

APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, July 6, 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: Mike Bradley, Jess Robertson, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt, Janet Hegland

3 Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley, Lake
4 & Stream Manager Matt Kocian, Project Manager Jen Oknich

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

7 Visitors:

8 Visitors monitoring via Zoom:
9

10 **Middle Rice Creek Repair and Feasibility**

11 Lake & Stream Manager Kocian gave an informational presentation, alerting the Board to
12 upcoming proposed repair and feasibility work on Middle Rice Creek. Included in the agenda
13 packet was a report from EOR, a contractor that has completed past stream feasibility and project
14 work throughout Middle Rice Creek. This report includes a cost estimate for the maintenance
15 repair of approximately \$100,000.

16 Manager Waller asked if EOR would be providing the repair and feasibility study, while a separate
17 contractor would complete the construction at an additional cost. Kocian offered clarification,
18 stating that EOR's engineering fee for the maintenance repair would be approximately \$8,000,
19 and a contractor would complete the construction work for approximately \$100,000.

20 Manager Robertson asked if there was an opportunity to go over options for materials that may
21 provide a more long-term solution, to which Kocian responded by expressing his confidence in
22 toe wood as an effective, long-term material, and gave an estimate of about twenty years.
23 Manager Waller argued that twenty years is not long-term and questioned whether this project
24 was a real priority for the District, or if it is not yet needed. Manager Bradley and Administrator
25 Tomczik responded that it is needed to mitigate future repairs.

26 No action was required for this item at this meeting, but Staff recommended proceeding with
27 engineering feasibility work on Middle Rice Creek. Quotes for construction work and a proposal

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**BOARD OF
MANAGERS**

Janet Hegland
Anoka County

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

from EOR for the feasibility work around Irondale High School are forthcoming and will be presented for Board consideration in the coming months.

White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan – Metropolitan Council

Lake & Stream Manager Kocian provided an informational update on the Metropolitan Council's White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan, which is funded by a \$2 million legislative allocation.

The District is not an official member of the work group but has participated indirectly. A draft report is expected later this year, at which time the Board will have an opportunity to provide official comment.

RCWD Fund Balance – Project Anticipation Fund

Administrator Tomczik introduced Jen Oknich, the District's new Project Manager, and gave an overview of the District's Project Anticipation Fund.

Manager Hegland asked for clarification surrounding the distinction between Project Anticipation Fund and Implementation Fund. Administrator Tomczik referenced the District's General Fund Balance Policy in the packet, identifying both 40% of the general fund budget and 40% of the administrative budget lines of the implementation fund. Manager Hegland responded by stating that 40% of the implementation fund seems excessive and further stated that many have criticized the District for sitting on too much money.

Administrator Tomczik was requested to provide the locations of future projects. The District draft 2027 budget is scheduled for the August workshop.

Administrator Updates

- Administrator Tomczik requested Board direction on the ACD 2, 3, & 5 BWM Project (Jones Lake)
 - A special workshop will be scheduled for further review and discussion of the project
- Beaver trapping is underway for obstruction in public drainage ditch; some traps have gone missing
- The federal government is preparing to dredge Round Lake to remove contaminated sediment from the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant

The workshop was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.