



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS
Wednesday, May 27, 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, Communications and Outreach Manager Kendra Sommerfeld, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

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

Visitors: Wayne LeBlanc, Jay Riggs/Washington Conservation District Administrator, Matthew Lingam

Visitors monitoring via Zoom: Ldieh, Terrel Chase

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne LeBlanc, 1677 Peltier Lake Drive, shared a document with the managers and explained that he was here to discuss his shoreland buffer. He displayed a picture that showed his shoreline on the left, stated that it had native plants and explained that his neighbor chose to dig out his property when he dug his own lift out, which damaged his shoreland buffer. He stated that he had sent an email and pictures to the DNR to investigate. The DNR told him it was an ice ridge and then erosion. He noted that his neighbor had fixed his own shoreline, but had

31 used his soil and destroyed his plants. He explained that he still does not have a shoreline like
32 he had before his neighbor took this action. He expressed his frustration with the
33 circumstances and the message he has gotten that if he wants anything to happen, he will have
34 to litigate the situation himself, because the DNR will not get involved. He noted that this was
35 not the first time this neighbor had done this type of thing and shared examples.

36
37 President Bradley explained that the Board was not here to litigate old issues. He noted that
38 since Mr. Leblanc used to serve on the CAC, he was aware that the District had shoreline grants
39 available to assist in this situation. He noted his email and pictures were shared with staff
40 earlier. Staff visited the site and provided educational assistance to the landowner. His
41 handout will be shared with staff in case there was anything further staff may be able to do to
42 help.

43
44 Jay Riggs, District Manager of the Washington County Conservation District, explained that he
45 was not here to question the Board's decision at their last meeting regarding East Metro Water
46 Resource Education Program (EMWREP). He wanted to share some additional information
47 regarding the program for the Board's consideration. He stated the Board packet memo
48 submitted to the District by Angie Hong did a good job of highlighting all the great things EMWREP
49 was doing for Rice Creek in Washington County, and explained that it serves all of the County and
50 focuses on implementing watershed plans. He stated that the program was designed 20 years
51 ago to help assist with education and highlighted some of the efforts of Angie Hong and EMWREP.
52 He stated that EMWREP is a collaborative effort that supports the District's watershed plan and
53 is focused on Rice Creek and the drainage to the west, as it is for the drainage to the east. He
54 invited the Board to attend the upcoming water workshop on the St. Croix.

55
56 President Bradley noted that Mr. Riggs had proposed an alternative if the Board didn't reconsider
57 its recent decision.

58
59 Mr. Riggs explained that Rice Creek hasn't been contributing as much as their other partners in
60 the county. He stated that their funding structure was based on tax capacity and noted that the
61 formula they use meant that the contribution from Rice Creek would be about 2 to 3 times what
62 the District had been contributing. He explained that they felt it was important to have the
63 District as a partner and be able to coordinate activities, so they allowed the fee to be reduced.
64 He stated that the fees pay for a shared staff person who works for all of them. He stated that
65 one option is for the District to consider supporting the efforts that have already happened in
66 2026, joining back on at the reduced level, or joining a partner at the level outlined in the
67 agreement.

68
69 **SETTING OF THE AGENDA**
70 District Administrator Tomczik briefly explained item #5 being on the agenda. He noted that
71 the key phrase within the staff memo was the alternative funding request for payment for the
72 first and second quarters of the year. He clarified that this item should not have been on the
73 agenda if it were a reconsideration.

74

75 **Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to amend the agenda and**
76 **remove item #5 per Roberts Rules of Order.**

77
78 President Bradley stated that there was a changed request from Mr. Riggs, which was an
79 alternative request for the District to pay for the service that had already been provided to the
80 District, which is a different issue, and he felt it was entitled to be on the agenda.

81
82 **Motion carried 3-2 (Bradley and Weinandt opposed).**

83
84 District Administrator Tomczik stated that he would like to add a short discussion about ACD 10-
85 22-32 special workshop on June 22, 2026, under the June calendar. He stated that they were
86 also requesting that they move Discussion/Information Item #1, Minnesota State Bonding Bill, to
87 be included in Action Item #3, Adoption of Findings of Public Need for Jones Lake Basin
88 Excavation.

89
90 **Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the agenda, as**
91 **amended, adding discussion of ACD- 10-22-32 to the June Calendar and moving the Minnesota**
92 **State Bonding Bill item within Action Item #3, Adoption of Findings of Public Need for Jones**
93 **Lake Basin Excavation. Motion carried 5-0.**

94
95 **READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL**

96 **Minutes of May 11, 2026, Workshop and the May 13, 2026, Board of Managers Regular**
97 **Meeting.**

98
99 **Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the May 11, 2026,**
100 **workshop minutes and May 13, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

101
102 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
26-008	Clearscapes Holdings LLC	New Brighton	Final Site Drainage Plan Public/Private Drainage System Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 10 items
26-035	Bear Cobblestone LLC	Shoreview	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development	CAPROC 9 items

115
116 Manager Weinandt asked about Permit No. 26-008 and stated that this was the location, Jones
117 Lake, that the Board had toured after their meeting and asked how it would intersect with the
118 work the District would be doing on Jones Lake.

119
120 Regulatory Manager Hughes stated that they are a sufficient distance away from RCD-2 and are
121 providing the District with an easement for continued access and maintenance of the system.
122

123 District Engineer Otterness explained that the District had been coordinating with them during
124 the permitting process and had let them know the future intent of the District. He stated that
125 their permit needed to follow the rules and clarified that they weren't asking for anything outside
126 of what they would normally ask for in this situation. He noted that the District would continue
127 to coordinate with them since the District's project was a multi-phase project.

128
129 ***It was moved by Manager Weinandt and seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the***
130 ***consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District***
131 ***Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated May 19, 2026. Motion carried 5-0.***
132

133 **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

134 **1. HEI Task Order 2026-007: Ramsey Washington Judicial Ditch 1 Repair Report**
135 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt gave a brief overview of the proposed HEI Task
136 Order for the Ramsey Washington Judicial Ditch 1 Repair Report.

137
138 Manager Hegland noted that the staff memo stated that the DNR Public Waters permit
139 was not required, but in the budget, it reflected 8 hours of meeting with the DNR to
140 coordinate the project, and asked for an explanation.

141
142 District Engineer Otterness explained that while they were not anticipating that a permit
143 would be required, they will still need to budget these hours due to the presence of a
144 public water wetland located on the system, which carries with it statutory requirements
145 for coordination with the DNR, including concurrence with the lack of a need for a permit
146 because it was possible that the DNR may disagree with that assumption.

147
148 Manager Hegland asked if the assumption was true, and it was just a matter of informing
149 the DNR that there would not be 8 hours of work.

150
151 District Engineer Otterness clarified that it could still be 8 hours of work because it may
152 mean multiple meetings with the DNR, which requires preparation. He explained that
153 they will only bill the District for the time they actually put in, but do not bill if there
154 happens to be an overage.

155
156 Manager Waller asked if District Engineer Otterness anticipated the length of the ditch
157 going all the way to County Road 7.

158
159 District Engineer Otterness explained that the scope of the project goes all the way up to
160 the next road north of Schuneman Marsh.
161

162 Manager Waller asked if they expected to have a conversation with the owners of
163 Schuneman Marsh.

164
165 District Engineer Otterness stated that if the Board ordered a repair and this moves
166 onto the next phase, any of the landowners would be invited to attend the public hearing,
167 which is when there would be engagement with them.

168
169 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve HEI Task Order***
170 ***2026-007: RWJD 1 Repair Report, not to exceed \$75,000. Motion carried 5-0.***

171
172 **2. Anoka Washington Judicial Ditch 4 (AWJD-4) Maintenance Work Order**
173 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt reviewed the requested work order for a section
174 of AWJD-4, branch 3.

175
176 Manager Weinandt asked if this area was in Anoka or Washington County.

177
178 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that it was located in Washington
179 County.

180
181 Manager Waller stated that this was part of the Forest Lake development area and
182 believes that work on the ditch here was a good idea.

183
184 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the work***
185 ***order and delegate to the Administrator for Hugo Tree Service, not to exceed \$22,000***
186 ***(the estimated amount plus a 10% (\$2000) contingency).***

187
188 Manager Hegland stated that the staff memo explained that the trees were identified in
189 2019 as a potential problem. She asked if it was typical that the District would not take
190 care of a problem that was clearly going to be a problem in the future. She noted that
191 it would likely have been less expensive to take care of things when the trees were
192 smaller, instead of 7 years later. She clarified that she didn't intend to criticize the
193 decisions made in the past, but wanted to understand the overall process.

194
195 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that there was a balancing act and
196 prioritization with what they had in the budget at the time.

197
198 Manager Hegland asked if the reason the drain tiles needed to be replaced now was
199 because of the trees.

200
201 Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt explained that it was a combination of the tree
202 roots plugging the tile line over time and the other blowouts that have happened
203 upstream and have been patched. He stated that there was enough obstruction now
204 that it wasn't worth trying to clean the old tiles and would be easier and more cost-

205 effective to replace them. He briefly reviewed the areas where the drain tile had been
206 replaced.

207 District Administrator Tomczik briefly outlined some of the conversations the District has
208 had with the City of Forest Lake.

209
210 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

211
212 **3. Resolution: Adoption of Findings of Public Need for Jones Lake Basin Excavation, and**
213 **Minnesota State Bonding Bill (formerly Items for Discussion and Information #1)**

214 Project Manager Petry stated that the bonding bill passed last week, and within the bill
215 was an earmark for DNR to fund the District's Jones Lake Climate Resiliency project with
216 \$840,000. He noted that he had placed letters on the dais that the Board was welcome
217 to sign, including the authors of the bill.

218
219 Manager Waller suggested that Project Manager Petry take a look at the map and
220 compare those areas with the votes. He stated that he would like to see those who voted
221 'yes' be included in the thank-you letters.

222
223 President Bradley stated that he felt the suggestion from Manager Waller to include those
224 who voted yes in the thank-you letter being sent out was appropriate.

225
226 District Administrator Tomczik expressed appreciation to Project Manager Petry for his
227 work to get this done. He noted that because of the allocation of funds from the State,
228 there has been a suggestion to revise the resolution language before the Board takes
229 action.

230
231 Manager Waller stated that the District doesn't really know where the money is, where it
232 is going, or what the rules are on how to use it. He stated that because the DNR has the
233 checkbook, he would like the Board to know the rules.

234
235 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adopt Resolution 2026-***
236 ***07 Findings Of Public Purpose And Benefit Related To The Excavation Within And Water***
237 ***Level Control Of Jones Lake (PWI #62-76W):***

238
239 Therefore, the RCWD Board of Managers makes the following:

240 **ORDER**

241 A. The Board of Managers shall proceed upon the foregoing findings to apply for
242 necessary and required Public Waters Work Permits from the Minnesota
243 Department of Natural Resources.

244
245 Manager Weinandt suggested that in the Findings, they include language that makes it
246 clear that they have received bonding funds.

247

248 District Attorney Kolb reviewed the proposed language amendments to #8 and additional
249 #9, as follows:

- 250
- 251 8. Substantial State funds, including an MPCA grant of \$1,172,000 and State bonding
252 funds, awarded in 2026, in the amount of \$840,000, have been committed to both
253 planning and implementation of the Jones Lake Restoration Project, raising a question
254 of whether the project is “State-sponsored”.
- 255
- 256 9. The Board adopts this Resolution to satisfy the requirements of Minnesota Rules Part
257 6115.0201, subp. 3, in support of its application for a public waters work permit for
258 the Project.

259
260 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Hegland, to amend Resolution***
261 ***2026-07 Findings of Public Purpose And Benefit Related To The Excavation Within And***
262 ***Water Level Control Of Jones Lake (PWI #62-76W), to include the amendments and***
263 ***additions outlined by District Attorney Kolb as follows:***

264

265 #8. Substantial State funds, including an MPCA grant of \$1,172,000 and State bonding
266 funds, awarded in 2026, in the amount of \$840,000, have been committed to both
267 planning and implementation of the Jones Lake Restoration Project, raising a question of
268 whether the project is “State sponsored”.

269

270 #9. The Board adopts this Resolution to satisfy the requirements of Minnesota Rules
271 Part 6114.0201, subp. 3, in support of its application for a public waters work permit for
272 the Project.

273

274 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

275

276 Manager Waller explained that he wondered if this was premature because they don’t
277 know how they can use the money yet. He noted that the DNR has slow-walked the
278 District for ten years and shared some of the things they had communicated to the District
279 that a large excavation project in the area would not receive their approval. He stated
280 that he would like to find out more about the rules and the money before they send this.

281

282 President Bradley stated that the District had reached the end of the line about State
283 funds and can turn to the partners and let them know that this was something that they
284 petitioned the District to do. He stated that he believed this ended up being a chicken-
285 and-egg problem because if they aren’t going to proceed, they won’t get a permit, and if
286 they don’t get a permit, they cannot proceed. He stated that he didn’t think the District
287 could ask their partners to fund this without having a permit, so he believed that they
288 should still proceed, because they had momentum right now. He stated that the DNR
289 will have a very hard time saying no to the project when the State was telling them to do
290 it.

292 Project Manager Petry explained that one of the sticking points with the DNR was
293 reviewing this project as a restoration project, which is one of the justifications for a public
294 water basin excavation.

295
296 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District had submitted an application to the
297 DNR, and the DNR had pointed out some issues they saw with it, which is not unusual in
298 the regulatory arena. He noted that he and District Engineer Otterness have talked
299 about ways for the District to respond to the points made by the DNR to demonstrate
300 that there is a public purpose.

301
302 The Board discussed the funding necessary outside of the bonding money from the State
303 and who would be asked to contribute.

304
305 Manager Robertson asked if the District would have had better luck working with DNR if
306 this project had not been referred to as 'Jones Lake', because this does not resemble a
307 lake. She suggested that they could have referred to it as a public water basin formerly
308 known as Jones Lake and asked if they could rebrand this project in order to help get it
309 across the finish line.

310
311 President Bradley stated that during the Board's walkaround in the area, they learned
312 that the city owned the inlet and the land around it, and once this is cleaned up, they are
313 hoping to turn this area into a park.

314
315 Manager Robertson stated that the District was not investing money into this project so
316 the city could make a park, and instead was doing it so that there could be effective
317 drainage for the entire area.

318
319 District Attorney Kolb stated that the name doesn't matter; the status matters. He
320 explained that it was public water and was being driven by the public water law. He
321 stated that this was a procedural step that is required before the DNR will even consider
322 a permit for excavation. He clarified that this was a requirement, and the District was
323 just trying to clear the hurdle so they could move the project forward.

324
325 Manager Waller stated that he would like to fix ditches RCD 2, 3, and 5, including getting
326 the trees out, and move forward, and they were way behind schedule.

327

328 **ROLL CALL:**
329 ***Manager Bradley – Aye***
330 ***Manager Hegland - Aye***
331 ***Manager Robertson – Aye***
332 ***Manager Waller – Aye***
333 ***Manager Weinandt – Aye***
334 ***Motion carried 5-0.***

335

336 Project Manager Petry explained that tomorrow would be his last day working for the
337 District and expressed his appreciation for his time here.

338
339 **1. Ramsey County Ditch 5 Maintenance Work Order**

340 Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt gave a brief review of the request for a
341 maintenance work order for RCD-5 for tree clearing.

342
343 *Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the work*
344 *order and delegate to the Administrator for Hugo Tree Service, not to exceed \$98,890,*
345 *the estimated amount plus a 10% (\$8990.00) contingency. Motion carried 5-0.*

346 ~~**2. East Metro Water Resource Education Program Reconsideration Request (Removed**~~
347 ~~**from the agenda)**~~

348
349 **3. Check Register Dated May 27, 2026, in the Amount of \$384,122.67 and May Interim**
350 **Financial Statements Prepared by Redpath and Company.**

351
352 *Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the check*
353 *register dated May 27, 2026, in the Amount of \$384,122.67 and the May Interim*
354 *Financial Statements prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 5-0.*

355
356 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

357 ~~**1. Minnesota State Bonding Bill – RCWD – (Moved to Items Requiring Board Action #3)**~~

358
359 **2. Staff Report**

360 Manager Weinandt asked if the District had started advertising for a Project Manager.

361
362 District Administrator Tomczik explained that he was going to give a staff update during
363 the Administrator updates and explained that Ashley Kraemer has been hired as the new
364 District Inspector and started yesterday. He stated that the Project Manager position
365 has been noticed, and they were receiving applications.

366
367 **3. June Calendar**

368 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the June 22, 2026, Additional Workshop was
369 not shown on the calendar at this time. He explained that by definition, it was a special
370 workshop. He highlighted the discussion points from the March 9, 2026, workshop,
371 where this had initially been discussed, and the intent from that workshop for the special
372 workshop was for the Board to be on the same page, aligned, about ACD 10-22-32. He
373 stated that to support the Board staff will be presenting the history and information of
374 the system.

375
376 **4. Administrator Updates**

377 None.

379 **5. Manager Updates**

380 Manager Waller explained that he had been invited to a meeting regarding funding for
381 the Soil and Water Conservation District and had a thorough discussion.

382
383 Manager Weinandt stated that she would attend the CAC and will attend the June 1, 2026
384 Board Workshop meeting remotely. She stated that the Clean Water Council had
385 requested input from interested parties. She noted that 3 of the Managers attended
386 the Metro Minnesota Watershed meeting last week and explained that it was brought to
387 the attention of Capital Region that using grey water for irrigation may be illegal.

388
389 District Administrator Tomczik clarified that it was stormwater.

390
391 The Board discussed recent outside permitting regarding plumbing/contracting, the
392 cases, and changes that are supposed to go into effect starting in July.

393
394 District Engineer Otterness clarified a few points related to the Capital Region project that
395 the Board was discussing.

396
397 **ADJOURNMENT**

398 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Hegland, to adjourn the meeting at***
399 ***10:20 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.***

400
401