



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, July 22, 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

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, Treasurer Marcie Weinandt, Secretary Janet Hegland

Absent: 2nd Vice-Pres. Jess Robertson (with prior notice)

Staff Present: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Public Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Program Technician Emmet Hurley (videoconference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

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

Visitors: Charlie Melcher, Adam Wojcik, Lyle Dahlin, Dana Hlebichuk, Administrator Nyle Zikmund-City of Mounds View

Visitors monitoring via Zoom: Joe Pearce, Michael Miller

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

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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

READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

Minutes of July 6, 2026, Workshop and July 8, 2026, Board of Managers Regular Meeting.

Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the July 6, 2026, workshop minutes and July 8, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

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
26-038	Schmieg Trust	Columbus	Final Site Drainage Plan Public/Private Drainage System Wetland Alteration Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 17 items

It was moved by Manager Bradley and seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the consent agenda Permit 26-038 as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated July 14, 2026. Motion carried 4-0.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. Anoka Ramsey Judicial Ditch #1 Repair Report

Public Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that the repair report had been completed by Houston Engineering and explained that District Engineer Otterness would outline the alternatives included in the staff report.

District Engineer Otterness gave a brief presentation outlining the repair report for ARJD #1, including the timeline to date, the conditions of the drainage system, recommended repairs, and the anticipated schedule for the repairs. He explained that the purpose of the repair is to restore the drainage system as close as possible to the original condition. He noted that concerns about threatened and endangered (T&E) species had been mentioned during previous discussions and explained that there were a total of 16 different species identified in the area. He reviewed the tree removal plans and noted that staff needs input from the Board regarding the City of Mounds View's request that the District include tree removal on both sides of the ditch within city property, as that would deviate from their typical practice. He outlined the plans to remove the weir wall, modifications to the crossings, realignment of Branch 2, Lateral 1, shared the preliminary opinion from Houston Engineering on the probable construction costs, and project funding options. He explained that a public information meeting has been planned for August 12, 2026, and a public hearing on September 9, 2026.

Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adopt Resolution 2026-08 Findings And Order Initiating Repair Proceedings For Anoka-Ramsey Judicial Ditch 1:

Manager Waller explained that he was a strong advocate of the ditch systems, and he felt one of the most important things about this order was to reestablish what the system is, so he supported this project. He stated that one of the things that was important is that many of these systems were created 125 years ago for a different purpose and noted that now there have been land use changes and not as much open land. He stated that as this moves forward, the next thing the District should do is to make sure the regional transportation matches the inputs from the cities. He stated that after they reestablish what was there, he believed the next step the District should take was to move into the improvement category so the system can handle more than just a 2-year event. He explained that he would also support the request from the City of Mounds View to clear the trees on both sides of the ditch.

President Bradley referenced Branch 2, Lateral 1, and asked if staff had considered abandoning that portion when it got to the building because he believed this was intended to be an outlet for a wetland.

District Engineer Otterness clarified that there was a neighborhood that drains into the ditch in that location, so it would still be utilized for roadway and residential flow purposes. He stated that they had looked at other alternatives for what could be done there, but reiterated that the ditch still served a usable purpose, so abandoning it could potentially put properties at risk.

President Bradley asked if the District had the capacity to have 4 different WMDs to reflect the unique costs imposed.

District Engineer Otterness stated that right now it was one WMD, which is consistent with how drainage systems are managed under 103E.

Manager Weinandt left the dais.

District Attorney Kolb stated that the WMD charge authority in the watershed law was not unlimited, so the District cannot use it for everything. He explained that they have to address the demand or need for the work/costs. He noted that each time the District establishes a WMD for the imposition of charges, they have to amend the plan. He explained that the District had created WMDs for specific projects or facilities.

Manager Weinandt returned to the dais.

District Attorney Kolb stated that to do what President Bradley had proposed, they would have to set up a subdistrict by a plan amendment, and then figure out the basis of the

charges. He stated that he believed what President Bradley may be contemplating is that the basis of the charges is that the District had an additional cost to correct the obstruction/impediment/prior error of the building being constructed over the top of the system. He explained that going through this process would cost the District money and didn't know how the costs would be allocated. He stated that he wasn't sure why the building was built over the system, but assumes it had been done before there were good permitting programs in place.

Manager Weinandt asked staff to display page 35 of the report because it was a detailed map that she felt would help the Board's discussion. She stated that District Engineer Otterness had told President Bradley that there was a neighborhood that drained into Branch 2, Lateral 1, but on the map it appears to be all commercial and industrial uses.

District Otterness stated that there is probably more commercial/industrial there than there is residential.

Manager Weinandt asked for more information on fencing and other obstructions within the right-of-way and who would bear the cost if, for example, a fence needed to be moved.

District Otterness stated that typically for a repair the District has not undergone an obstruction proceeding to force a landowner to move their fence. He noted that there have been situations where they have temporarily relocated the fence and put it back in and explained that sometimes they have added gates so they are able to get in and out. He stated that they have determined that they should be able to avoid most of the obstructions, but there were some areas where the assumption is that they would have to take the fence down and then put it up again.

Manager Weinandt asked about the public water course dots indicated on the map from page 35 and asked if the yellow areas were more wetlands and not part of the public waters.

District Engineer Otterness explained that the yellow dashed lines are the public water courses that have been identified by the DNR, and there are many locations where, in that inventory, they have identified county and judicial ditches as being altered natural water courses. He explained that was the case in this situation as well, where the main trunk of the drainage system all the way up to County Road J is identified as a public water course. He noted that it deviates from the actual location of the ditch in a few spots because the mapping is old. He explained that the diagonal hatch marks are public water basins or public water wetlands. He stated that they have concluded that the repairs will not significantly affect any of the public water basins, wetlands, or public water course.

Manager Hegland asked about removal of the weir and noted that during his report, she thought District Engineer Otterness had stated that it diverted water to a stormwater

pond and asked if that meant the system would lose capacity if the weir was removed or if it would just be routed differently, but still end up at the stormwater pond.

District Otterness stated that the system would not lose capacity as all of the water ends up back in the ditch. The original purpose of the weir was not for managing capacity, but an attempt at treating water quality, for which it is ineffective.

Manager Hegland clarified that it wasn't put in for capacity purposes and was for water treatment.

Manager Weinandt asked for the exact location of the weir.

Public Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that the weir was located in Blaine within Kane Meadows Park.

Manager Hegland asked if the reason the District typically only removed trees from one side of the ditch was due to cost and explained that to her, it seemed like getting rid of trees on both sides of the ditch would make sense.

District Engineer Otterness acknowledged that it was primarily due to cost considerations and noted that when this was within a residential area, people have the tendency to like the trees and want them to stay.

Manager Hegland asked if the District would consider taking trees down on both sides of the ditch if the other cities requested it and expressed concern that the District would be setting a precedent if they did it for Mounds View.

District Engineer Otterness explained that the Board had the discretion to make those decisions.

Manager Hegland referenced the earlier conversation about the fencing located in the right-of-way areas. She stated that District Engineer Otterness had indicated that in the past they have removed the fencing and then reinstalled it and asked if they put it back outside of the right-of-way or back where it was located previously, within the right-of-way.

District Engineer Otterness explained that it would depend on landowner coordination and usage of the property. He stated that ideally they would move the fence to the edge of the property, but that would require coordination with the landowner and noted that those kinds of details would be part of the final plans.

Manager Hegland explained that she was thinking about this as a former Councilmember, when if people had something located within the right-of-way, it was their problem to deal with, not the city. She asked if cities had a different authority than the District.

District Attorney Kolb explained that it was usually more of an issue with documentation and record keeping about the right-of-way. He stated that public roadways usually have good records about the establishment of right-of-way details, but these encroachments, because of the nature of drainage system rights-of-way, have not been required to be recorded. He gave an example of a homeowner thinking they have a little creek running through their yard and built a shed right at its edge, not realizing that it was within the right-of-way for the drainage system, because in most cases that information was not recorded. He stated that because of this, the Board has taken the position that it will work around the encroachments and impediments in these cases.

Manager Weinandt asked if the representative from the City of Mounds View wanted to address the Board about this project and the request to remove trees from both sides of the ditch.

Nyle Zikmund, City Administrator for the City of Mounds View, acknowledged that the city would appreciate having the trees removed from both sides of the ditch and noted that they were also open to discussing possible cost-share options.

President Bradley referenced page 40 of the report that had language related to the owner of the crossing choosing to install a culvert larger than the current culvert, but at their own cost. He asked if someone came in with this request, whether staff would take a look to see what potential impact there may be downstream if that was done.

District Engineer Otterness stated that as part of the repair report, they analyzed every culvert and ran them through the District model to confirm whether they were adequately sized. He stated that having a culvert larger than what is necessary is not problematic. He explained that the District gives them a minimum size for the culvert, but if they wanted a larger one, it can be installed, but they would need to pay for it.

Manager Waller asked about the size of the bridge included in the repair report.

District Engineer Otterness stated that it was a footbridge that was in disrepair, which is why the city wanted it addressed.

Therefore, the RCWD Board of Managers makes the following:

ORDER

A. The Board of Managers receives the draft engineer's Repair Report for ARJD 1 for filing.

B. The Board of Managers directs its administrator to send correspondence to the Cities of Blaine, Mounds View, Shoreview and Lexington, pursuant to statutes section

246 **103D.621, subd. 4, to confirm or obtain their concurrence to exercise alternative**
247 **powers found in statutes chapters 103B and 103D to repair and manage the**
248 **drainage system. Upon confirmation of the concurrence, the Board shall conduct**
249 **further proceedings for the repair of ARJD 1 utilizing the additional authorities**
250 **provided in Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.621, subd. 4.**

251
252 **C. The Board of Managers further directs its administrator and staff to begin**
253 **coordination with affected municipalities to coordinate municipal concerns as part**
254 **of the repair process.**

255
256 **D. The Board of Managers further directs its administrator and staff to begin**
257 **coordination with the required local, state, and federal regulatory entities to ensure**
258 **timely identification of regulatory issues and regulatory approvals for the proposed**
259 **drainage system repair.**

260
261 **E. The Board of Managers further directs its administrator and staff, upon completion**
262 **of necessary coordination as discussed above, to set a date, time and location for a**
263 **hearing on the repair and water management district charges. Notice shall be given**
264 **as required by statute and applicable policy.**

265
266 **F. The Board of Managers directs its administrator to coordinate and take all**
267 **subsequent actions necessary for preparation of the repair in a manner consistent**
268 **and compliant with existing law. The Board reserves to itself, however, all**
269 **subsequent actions required by law to proceed upon Board approval.**

270
271 **ROLL CALL:**

272 **Manager Bradley – Aye**

273 **Manager Hegland - Aye**

274 **Manager Robertson – Absent**

275 **Manager Waller – Aye**

276 **Manager Weinandt – Aye**

277 **Motion carried 4-0.**

278
279 District Engineer Otterness asked for direction from the Board on how they would like
280 him to deal with the cost of Branch 2, Lateral 1, and the additional tree clearing on the
281 opposite side of the ditch for the City of Mounds View.

282
283 *Following discussion, there was consensus of the Board to deal with the costs as part of*
284 *the 60/40 split and not ad valorem; and amend the report to include the costs for clearing*
285 *both sides of the ditch in the City of Mounds View as part of the cost allocations.*

286
287 Manager Waller reminded the Board that Mounds View City Administrator Zikmund had
288 indicated that he was open to a possible cost-share for those costs.

290 Manager Hegland stated that she remained concerned about setting a precedent and
291 would like a process where the additional tree clearing situation came up again in the
292 future so that the District has a process that communicates that the District was open to
293 it.

294
295 Manager Waller explained that he supported removing trees on both sides of the ditch
296 and would support creation of that type of policy in the future.

297
298 District Attorney Kolb explained that the District's policy in the past has essentially been
299 to look for the path of least resistance. He stated that there was not a formal policy as
300 suggested by the Board, but staff could work on that, so it could be memorialized the way
301 Manager Hegland had suggested.

302
303 Public Drainage & Facilities Manager Schmidt asked the Board if they supported the
304 proposed date for the public information meeting.

305
306 Following discussion, the Board confirmed support of the public information meeting
307 date, as proposed.

308
309 **2. Solicitation for Professional Services 2027-28**

310 District Administrator Tomczik explained the requirement for water management
311 organizations to solicit interest proposals for professional services every two years. He
312 explained that this would be for services such as the engineer, attorney, accountants, or
313 human resources consultants. He noted that the requested action would allow the
314 entities to provide the District with a proposal which would be reviewed by the Board at
315 the October 12, 2026 workshop meeting. He asked the Board if they would like to offer
316 any specific areas of emphasis for the process.

317
318 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to Authorize the***
319 ***Administrator to publish in the District's official newspaper, post on District website,***
320 ***and distribute to its current consultants the Solicitation of Interest Notice for***
321 ***Professional Services.***

322
323 President Bradley noted that he recollected that the Board had elected not to use the
324 services of a human resource consultant and asked if that should be removed from the
325 list to avoid a consultant spending time and money to apply for a job that was not
326 available.

327
328 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the past human resources consultant the
329 District had used was productive. He explained that he felt that this was definitely a
330 need for the District and explained that Office Manager Stasica has a large burden in
331 dealing with human resource matters. He stated that he would suggest that the Board
332 leave human resources in the notice and noted that he would also like to have a discussion

with the Board on whether they may be open to an internal position for human resource services.

Manager Waller asked if the District was required to have professional services for accountants, attorneys, and engineers.

District Attorney Kolb answered that the District was not required, but the watershed law does authorize the Board to hire chief engineers, attorneys, and other consultants.

District Administrator Tomczik asked if there were areas of emphasis that the Board would like staff to be aware of for the process.

Manager Weinandt stated that Manager Robertson had suggested at an earlier meeting that there be solicitation of others who may be able to do the rare plant survey. She asked staff to keep that in mind as they were having conversations with those who express interest.

District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District maintains a list of other consultants who have expressed interest in working with the District and have certain areas of expertise.

Manager Hegland stated that she endorsed the District having an HR consultant. She asked for an explanation of how a solicitation of interest notice for professional services was different than a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. She suggested that the District may want to expand the scope beyond just posting it on the District website and distributing it to the existing consultants. She stated that she would also like to see the District put together the services they were specifically looking for and have it sent out more broadly.

District Administrator Tomczik stated that he believed that the District had flexibility to do as suggested by Manager Hegland. He stated that he had contemplated whether the HR needs would be better handled internally so he can put together a list of what they need and consider whether a consultant or employee would serve the District better.

Motion carried 4-0.

3. Ramsey County Ditches 2 & 5 – Reroute and Impoundment Proceedings

Drainage & Facilities Manager stated that the Board had petitioned itself for alterations to Ramsey County Ditches 2 and 5 (RCD 2 & 5) and the subsequent report from Houston Engineering has been completed.

District Engineer Otterness began a brief presentation on the realignment and impoundment of RCD 2 & 5.

Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to accept the Engineer's report for the RCD #2 & #5 Petition for Realignment and Impoundment and Further Authorizes Staff to Notice a Public Hearing on the Modifications.

District Engineer Otterness continued with his presentation and reviewed the site location, proposed modifications, purpose of the modifications, effects of the modifications, and the environmental effects/permitting. He stated that staff was recommending that the Board hold a public hearing and order the impoundment of RCD 2 & 5 and the realignment of RCD 5.

Manager Weinandt noted that staff was recommending a public hearing on August 24, 2026, and asked if the Board would be asked to recommend the order at the same time.

District Attorney Kolb stated that the Board would have that option, but usually the Board opts to continue it to a future meeting for the final action.

Manager Weinandt explained that she was not able to attend the public hearing on August 24, 2026, and would request that the final action happen at a different meeting, when she could be present.

Manager Waller asked how much benefit they would be able to get in comparison with the 10-year events that are dumped into a 2-year event system. He stated that the land use changes have been documented, which, to him, meant that the transportation system for the stormwater needed to be updated. He clarified that he was not asking whether there was a benefit to this project, but whether there was enough benefit and asked if they should start looking at the system to make it adequate for the inputs.

District Engineer Otterness explained that they had done a lot of analysis in this area and looked at many alternatives. He stated that the alternative presented was the one they felt had the greatest potential throughout the entire District of reducing flood damage risk.

Motion carried 4-0.

4. Check Register Dated July 22, 2026, in the Amount of \$358,565.95 and July Interim Financial Statements Prepared by Redpath and Company.

Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve check register dated July 22, 2026, in the Amount of \$358,565.95 and July Interim Financial Statements prepared by Redpath and Company.

The Board and District staff discussed the sureties being returned and the District's process for them to be inspected and resolved, potentially more quickly.

Motion carried 4-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

1. Staff Reports

Manager Weinandt stated that within Regulatory Technician Anna Grace's report, it indicated she had been working with Flint Hills Resources and asked if that was related to pipeline issues again. She asked if the District's communications with pipeline companies were better than they had been in the past.

District Administrator Tomczik stated that he believed that the District's communication has been better than ever and there was a lot of preventative work taking place.

District Engineer Otterness stated that the communication and reception the District has gotten from the pipeline companies varies by company. He noted that Flint Hill Resources has been very active lately working with the District on a number of different drainage systems.

2. August Calendar

District Administrator Tomczik noted that on August 3, 2026, they should add the workshop meeting for 1:00 p.m. and reminded them that the August 24, 2025 regular Board meeting would be on Monday and not Wednesday.

3. Administrator Updates

District Administrator Tomczik stated that the District was looking to have an informational open house meeting regarding the JD3 Clearwater Creek project sometime during August. He explained that he sent a letter of support in collaboration with the Ramsey Conservation District, which is now part of the Ramsey County government, regarding a well protection grant. He noted that Manager Hegland had pointed out that the Sunday Minneapolis paper had an article about invasive reed grass that identified some areas that appear to be within the District.

4. Manager Updates

Manager Waller gave a brief overview of the meeting he attended a Met Council meeting at Lino Lakes related to White Bear Lake, along with Lake & Stream Manager Kocian and Manager Hegland.

457 Manager Weinandt stated that Ramsey County has a new Director for the Conservation
458 District and expressed condolences that former Director WhiteEagle had passed away.
459 She noted that there were over 350 swimmers, including herself, in Turtle Lake last
460 weekend for the Turtle Man Triathlon.

461
462 Manager Hegland stated she participated in the Metro Watersheds Zoom call last night
463 with District Administrator Tomczik. She gave a brief overview of the current update
464 regarding the status of the Minnesota Plumbing Board issue and noted that the intent
465 was to continue to meet to discuss other areas of concern.
466

467 **ADJOURNMENT**

468 ***Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 11:19***
469 ***a.m. Motion carried 4-0.***
470