

APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, August 3, 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 1:00 p.m.

2 Attendance: Mike Bradley, Jess Robertson, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt, Janet Hegland

3 Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt,
4 Project Manager Jen Oknich, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley
5 (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

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

8 Visitors: Craig Schlichting-City of New Brighton

9 Visitors monitoring via Zoom: Minnesota State Representative David Gottfried, Ramsey County
10 Commissioner Tara Jebens-Singh, Mikaela Campbell-Ramsey County
11

12 **Jones Lake Project as Part of the BWP Project #2013-01 as Petitioned by the Cities of New** 13 **Brighton, Saint Anthony, and Roseville**

14 District Engineer Otterness gave a presentation providing additional information to address
15 questions the Board brought up at their 6/22/26 workshop. The presentation included the goals
16 and objectives identified in the cities petition; Phase 1, 2, and 3 project reports which provide a
17 roadmap to achieve these goals (projects completed Hansen Park, Mirror Pond and 4th Street
18 Stormsewer Reconstruction); and the Jones Lake Restoration Project components. The Jones
19 Lake project components include outlet structure modifications, pond excavation, sediment
20 forebay creation, and Ramsey County Ditch 5 realignment. District Engineer Otterness explained
21 how these elements would address flood control for 100-year rainfall events while improving
22 water quality in Pike and Long Lakes.

23 District Engineer Otterness also described an alternative “perimeter excavation” option that
24 would be less expensive initially but potentially provide shorter-term benefits and require more
25 frequent maintenance. This alternative has not been presented to DNR’s permit review team
26 yet.

27 Board members discussed the alternative excavation approach, DNR permit requirements, and
28 funding options. Staff clarified the additional study is needed to demonstrate restoration levels
29 required for DNR permit eligibility.

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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

Manager Robertson left the meeting due to a prior commitment. The remaining Board by consensus identified the following:

A) the need to formally authorize Houston Engineering to use a sub-consultant, which will be added to the next meeting agenda. Staff informed the Board that there may be an adjustment to the task order if more work is required and funds are exceeding the task order budget.

B) ad valorem contributions to the project matching or exceeding state funding awards; and

C) directing staff and consultants to engage DNR on the current recommended alternative and the perimeter excavation alternative to seek input on alignment with state statute and rules.

There will be additional discussions at their upcoming budget workshop regarding the funding of the project.

Solicitation of Interest Notice for Professional Services

The board discussed the process with staff. The district is required by statute to conduct biennial solicitations.

Administrative Updates

- Staff are monitoring bluegreen algae & fish kill reports throughout the district and providing public outreach to address concerns.
- Update on the City of Circle Pines email findings from the April 22, 2026, outfall investigation.
- Requested authorization to purchase an AED for the office. Board by consensus supported purchase.
- Commissioner Miron Waste Storage Facility Field Tour, Wednesday, July 29th.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.