval of the use of bio logs for
76 the Bald Eagle Lake project.

77
78 Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson gave a brief description related to the design of the logs to
79 deteriorate over time and native plants to grow into the logs and stabilize the shoreline. She
80 noted that the logs would be staked, so they should be firm in the shoreline.

81
82 President Bradley noted that this had also been reviewed by the Ramsey County Soil and Water.

83
84 ***It was moved by Manager Weinandt and seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the***
85 ***consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD Outreach***
86 ***and Grants Technician's Recommendations dated May 8, 2025. Motion carried 5-0.***

87 **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**

88 Dan Coughlin, University of Northwestern, stated that he wanted to inform the Board, in case
89 they weren't aware, that they had an oil leak in their maintenance building last week that ended

up going into an original 1918 drain that conveyed directly into Lake Johanna. He gave a brief overview of the work being done to clean up the product and explained that they were able to gather up most of the product within the first few hours. He explained that he was here because he just wanted to make sure the Board was aware of this incident. He stated that as part of this situation, he has discovered that 5 floor drains in the building convey directly into Lake Johanna and explained that he had ordered them to be plugged and was still working on plans to get them permanently sealed and capped.

Manager Waller suggested that Mr. Coughlin could speak to staff about a possible cost-share application with the District to help cover some of the costs related to sealing and capping the drains.

District Administrator Tomczik noted that staff had discussed options with different funding programs that may be available, and none of them directly support this type of situation and explained that the burden would fall on the property owner. He noted that Mounds View Public Works Director Peterson had just arrived and suggested that he be allowed to update the Board on their Stormwater Management Grant.

Mounds View Public Works Director Peterson stated that the project was underway and the contractor had removed quite a bit of the invasives and was currently working on the south BMPs near the apartments and would also do the restoration on the south tip of the lake, near County Road H2. He explained that with the grant, they were also looking at putting in an iron-enhanced separator, but that work had not yet begun due to mobilization of the equipment. He noted that he felt the project, overall, was going well.

Manager Weinandt stated that she had walked past the area the other night and was amazed at how much work had already been done. She asked if there had been an excavation of the pond.

Mr. Peterson stated that there had not been any excavation because it did not need to be dredged and was close to its original design. He noted that there are some high spots, but to get equipment to those areas, they would have to travel through wetlands, which they chose not to do. He stated that through their recent survey, they found that the apartment buildings' parking lot stormwater drains directly into the pond, which was the reason for the two infiltration basins, with the hope that they will capture quite a bit of the water and sediment coming in from the parking lot.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. HEI Task Order 2025-10: Regional Pond Dredging Support

Project Manager Petry explained that the District periodically reached out to their partners and asked how they could better serve them. He stated that a response that has come to the District several times has been helping with stormwater pond maintenance. He noted that Roseville has three different watershed districts, and Ramsey-Washington has been running a program since 2017 related to stormwater pond management, where they help facilitate the contract to do the maintenance and dredging. He highlighted some of the conversations that had happened with Ramsey-

129 Washington about their program and interest from other area metro watershed district
130 project managers, and explained that this was why staff were asking for a HEI Task Order
131 to dig deeper into what a dredging support program may look like for the District.
132

133 President Bradley noted that he was interested in working with their partners, but was
134 not interested in the District becoming street sweepers or pond cleaners.
135

136 Project Manager Petry noted that one of the advantages of the Ramsey-Washington
137 program was that they were able to package numerous ponds together to get a better
138 rate rather than contracting them out individually. He explained that Roseville had
139 indicated that they have money to spend on dredging, but wanted a 'driver' to facilitate
140 the work. He stated that Ramsey-Washington oversees the contract, and the cities
141 reimburse the district for everything except mobilization, de-mobilization, and seed.
142

143 Manager Robertson stated that she agreed that the District's best influence was to be the
144 driver of the best practices for communities. She explained that she was all for the
145 District being the best practices guidance entity, but was not sure that they needed to
146 spend \$15,000 on a study to determine this information. She noted that the challenge
147 was that there were 3 counties with a myriad of unique cities that operate differently.
148 She stated that she agreed with President Bradley that the best practices direction was
149 the mode that should be used for the most efficacy for what the Board can do, rather
150 than just creating more grant programs.
151

152 Manager Wagamon stated that he agreed.
153

154 Manager Waller stated that he felt the proposed study was far too broad and noted that
155 he believed the engineering project should take a look and find out what the capacity of
156 the stormwater ponds were because the District did have some responsibility related to
157 finding out how much storage they have or what was a regional pond versus an individual
158 property owned pond, which may provide some background for the District on best
159 management practices.
160

161 District Administrator Tomczik stated that Manager Waller had raised a good point
162 regarding defining criteria because each entity and its pond was uniquely different.
163

164 Manager Waller noted that he felt this was another example of an unnecessarily
165 duplicative overlap between the District and the communities.
166

167 Manager Weinandt stated that the District was a member of the University of
168 Minnesota's Storm Water Council and noted that they had received a lot of support to
169 study the multiple impacts of stormwater and believed that many of the best practices
170 were already there. She stated that she agreed with President Bradley's earlier
171 comments that the District should not be in the business of buying a street sweeper and
172 sweeping the streets, but did feel that they could take a look at their possible role in

173 coordinating those efforts, but wasn't sure that was what this proposed study would
174 focus on.

175
176 Manager Waller reiterated that he felt that knowing the capacity of the stormwater ponds
177 was important.

178
179 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve Task Order***
180 ***2025-010 for Houston Engineering, Inc., estimated at \$15,000.00.***
181

182 District Administrator Tomczik stated that he appreciated the comments the Board has
183 made regarding the broadness of the report from the recent workshop, as well as this
184 item. He noted that in both cases, it was rather broad because they were looking for a
185 basis and technical information that would support the Board in defining a policy position.

186
187 Manager Weinandt asked District Engineer Otterness how he saw what the Board had
188 talked about at their recent workshop, informing them what might be proposed in this
189 case.

190
191 District Engineer Otterness stated that based on the feedback given during the Workshop,
192 he had concerns about this proposed task order hitting the mark on what the Board
193 wanted. He noted that he was willing to prepare a task order for whatever scope the
194 Board would like and explained that looking at capacity would be a much larger task to
195 take on because it meant they would have to do field surveys.

196
197 Manager Robertson stated that she understood the District had rules, but the cities are
198 constantly hiring contractors to guide them through these processes. She stated that
199 even though the rules are set, she felt it behooved the cities to find how they meet the
200 standard of the regulatory guidance.

201
202 President Bradley explained that the reason he had an interest in this was the recent
203 experience with Circle Pines.

204
205 Manager Wagamon stated that he did not have an issue with the proposed scope and
206 stated that he agreed with District Engineer Otterness that it would be a large undertaking
207 for them to look at the volume of all of the stormwater ponds. He noted that he also
208 agreed with Manager Robertson that it should be on the cities.

209
210 District Administrator Tomczik stated that in its facilitation effort that the District may
211 undertake, that the volume of the stormwater ponds be a city responsibility as part of the
212 process.

213
214 Manager Weinandt outlined the deliverables from this proposed task order and noted
215 that she assumed it included some reference to what other watersheds are doing,

whether some regional pond dredging support made sense or not, and presentations at Board workshop meetings to discuss this further.

President Bradley asked if the Board would support amending the staff recommendation to incorporate that into the motion, so there would be a bit more guidance and not so broad.

Manager Robertson stated that she felt this was an example of the challenge that arises when something is placed in a meeting packet without being discussed at a workshop. She stated that she felt the conversation that was currently taking place was a workshop-type conversation and suggested that the Board should table this discussion and move it to a workshop.

District Attorney Kolb stated that a motion to table would be an intervening motion that would take precedence over and would have to be resolved before the matter currently under consideration could move forward.

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to table discussion of Task Order 2025-010 for Houston Engineering, Inc., estimated at \$15,000.00, and move it to a Board workshop in the near future.

Motion carried 5-0.

2. Clearwater Creek Stabilization BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant.

District Technician/Inspector Roach explained that this year, BWSR allocated a total of \$448,016 to the area and noted that the Convening Committee had met 4 times to discuss projects for submission to BWSR. He noted that as of their March 25, 2025 meeting, there were 7 projects approved for submission to BWSR for use of the allocated funds, including: City of Lino Lakes Shenandoah Park Plans and Specs - \$52,650; Rice Creek Watershed District JD3 Clearwater Creek Restoration - \$108,900; Ramsey County SWCD Island Lake Shoreline Restoration - \$100,000; Washington SWCD Lost Lake Bioretention and Shoreline - \$48,000; Washington SWCD Soil Health Implementation - \$10,000; Washington SWCD Tighe – Schmitz WQ Improvement Projects - \$75,000; and Washington SWCD Isolator Rows at Mahtomedi Ave & Locust - \$53,466. He explained that BWSR had offered the \$108,900 grant to the District for the JD3 Clearwater Creek restoration project to be directed towards the preparation of design plans.

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to direct staff to prepare work plans to submit to BWSR for approval and authorize the District Administrator to execute the grant agreement upon BWSR approval of the work plan, including any modifications to the plan as required by BWSR.

Manager Weinandt pointed out that these funds come from the Clean Water Council.

Motion carried 5-0.

3. **Check Register May 14, 2025, in the Amount of \$157,459.64 Prepared by Redpath and Company**

Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve check register dated May 14, 2025, in the Amount of \$157,459.64 as prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

1. **Anoka County Ditch #10-22-32 Maintenance Work Update**

Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that he was here to clarify the expenditure that was approved by President Bradley, under delegated authority. He explained that the District had retained Rybak Companies, Inc. to complete the necessary maintenance work before the lowering of the West Pine Street culvert on ACD 10-22-32 and noted that he expected this work to begin soon.

President Bradley stated that when the payment request came across his desk, he checked to make sure that there was no conflict of interest in this situation and found there was none.

Manager Waller commended Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt for the color-coded map he had distributed of the ACD 10-22-32 area and noted that he believed it was one of the best he had seen.

2. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Grant - Jones Lake Project**

Project Manager Petry stated the District had been looking for a variety of funding sources to implement the Jones Lake project in New Brighton. He noted that the District had applied to the MPCA for a Stormwater Resilience grant for the maximum amount of \$5,000,000. He explained that the MPCA contacted the District last week and explained that they were willing to offer a partial award of \$1,173,207.42 based on available funds. He stated that staff have been discussing options to phase the project to be able to accept this money and get the project moving forward. He explained that they were here asking if there was consensus of the Board to go ahead and amend the grant request to the number communicated by the MPCA.

There was consensus of the Board to amend the MPCA grant request from \$5,000,000 to \$1,173,207.42.

Project Manager Petry reminded the Board that there was a 10% grant requirement that went along with this grant request that would be the District's responsibility.

3. **District Engineer Updates and Timeline**

District Engineer Otterness stated that he has received correspondence that the Drainage Work Group was intended to start meeting again in June. He stated that he would not be able to attend in June, but was planning to send someone in his place.

Manager Weinandt asked who covered District Engineer Otterness' staff expense for time on the Drainage Work Group.

District Engineer Otterness stated that it was handled by Houston Engineering's funds.

4. Administrator Updates

District Administrator Tomczik stated the Lake Joanna outlet structure in Arden Hills is a subject of concern, and Houston Engineering had been on-site to provide a technical review. He explained that the safety of the structure was in question and would most likely need to be replaced. He stated that the District had been in communication with Ramsey County, and there may be some temporary safety efforts put into place ahead of its actual replacement. He stated that the City of Columbus will be scheduling a meeting to discuss ACD 10-22-32, and he made himself available to attend.

5. Managers Update

Manager Waller stated that he had attended the Washington County Consortium meeting and gave a brief overview of their topics of discussion, including biochar. He stated that White Bear Lake will be a study topic for the Met Council. Manager Waller explained he had received an email from staff and consultants which included comments and suggestions for each manager's comments regarding the MN Watershed resolution topics. The resolution topics were discussed at the April workshop. He explained that the opinions expressed by staff were essentially saying that they felt the topics were difficult and hard to address. Manager Waller brought a visual aid to share with the Board supporting his resolution topics. The statement read: "If the public waters wetlands interfere with or prevent the authorized functioning of the public drainage system, the State shall provide for the necessary work to allow for the proper use and maintenance of the drainage system while still preserving the public waters wetlands."

Manager Weinandt stated that if the Board wants to have robust discussions at the workshops, she suggested that they may need to change the start time to allow more time because she did not feel rushing at the end of the meeting did them any good. She noted that she felt the most recent workshop meeting was difficult to track due to the comments that were coming from the audience. She felt that they needed to get a handle on that situation because it was very disruptive.

Manager Wagamon stated that he would also be attending the meeting mentioned by District Administrator Tomczik with the City of Columbus.

Manager Robertson thanked Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt for taking the time to help a Blaine resident with some ongoing drainage issues they have had. She stated

348 that Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt had spent a lot of time with the resident
349 trying to address their issues, which she appreciated. She stated that related to the
350 workshop matter she felt it was more of a time management issue with the Board, rather
351 than a calendar issue.

352
353 **ADJOURNMENT**

354 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:14***
355 ***a.m. Motion carried 5-0.***