

APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, July 7, 2025

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

The Board convened the workshop at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Mike Bradley, John Waller, Jess Robertson, Marcie Weinandt (video-conference)

Absent: Steve Wagamon-with prior notice

Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Drainage and Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

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

Visitors: Aaron Berg & Jack Davis from the City of Columbus, Chris Stowe, Catherine Decker

Anoka County Ditch 10-22-32 Alternative 4

The Board discussed with staff and consultants the potential implementation of Alternative 4, which involves lowering culverts to ACSIC and mitigating public waters' impacts. They reviewed the costs associated with the project, including requirements for an EAW, wetland mitigation and DNR permitting. The Board considered whether to proceed with the cost determination process, which would involve further investigation and potentially refine the cost estimate. The Board noted that there was no immediate deadline for this decision.

The Board by consensus agreed not to consider this item at their Wednesday Board meeting. The Board will consider potential additional information from Manager Wagamon regarding the Jordell culvert.

Anoka County Ditch 15 (ACD 15) Outlet Channel Overflow Study

Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt and District Engineer Otterness discuss with the Board modifications to ACD 15 in Columbus, focusing on drainage issues and the impact on Browns Preserve Wetland Bank. Staff presented three alternatives to address drainage concerns, with Alternative 2 (installing a culvert with a flap gate) recommended as the best solution. The Board by consensus agreed to move forward with Alternative 2, which will allow low-flow drainage while maintaining the wetland bank's hydrology requirements. The project will be funded

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through the minor maintenance budget and using any remaining ACD 15/JD 4 water management district funds.

Manager Weinandt left the meeting at 10:03 due to a prior commitment.

Draft 2026 Budget

Administrator Tomczik reviewed the draft budget with the Board.

The Board requested the detailed information of the staff memo on the budget be placed on the summary page (page 1) under the budget sub-accounts to identify accounts/projects, any associated grant funding and previous steps approved.

The Board discussed the budget hearing schedules and timing, with a focus on potentially moving the public hearing date to allow more time for staff and the Board to review the budget. The Board agreed to schedule a budget workshop at 9 a.m. at the district office for July 29th or 30th. Staff will poll the Board and finalize the date.

Administrator Updates

- Anoka County Ditch 53-62, Branches 5 and 6 Repair Report & Water Management District public hearing will be held on August 13, 2025, 9 a.m. during the regular meeting.
- Received communications from Mr. Robinson that the completed work downstream of his property on ACD 10-22-32 looked good.
- Updated the Board on the landlord's lease proposal and next steps
- Withdrawn 2026 BWSR Water Quality and Storage grant from BWSR was re-instated for Hardwood Creek/JD2 watershed storage study
- Upcoming virtual meeting for MN Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions on August 25th beginning at 10 a.m. The resolution packet will be made available upcoming meeting.

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