



AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, August 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota
Virtual Monitoring via Zoom Webinar

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85298519826?pwd=ZNc31lIq3xTPYqUHbCZierq302RJIR.1>

Passcode: 056182

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Webinar ID: 852 9851 9826

Passcode: 056182

Agenda

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Proposed 2027 Draft Budget
- 2026 MN Watersheds Resolutions: Select Delegates and Alternates

Administrator Updates (If Any)

4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE #611 | Blaine, MN 55449 | T: 763-398-3070 | F: 763-398-3088 | www.ricecreek.org

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

Proposed 2027 Draft Budget

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: August 4, 2026
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Nick Tomczik, Administrator
Subject: Proposed 2027 Draft Budget

Introduction

The RCWD Board each year considers a draft District budget for the coming calendar year. Managers considered initial staff position on program budgets and similar at previous Board workshops. The general direction was to accomplish projects throughout the District, maintain a near steady levy, and spend down fund balance. This memo and attached proposed draft budget reflect and accomplish the discussion points to date. Staff recommend the Board consider the agenda item content and work towards Board consensus feedback for the proposed draft 2027 budget. Staff will accordingly adjust materials for the public hearing.

Background

The District's projects and partners vary from year to year, along with the potential funding sources. 2027 includes multiple projects throughout the District being ready for subsequent steps and construction. The projects increase proposed budget expenditures which are offset by and reduced by the fund balance, while maintaining a near steady levy. The proposed budget is comprised of each fund's anticipated expenditure for the coming year. The Board's action, or delegation, approves the actual expenditure of funds.

The draft proposed 2027 budget attachment is arranged as follows:

- The first three pages of the attachment (pages 1.1-1.3) are the accounts of the draft proposed 2027 budget based on discussion to date with detail notes; these are all the projected expenditures, a summary page.
 - The projected expenditure is organized by District funds. Fund 10, General Administration, and each of the subsequent fund's master account "00" address the shared needs and efforts of District (Ex.: rent, vehicles, meeting video, per diems, dues, vehicles). The work of the District typically has some level of applicability in other funds; that is, a project or expenditure meets multiple District goals. The Restoration Projects fund is used for capital projects that provide flood control, drainage, and/or water quality benefit. This account excludes efforts that are solely for the purposes of maintaining MS103E systems (Fund 80) or existing RCWD facilities (Fund 95).
- Fund Balance Estimation (page 2) is addressed further in the budget process, no fund transfers are currently identified in the document.
- Total Revenue and Expenditures (page 3) captures all expenditures and revenue.
- Administrative Costs Breakdown – All Funds (page 4) represents summary of administrative costs which are present in and across the various funds.
- A Statement of Revenue and Expenditures breakdown for each fund follows (page 5-12).

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District



The budget each year recalibrates expenditure and revenue as District efforts typically go beyond a single calendar year; occurring for multiple years for both expenditure and revenue. Project work and expenditures to contractors and consultants for example may bridge multiple years. Similar grant and Water Management District (WMD) revenue may bridge multiple years. So again, the budget each year recalibrates expenditure and revenue providing a “snapshot” summary.

The District exercises, and has exercised, an adaptive management approach to drafting its budget one year to the next; and initiated saving in advance for future costs to maintain a nearly steady general levy. When a project expense is levied and does not materialize in a given budget year it may return in a subsequent year and when that occurs the funding potentially is partially or fully from fund balance/project anticipation fund. In recent years, cost changes have been highly variable, more so than in the past, when annual cost increases could be forecasted with greater consistency. The proposed fund transfer amounts (page 4) with the Board’s feedback will be approximated for the public hearing.

The current version of the proposed budget is *draft* for discussion. Staff will continue to apply for funding as options become available. The total draft Budget is currently \$15.1 million. Revenue is from fund balance/project anticipation fund \$6 million, \$2.8 million from interest, grants, Water Management District (WMD) charges, and the remaining \$6.3 million from the general levy. The draft budget’s general levy increases by 2.8% from 2026 and is anticipated to have a similar impact to landowner’s as in previous years. Although on \$400,000 in property value the general levy’s approximated trend is downward (2024 - \$63.15, 2025 - \$62.92, 2026 - \$61.51) the average final tax rate falling across the four counties of RCWD’s location.

Budget’s general levy impact on property owners is challenging as it is being allocated across four counties. There may be some increases or decreases in a property’s estimated tax rate within certain counties or municipalities, or on specific parcels, as local market value adjustments can vary from year to year. This is beyond the District’s control. (Each individual property’s tax amount within the District is dependent on numerous factors (county, value change, other taxing authorities, etc.) and best considered in broad context.)

Request for Board Discussion

Staff requests Board discussion on the proposed draft 2027 budget and its individual projects for consensus position on budget; use of fund balance, and a position on the general levy. The adjusted version of the proposed 2027 Draft Budget will be utilized for the public hearing.

Attachments

- Proposed 2027 Draft Budget

Fund No. & Sub-Account	Name	Classification of District Funds	2026 Budget	Projected 2026 Expenditures	Proposed 2027 Budget	% Change	2027 Notes
10	General Administration	% Cash Flow Reserve	\$ 541,279	\$ 523,402	\$ 569,982	5.30%	Fund 10 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, HSA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Watershed Districts, General Fund, Administrative)		\$ 541,279	\$ 523,402	\$ 569,982	5.30%	Expenses: office lease, manager per diems, vehicles, meeting video, LMC & MnWD dues, includes WMP meeting per diems
30	Communication & Outreach		\$ 314,720	\$ 308,481	\$ 382,083	21.40%	Fund 30 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$ 201,220	\$ 193,333	\$ 207,083	2.91%	
-02	Watershed Communication & Outreach		\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	0.00%	Expenses: various outreach efforts for district projects and programs (creating resources, printed materials), meeting supplies, workshops, Adobe Creative & Canva software No grants.
-03	Visual Media Program (Replacing Minnesota Water Steward Program)		\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	0.00%	Expenses are Support for art and water quality project combos (e.i signs and interactive aspects to public water projects) throughout our cities/counties. To support visual art/media programming and initiatives with communities, community centers, and art centers. Design, installation, and purchase of educational/project/interpretive signage and 3D graphic projects, graphic design, videographer, website graphic and visual creation, adobe creative projects/materials. No grants.
-04	Outreach Partnerships		\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	0.00%	Expenses include support for city/county programs and outreach initiatives, support for public workshops with cities/counties, support for outreach programs with organizations such as Growing Green Hearts, Freshwater, etc, support for schools/community center programming and projects, Resilient Roseville, Friends of the Mississippi River. Support for regular partner programs (Blue Thumb). Workshops through city/county collaboratives, outreach programming, city-county partner meetings, presentations, meetings, events. Workshops for professionals/staff.
-05	Mini-Grants Program		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	0.00%	The mini grant program continues in 2027 under the 2026 \$10,000 increase to \$30,000 for small scale water quality projects and outreach.
-06	Engineering & Technical Support		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,000	60.00%	Misc. City County Partner, Expenses include support GIS work, maps, and similar No grants.
-08	Watershed Plan Maintenance		\$ 5,000	\$ 6,649	\$ 65,000	1200.00%	Pre-Plan Strategic Planning and Watershed Management Plan Amendment Expenses anticipated in the decommissioning of facilities No grants.
35	Information Management		\$ 275,386	\$ 272,116	\$ 284,337	3.25%	Fund 35 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$ 160,386	\$ 157,116	\$ 163,337	1.84%	
-03	Boundary Management Program		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	Work addressed in 2025
-04	District Wide Model		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	0.00%	2027 updates District Wide Model (DWM) with Current Condition curve numbers and regional ponding District Wide Model Program annual updates/maintenance and software conversions. Floodplain assistance to municipalities, RCWD support with FEMA matters. No grants.
-05	Databases (MS4 Front, Drainage DB), GIS Viewer		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 56,000	40.00%	Annual updates and bug fixes. MS4 Front Subscription and Implementation, maintenance Permit updates GIS and Drainage DB No Grants.
-15	District Website		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	-66.67%	RCWD website hosting and maintenance, search capability, general support. No grants.
60	Restoration - Project Planning & Implementation		\$ 4,159,896	\$ 1,492,946	\$ 7,514,484	80.64%	"Restoration Projects" fund is used for capital projects that provide flood control, drainage, and/or water quality benefit. This account excludes efforts that are solely for the purposes of maintaining MS103 systems (Fund 80) or existing RCWD facilities (Fund 95). Fund 60 in Total.
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$ 389,693	\$ 374,679	\$ 412,777	5.92%	
-01	Anoka Chain of Lakes Water Management Project		\$ 1,114,241	\$ 142,464	\$ 1,224,000	9.85%	Clearwater Creek / JD 3 Stabilization Project \$500K - Creek and Ditch Bank stabilization, addressing internal loading in lakes; WQ (2025 WBIF \$108K, 2027 WBIF Grant \$75K) Construction likely continues into 2028 ACD 72 Outlet BMP Water Quality \$50K (no grant, potentially WBIF) Peltier Lake Alum drip trial project \$500K to address WQ issues, severe algae blooms, landowner engagement with board. No grant. Shenandoah Park Stormwater Improvement Project \$174K Lino Lakes Partner.
-02	Lower Rice Creek WMD (IDLE)	Restricted	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
-03	Lower Rice Creek Water Management Project		\$ 288,500	\$ 140,000	\$ 779,000	170.02%	Old Central Ave Streambank Stabilization and SW Treatment \$334K Anoka County Partner, HEI Task Order No grant. Stream stabilization /BMP implementation SW BMP \$450K No grant.

-04	Middle Rice Creek Water Management Project		\$175,000	\$10,000	\$175,000	0.00%	Middle Rice Creek bank stabilization - Co Rd I canoe access point, RCD partner \$75K Middle Rice Creek bank stabilization - Irondale feasibility work \$100K No grant.
-05	Bald Eagle Lake WMD	Restricted	\$28,486	\$2,302	\$25,677	-9.86%	TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement
-06	Bald Eagle Lake Water Management Project		\$150,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	-66.67%	Hwy 61 Ponds no proposed project at this time. Potential WBIF
-07	RCD 2, 3 & 5 WMD (IDLE)	Restricted	\$-	\$-	\$-	0.00%	WMD requires protocols/proceesing to establish charge, may be established for future year collection, this is consistent with the administration and use of all WMDs to date.
-08	RCD 2, 3 & 5 Basic Water Management Project		\$555,903	\$304,650	\$3,270,000	488.23%	Jones Lake final design \$150K Jones Lake Construction Non-dredging components \$620K Jones Lakes construction Dredging \$2.5M (Project Anticipation Fund may be "paid back" via WMD) Addresses flood mitigation (primary), ditch stability, water quality, public outreach. Jones Lake Phase 1: MPCA Resilancy Grant = \$1.17M; \$135,000 (10%) match required, underway in 2025. State \$840,000 requires \$840,000 match
-09	Silver Lake Water Management Project		\$-	\$-	\$-		
-10	Golden Lake Water Management Project		\$-	\$-	\$-		
-11	Regional Water Management Partnership Projects		\$48,332	\$42,091	\$100,000	106.90%	Addresses multi-jurisdictional stormwater issues. Hardwood Creek/JD2 watershed storage feasibility study. BWSR WQ&S \$50K Grant, \$5K match required. LesBolstad property, Falcon Heights Partner \$50K
-15	Stormwater Management Cost Share	Committed	\$1,119,741	\$391,260	\$1,118,030	-0.15%	RCWD costshare program. \$718,030 in committed/awarded funds, this portion of total is fund balance. Program \$400K address Board's guidance on program uses (\$300K past amount increased \$100K in 2026.)
-24	Southwest Urban Lakes Implementation		\$100,000	\$15,000	\$100,000	0.00%	Budget for accelerated partner projects Shoreline stability Karth Lake, no functional outlet. No grant
-29	Clear Lake Water Management Project		\$85,000	\$25,000	\$90,000	5.88%	Clear Lake Shoreline Stabilization/Eureka Ave. \$90K based on Change Order. RCWD heavy engagement with Forest Lake, carry from previous year. No grant
-33	Forest Lake Planning WMD (IDLE)	Restricted	\$-	\$-	\$-		
-34	Columbus Planning WMD (IDLE)	Restricted	\$-	\$-	\$-		
-35	Stormwater Master Planning		\$40,000	\$20,000	\$110,000	175.00%	Arden Manor Regional Arden Hills \$30K JD4 Forest Lake \$30K SW Research Council \$10K Subwatershed Assessment WBL/Prebie Lake \$40K WCD & RCD Partners, WBIF Grant \$36K, \$3,600 match
-36	Municipal CIP Early Coordination Program		\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	0.00%	Funds to support potential Local Water Plan implimentation.
-37	Groundwater Management & Stormwater Reuse Assessment Program		\$55,000	\$15,500	\$50,000	-9.09%	Funds to support/partner on groundwater efforts under various entities. Current potential studies/projects: TCAPP, White Bear Lake, Columbus/ACD 10-22-32
70	Regulatory		\$1,476,440	\$1,481,800	\$1,473,425	-0.20%	Fund 70 in Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$636,440	\$568,280	\$650,425	2.20%	
-01	Rule Revision / Permit Guidance		\$15,000	\$7,257	\$5,000	-66.67%	Permit cost evaluation and initial evaluation for future rule revision, rule revision last completed in 2024. Funds for updating permit guidance documents, BMP Maintenance. No grants.
-03	Permit Review, Inspection and Coordination Program		\$825,000	\$906,263	\$818,000	-0.85%	Pre-application Permit Review Post-permit support Level 2 Regulatory Audit Annual CWPMP Report Inspection Services Contracts
80	Ditch & Creek Maintenance		\$1,914,514	\$1,810,237	\$2,945,223	53.84%	Fund 80 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$332,304	\$315,137	\$335,638	1.00%	
-01	Natural Waterway Management		\$10,000	\$2,500	\$10,000	0.00%	

-02	Ditch Maintenance		\$450,000	\$493,978	\$574,000	27.56%	PDS management/maintenance as systems switch from repair to annual and ongoing maintenance. Inspection: walk-through, drone, survey. Intended 2027 work, subject to revision, includes: ACD 53-62 - Branch 1 excavation east of Lexington Ave to Main Street, Branch 1 Lat.#1 Excavation 109thAve. to Lochness Lake AWJD 4 - Main Trunk35E to 35W, Excavation Branch #4 Elmcrest to 35W WJD 2 - New maintenance crossing upstream of 165th in Hugo, Excavation HWY 61 to Harrow, in Hugo ACD 10-22-32 - Branch #4 from 4th Ave. to Pine Street, brush mowing and channel excavation, Branch #2 from Black Duck at the stormwater pond, Main Trunk Brush mowing and excavation as needed, Branch #1 from Mustang Ln to Sunset, brush and tree mulching WJD 7 - Main trunk replacement of existing clay tile with HDPE north of 190th St N Right-of-Way Maintenance (as possible based on weather and site conditions) - ACD's 10-22-32, 31, 46, 72, &53-62, AWJD's 3, 4, WJD's 2, 7,
-03	Repair Reports & Studies		\$209,000	\$209,000	\$94,000	-55.02%	RWJD 1 repair report \$70K, legal/engineering general support \$24K
-04	ACD 10-22-32 WMD	Restricted	\$-	\$5,693	\$318	0.00%	TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-05	ACD 31 WMD	Restricted	\$-	\$-	\$-		-\$6926 (Deficit) TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-06	ACD 46 WMD	Restricted	\$37,451	\$37,451	\$23,267	-37.87%	TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-07	RCD 4 WMD	Restricted	\$82,389	\$86,944	\$-	-100.00%	-\$30475 (deficit) TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-08	RCD 4 Repair		\$-	\$35,000	\$-	0.00%	Project complete
-09	ARJD 1 WMD (IDLE)	Restricted	\$-	\$-	\$916,800		ARJD 1 Repair Construction Cost Assume 60 WMD/40 Advalorem split
-10	ARJD 1 Repair		\$70,000	\$70,000	\$611,200		ARJD 1 Repair Construction Cost Assume 60 WMD/40 Advalorem split
-15	Municipal PDS Maintenance	Committed	\$35,000	\$5,000	\$50,000	42.86%	Potential colaborative work with partners.
-20	WJD 2 Branch 1/2 Repair		\$-	\$-	\$-		
-21	AWJD 3 Repair		\$-	\$55,000	\$-		
-22	ACD 15 / AWJD 4 WMD	Restricted	\$18,370	\$18,370	\$-	-100.00%	TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-23	ACD 15 & AWJD 4		\$50,000	\$10,000	\$230,000	360.00%	Forest Lake partner, implementation est \$230K plans and construction 2025 budget included the same amount. No Grant
-24	ACD 53-62 WMD	Restricted	\$372,000	\$291,415	\$-	-100.00%	-\$98,951 (deficit) TS 7/21/2026 Email list updated with 1st half settlement.
-25	ACD 53-62 Repair		\$248,000	\$174,749	\$-	-100.00%	ACD 53-62 Br 5&6 repair complete
-26	ACD 10-22-32 Repair				\$100,000	0.00%	Awaiting Board direction. 2026 budget included \$100K
-27	NEW - RWJD 1 Repair Construction Plans / Permitting				\$-	0.00%	Establish fund for 2028 construction - Plan development and engagement in 2027, construct in 2028
-28	NEW - RWJD 1 WMD	Restricted			\$-	0.00%	Establish fund for 2028 construction - Plan development and engagement in 2027, construct in 2028
90	Lake & Stream Management		\$1,149,963	\$872,896	\$1,297,256	12.81%	Fund 90 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$396,725	\$369,374	\$409,623	3.25%	
-01	Water Quality Grant Program	Committed	\$273,238	\$145,060	\$402,633	47.36%	No change for the overall WQ Grant budget, steady at \$250K annual. Fund Balance spend is committed carryover of \$152,633
-04	Surface Water Monitoring & Management Program		\$240,000	\$240,000	\$245,000	2.08%	On-going monitoring program increasing program costs
-26	Common Carp Management		\$200,000	\$106,461	\$200,000	0.00%	Common Carp management program. Decreasing costs at Long Lake / Lino Chain. Increasing costs at Silver Lake. Offsetting.
-27	Curly Leaf Pondweed Management		\$40,000	\$12,000	\$40,000	0.00%	DNR grant program varying amounts from year-to-year, lake association partner match, no further grant. Program changes pending, maintain funding, likely decrease in RCWD involvement.
95	District Facilities		\$1,360,895	\$1,180,150	\$651,946	-52.09%	Fund 95 In Total
	Salaries, Taxes, PERA, Benefits, Office Expenses Etc. (Water Planning & Project Implementation, "509", Administrative)	40% Cash Flow Reserve	\$234,935	\$217,609	\$234,196	-0.31%	
-03	District Facilities Repair		\$933,210	\$933,210	\$275,000	-70.53%	Repair of New Brighton Family Service Center weir RCD 2 weir in South Hansen Park PLOP Sediment removal, Birchwood Village
-04	Inspection, Operation & Maintenance		\$192,750	\$29,331	\$142,750	-25.94%	Facility maintenance, minor repairs, facility start up, maintaining public investmen No grant
	TOTAL		\$11,193,092	\$7,942,028	\$15,118,735	35.07%	

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District
Fund Balance Estimation

2026 FUND BALANCE ESTIMATION - Fund Balances and Transfers determined under Final Budget

FUND BALANCE CASH FLOW OPERATING RESERVE					
REQUIRED 40% GENERAL FUND	REQUIRED 40% IMPLEMENTATION ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE 12/31/2026	COMMITTED FUND BALANCE 12/31/2026	PROGRAM/PROJECT ANTICIPATION FUND 12/31/2026	ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE 12/31/2026
\$ 227,993	\$ 965,231	\$ (288,852)	\$ 858,723	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 799,572

PROPOSED FUND TRANSFERS WITH 2027 BUDGET

The final fund transfer amounts to be completed under final draft.

FUND	PROPOSED TRANSFER	1/1/2027 FUND BALANCE
10 General Administration	\$ -	\$ 679,221
30 Communication & Outreach	\$ -	\$ 267,172
35 Information Management	\$ -	\$ 419,786
60 Restoration Projects	\$ -	\$ 2,601,693
70 Regulatory	\$ -	\$ 894,352
80 Ditch & Creek Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,429,297
90 Lake & Stream Management	\$ -	\$ 1,305,777
95 District Facilities	\$ -	\$ 1,014,994
99 Project Anticipation	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 13,112,292

99 PROJECT ANTICIPATION SUBFUND ALLOCATION		
99-60 Restoration	\$ -	\$ 2,700,000
99-80 Ditch & Creek	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000
99-90 Lake & Stream	\$ -	\$ 200,000
99-95 District Facility	\$ -	\$ 200,000
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000

General Fund – covers the general administrative expenses of the District, including salaries, benefits, and office expenses.

Implementation Administrative Budget – covers the administrative costs of preparing or amending the District's plan and the administrative costs of implementation of the plan through projects and programs, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.241.

Restricted Fund – amounts are subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions, such as funds levied in a Water Management District (WMD) which are restricted to the defined purpose.

Committed Fund - amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority, such as grant program awards. The commitments may be changed or lifted only by the government taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally.

Program/Project Anticipation Fund – funds accumulated and committed as an alternative to issuing bonds to finance improvements based on findings as to the potential future need of funds for a particular purpose.

Assigned Fund - amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose.

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District
Total Revenue and Expenditures

Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 05/31/26	Projected 6/1-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	Proposed 2027 Budget	% Change
Revenues:						
General Property Tax	\$ 6,143,782	\$ -	\$ 5,954,166	\$ 5,954,166	\$ 6,318,831	2.8%
Permit Fees 70-03	\$ 61,200	\$ 58,932	\$ 58,932	\$ 117,864	\$ 147,931	141.7%
WMD Charges Lower Rice Creek 60-02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges Bald Eagle Lake 60-05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges RCD 2, 3 & 5 60-07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges Forest Lake Planning 60-33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges Columbus Planning 60-34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges ACD 10-22-32 80-04	\$ -	\$ 318	\$ -	\$ 318	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges ACD 31 80-05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges ACD 46 80-06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88	\$ 88	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges RCD 4 80-07	\$ -	\$ 9,596	\$ (9,596)	\$ (0)	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges ARJD1 80-09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 487,181	0.0%
WMD Charges ACD 15 & AWJD 4 80-22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
WMD Charges ACD 53-62 80-24	\$ 219,397	\$ -	\$ 166,364	\$ 166,364	\$ 78,524	0.0%
ROW Charges (All 80)	\$ 12,345	\$ 1,021	\$ 11,972	\$ 12,993	\$ -	-100.0%
BWSR Grant - WBFIP East Miss. 60-01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420,000	100.0%
BWSR Grant - FY25 WBIF: Clearwater Creek	\$ 36,296	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,560	100.0%
BWSR Grant - FY26 WQ and Storage: hardwood Creek	\$ 16,665	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,665	100.0%
BWSR Grant - WBFIP Rice Creek 80-03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	0.0%
BWSR Grant - WBFIP Rice Creek 90-26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Clean Water Fund competitive Grant - Centerville Alum	\$ 513,638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,450	100.0%
MPCA Grant - OSG: Moore Lake Stormwater Relience	\$ 35,500	\$ 8,904	\$ -	\$ 8,904	\$ -	100.0%
MPCA Grant - OSG & SW 60	\$ 391,030	\$ 136,089	\$ -	\$ 136,089	\$ 760,968	100.0%
WBIF Award - Clearwater Creek 60-01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	100.0%
Interest Income	\$ 270,000	\$ 117,694	\$ 25,613	\$ 143,307	\$ 275,000	1.9%
Investment Income	\$ 350,481	\$ 26,693	\$ 17,894	\$ 44,587	\$ 395,000	0.0%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ -	\$ 5,085	\$ -	\$ 5,085	\$ -	0.0%
Total Revenues	\$ 8,050,335	\$ 364,332	\$ 6,275,552	\$ 6,639,884	\$ 9,069,110	12.7%
Expenses:						
General Administration - 10	\$ 541,279	\$ 196,451	\$ 326,951	\$ 523,402	\$ 569,982	5.3%
Communication & Outreach - 30	\$ 314,720	\$ 95,805	\$ 213,364	\$ 309,169	\$ 382,083	21.4%
Information Management - 35	\$ 275,386	\$ 71,544	\$ 200,573	\$ 272,116	\$ 284,337	3.3%
Restoration Projects - 60	\$ 4,159,896	\$ 508,220	\$ 1,034,801	\$ 1,543,022	\$ 7,514,484	80.6%
Regulatory - 70	\$ 1,476,440	\$ 487,011	\$ 994,788	\$ 1,481,800	\$ 1,473,425	-0.2%
Ditch & Creek Maintenance - 80	\$ 2,014,514	\$ 612,069	\$ 1,198,168	\$ 1,810,237	\$ 2,945,223	46.2%
Lake & Stream Management - 90	\$ 1,149,963	\$ 251,180	\$ 622,403	\$ 873,583	\$ 1,297,256	12.8%
District Facilities - 95	\$ 1,360,895	\$ 106,374	\$ 1,073,776	\$ 1,180,150	\$ 651,946	-52.1%
Project Anticipation - 99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Total Program Expense	\$ 11,293,092	\$ 2,328,655	\$ 5,664,824	\$ 7,993,479	\$ 15,118,735	33.9%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Administrative Costs Breakdown - All Funds

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 05/31/26	Projected 6/1-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
	Expenses						
4000	Manager Per Diem	33,000	10,625	22,325	32,950	41,000	24.2%
4010	Manager Expense	6,000	445	5,100	5,545	6,000	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	5,000	1,092	3,800	4,892	5,250	5.0%
4100	Wages	1,497,023	595,681	838,906	1,434,587	1,588,314	6.1%
4102	Interns	27,020	0	20,646	20,646	28,060	3.8%
4110	Benefits	227,912	74,944	104,922	179,866	226,546	-0.6%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	3,983	5,576	9,559	10,603	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	112,277	39,953	55,934	95,887	119,124	6.1%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	17,273	6,954	9,736	16,690	18,327	6.1%
4130	Payroll Taxes	131,220	46,404	64,965	111,369	139,170	6.1%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	4,000	2,828	3,959	6,787	4,525	13.1%
4200	Office Supplies	12,128	879	10,849	11,729	12,128	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	17,210	870	15,950	16,820	16,158	-6.1%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	4,450	603	2,050	2,653	4,350	-2.2%
4208	Printing	2,000	54	1,925	1,979	2,000	0.0%
4210	Rent	113,000	52,235	73,129	125,364	115,450	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	23,500	8,508	11,911	20,419	22,146	-5.8%
4245	Dues	16,368	15,297	1,000	16,297	16,550	1.1%
4250	Publications	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	40,000	6,029	32,616	38,645	40,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	38,000	37,027	0	37,027	39,750	4.6%
4280	Postage	1,000	25	975	1,000	4,000	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	5,050	1,191	4,800	5,991	4,800	-5.0%
4320	Staff Travel	6,000	1,388	4,327	5,715	6,000	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	72,000	9,770	56,306	66,077	25,000	-65.3%
4330	Audit & Accounting	125,000	51,377	60,226	111,603	133,125	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	100,900	21,073	77,270	98,344	100,300	-0.6%
4337	Contracted Services	66,000	555	64,445	65,000	65,500	-0.8%
4340	Recruitment	400	1,658	2,854	4,512	400	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	64,750	11,473	51,004	62,477	60,750	-6.2%
4500	Engineering	69,000	16,882	43,387	60,269	71,500	3.6%
4634	Equipment-Computer	23,250	275	22,975	23,250	24,985	7.5%
4635	Equipment-General	14,750	0	14,250	14,250	13,750	-6.8%
4636	Equipment Lease	11,000	3,196	6,303	9,498	11,000	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	3,000	993	1,977	2,971	3,000	0.0%
	Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 2,892,982	\$ 1,024,266	\$ 1,699,899	\$ 2,724,165	\$ 2,983,060	3.1%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - General Fund - 10

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 06/1- 12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	511,539	0	504,664	504,664	544,723	6.5%
3704	Interest Income	12,941	25,309	17,600	42,909	10,368	-19.9%
3705	Investment Income	16,799	1,279	0	1,279	14,892	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Revenue	0		0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		541,279	26,589	522,264	548,853	569,982	5.3%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	33,000	10,625	22,325	32,950	41,000	24.2%
4010	Manager Expense	6,000	445	5,100	5,545	6,000	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	5,000	1,092	3,800	4,892	5,250	5.0%
4100	Wages	184,410	74,774	109,636	184,410	193,814	5.1%
4102	Interns	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4110	Benefits	31,393	11,148	15,607	26,754	32,001	1.9%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	797	1,115	1,912	2,122	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	13,831	5,051	7,072	12,123	14,536	5.1%
4125	H.C.S.A. Contribution	17,273	6,954	9,736	16,690	18,327	6.1%
4130	Payroll Taxes	15,878	6,193	8,670	14,864	16,687	5.1%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	4,000	2,828	3,959	6,787	4,525	13.1%
4200	Office Supplies	2,426	191	2,200	2,391	2,426	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	3,700	406	1,500	1,906	3,700	0.0%
4208	Printing	400	54	325	379	400	0.0%
4210	Rent	22,600	10,447	14,626	25,073	23,090	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	4,700	1,529	2,141	3,671	4,429	-5.8%
4245	Dues	16,368	15,297	1,000	16,297	16,550	1.1%
4250	Publications	200	0	200	200	200	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	8,000	800	7,000	7,800	8,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	7,600	7,405	0	7,405	7,950	4.6%
4280	Postage	200	25	175	200	800	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,250	-16.7%
4320	Staff Travel	1,200	400	700	1,100	1,200	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4330	Audit & Accounting	25,000	10,787	14,101	24,888	26,625	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	18,000	4,585	11,418	16,003	18,000	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	6,000	0	5,000	5,000	6,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	0	0	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	50,000	9,512	40,000	49,512	50,000	0.0%
4500	Engineering	57,000	14,269	34,000	48,269	60,000	5.3%
4634	Equipment-Computer	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	2,000	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	-25.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	2,200	639	1,395	2,034	2,200	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	600	199	400	599	600	0.0%
Total Expenses - General Admin		\$ 541,279	\$ 196,451	\$ 326,951	\$ 523,402	\$ 569,982	5.3%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Communications Outreach - 30

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/1-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	293,428	0	281,691	281,691	365,150	24.4%
3700	Interest Income	7,524	2,704	200	2,904	6,950	-7.6%
3705	Investment Income	9,767	744		744	9,982	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0		0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		310,720	3,448	281,891	285,340	382,083	23.0%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	108,525	44,217	61,904	106,122	114,612	5.6%
4102	Interns	5,404	0	4,434	4,434	5,612	3.8%
4110	Benefits	12,730	4,778	6,689	11,467	12,792	0.5%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	398	558	956	1,060	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	8,139	2,985	4,179	7,163	8,596	5.6%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	9,809	3,296	4,614	7,909	10,351	5.5%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	1,213	237	900	1,137	1,213	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	500	0	500	500	400	-20.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	500	197	300	497	400	-20.0%
4208	Printing	200	0	200	200	200	0.0%
4210	Rent	11,300	5,224	7,313	12,536	11,545	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	2,350	765	1,071	1,835	2,215	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	100	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	4,000	362	3,500	3,862	4,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	3,800	3,703	0	3,015	3,975	4.6%
4280	Postage	100	0	100	100	400	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	600	66	500	566	600	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4330	Audit & Accounting	12,500	5,074	7,000	12,074	13,313	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	3,000	41	2,900	2,941	3,000	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	6,000	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	50	50	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	6,000	805	5,000	5,805	2,500	-58.3%
4500	Engineering	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	750	-25.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	500	0	500	500	500	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	1,100	320	447	767	1,100	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	300	99	196	295	300	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 201,220	\$ 72,566	\$ 121,454	\$ 193,333	\$ 207,083	2.9%
Projects							
	Watershed Comm's & Outreach 30-02	13,000	4,883	8,117	13,000	13,000	0.0%
	Master Water Steward Program 30-03	17,000	0	17,000	17,000	17,000	0.0%
	Outreach Partnerships - 30-04	46,000	14,948	31,052	46,000	46,000	0.0%
	Mini-Grants Program 30-05	30,000	598	29,402	30,000	30,000	0.0%
	Engineering & Technical Support 30-06	2,500	1,161	1,339	2,500	4,000	60.0%
	Watershed Plan Maintenance 30-08	5,000	1,649	5,000	6,649	65,000	1200.0%
Total Project Expenses		113,500	23,239	91,910	115,149	175,000	54.2%
Total Expenses - Comm's & Outreach		\$ 314,720	\$ 95,805	\$ 213,364	\$ 308,481	\$ 382,083	21.4%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Information Management - 35

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/2026	Projected 6/1-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	227,755	0	261,193	261,193	271,737	19.3%
3700	Interest Income	6,584	2,366	3,313	5,679	5,172	-21.4%
3705	Investment Income	8,547	651	911	1,562	7,429	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		242,886	3,017	265,417	268,434	284,337	17.1%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	31,997	13,060	18,283	31,343	34,414	7.6%
4102	Interns	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4110	Benefits	4,443	1,153	1,614	2,767	4,676	5.3%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	199	279	478	530	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	2,400	882	1,234	2,116	2,581	7.6%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	2,755	971	1,360	2,331	2,963	7.6%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	606	19	550	569	606	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	15,560	870	14,300	15,170	14,608	-6.1%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4208	Printing	100	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4210	Rent	5,650	2,612	3,656	6,268	5,773	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	1,175	382	535	918	1,107	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	50	0	50	50	50	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	2,000	85	1,700	1,785	2,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	1,900	1,851	0	1,851	1,988	4.6%
4280	Postage	50	0	50	50	200	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	300	0	300	300	300	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4330	Audit & Accounting	6,250	2,537	3,500	6,037	6,656	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	58,900	16,448	42,452	58,900	58,300	-1.0%
4337	Contracted Services	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	500	-50.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	50	50	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	500	0	500	500	250	-50.0%
4500	Engineering	500	0	500	500	250	-50.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	22,000	275	21,725	22,000	23,735	7.9%
4635	Equipment-General	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,000	-33.3%
4636	Equipment Lease	550	160	224	384	550	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	150	50	100	150	150	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 160,386	\$ 41,553	\$ 115,564	\$ 157,116	\$ 163,337	1.8%
Projects							
	Boundary Management Program 35-03	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	District-Wide Model 35-04	60,000	1,603	58,397	60,000	60,000	0.0%
	Database & Viewer Maintenance 35-05	40,000	21,333	18,667	40,000	56,000	40.0%
	District Website 35-15	15,000	7,055	7,945	15,000	5,000	-66.7%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 115,000	\$ 29,991	\$ 85,009	\$ 115,000	\$ 121,000	5.2%
Total Expenses - Info Management		\$ 275,386	\$ 71,544	\$ 200,573	\$ 272,116	\$ 284,337	3.3%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Restoration Projects - 60

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/1-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	576,134	0	553,089	553,089	1,424	-99.8%
3101	WMD - Lower Rice Creek 60-02	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - Bald Eagle Lake 60-05	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - RCD 2, 3 & 5 60-07	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - Forest Lake Planning 60-33	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - Columbus Planning 60-34	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3300	STATE Appropriation-"DNR Flood Hazard Grant" 60-0	0	0	0	0	420,000	0.0%
3300	BWSR Grant - FY25 WBIF: Clearwater Creek	36,296				43,560	0.0%
	BWSR Grant - FY26 WQ and Storage: Hardwood						
3300	Creek/JD2 Storage	16,665				16,665	0.0%
	MPCA Grant - OSG: Moore Lake Stormwater Reliance						
3300	Analysis	35,500	8,904			0	0.0%
	MPCA Grant - Implementation of SW: Jones Lake						
3300	Outlet Mod. & Dredging	391,030	136,089			760,968	0.0%
3300	Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant - Centerville Alum	513,638	0	0	0	95,450	0.0%
3302	WBIF 2026 Award - Clearwater Creek 60-01	0	0	20,000	20,000	30,000	0.0%
3700	Interest Income	99,457	35,744	1,500	37,244	136,684	37.4%
3705	Investment Income	129,102	9,833	13,766	23,598	196,327	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		\$ 1,797,823	\$ 190,569	\$ 588,354	\$ 633,931	\$ 1,701,077	-5.4%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	234,959	95,639	133,895	229,534	256,417	9.1%
4102	Interns	5,404	0	5,404	5,404	5,612	3.8%
4110	Benefits	31,151	11,414	15,979	27,393	33,887	8.8%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	398	558	956	1,060	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	17,622	6,476	9,066	15,542	19,231	9.1%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	20,695	6,898	9,657	16,556	22,561	9.0%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	1,213	38	1,175	1,213	1,213	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4208	Printing	200	0	200	200	200	0.0%
4210	Rent	11,300	5,224	7,313	12,536	11,545	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	2,350	765	1,071	1,835	2,215	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	100	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	4,000	1,814	2,186	4,000	4,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	3,800	3,703	0	3,703	3,975	4.6%
4280	Postage	100	0	100	100	400	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	600	216	384	600	600	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	12,000	0	12,000	12,000	5,000	-58.3%
4330	Audit & Accounting	12,500	5,074	7,025	12,099	13,313	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	12,000	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	10,000	555	9,445	10,000	10,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	0	0	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	1,750	0	1,200	1,200	1,500	-14.3%
4500	Engineering	4,000	1,536	2,464	4,000	4,000	0.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	1,250	0	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	1,100	320	600	920	1,100	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	300	99	189	288	300	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 389,693	\$ 140,168	\$ 234,511	\$ 374,679	\$ 412,777	5.9%
Projects							
	Anoka Chain of Lakes Water Management Project 60-01	1,114,241	16,464	126,000	142,464	1,224,000	9.9%
	Lower Rice Creek WMD 60-02	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Lower Rice Creek Water Management Project 60-03	288,500	50,075	140,000	190,075	779,000	170.0%
	Middle Rice Creek Water Management Project 60-04	175,000	0	10,000	10,000	175,000	0.0%
	Bald Eagle Lake WMD 60-05	28,486	12	2,290	2,302	25,677	-9.9%
	Bald Eagle Lake Water Management Project 60-06	150,000	0	5,000	5,000	50,000	-66.7%
	RCD 2, 3 & 5 WMD 60-07	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	RCD 2, 3 & 5 Basic Water Management Project 60-08	555,903	157,650	147,000	304,650	3,270,000	488.2%
	Silver Lake Water Management Project 60-09	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Golden Lake Water Management Project 60-10	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Regional Water Management Partnership Projects 60-11	48,332	32,091	10,000	42,091	100,000	106.9%
	Stormwater Management Cost Share 60-15	1,119,741	101,260	290,000	391,260	1,118,030	-0.2%
	Southwest Urban Lakes Implementation 60-24	100,000	0	15,000	15,000	100,000	0.0%
	Clear Lake Water Management Project 60-29	85,000	0	25,000	25,000	90,000	5.9%
	Forest Lake Planning WMD 60-33	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Columbus Planning WMD 60-34	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	Stormwater Master Planning 60-35	40,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	110,000	175.0%
	Municipal CIP Early Coordination 60-36	10,000	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	0.0%
	Groundwater Management & Stormwater Reuse 60-37	55,000	500	15,000	15,500	50,000	-9.1%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 3,770,203	\$ 368,053	\$ 800,290	\$ 1,168,343	\$ 7,101,707	88.4%
Total Expenses - Restoration Projects		\$ 4,159,896	\$ 508,220	\$ 1,034,801	\$ 1,543,022	\$ 7,514,484	80.6%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Regulatory - 70

Acct. #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/1 - 12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	1,094,119	0	1,050,354	1,050,354	1,260,198	15.2%
3400	Permit Fees 70-03	61,200	58,932	58,932	117,864	147,931	141.7%
3700	Interest Income	35,299	12,686	1,200	13,886	26,801	-24.1%
3705	Investment Income	45,821	3,490	0	3,490	38,495	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		\$ 1,236,440	\$ 75,108	\$ 1,110,486	\$ 1,185,594	\$ 1,473,425	19.2%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	374,474	139,463	195,248	334,711	392,531	4.8%
4102	Interns	5,404	0	5,404	5,404	5,612	3.8%
4110	Benefits	61,137	20,959	29,342	50,301	57,786	-5.5%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	996	1,394	2,390	2,651	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	28,086	10,248	14,347	24,596	29,440	4.8%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	32,707	11,008	15,411	26,418	34,280	4.8%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	3,032	103	2,800	2,903	3,032	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	125	0	125	125	125	0.0%
4208	Printing	500	0	500	500	500	0.0%
4210	Rent	28,250	13,059	18,282	31,341	28,863	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	5,875	1,912	2,677	4,588	5,537	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	10,000	1,677	8,000	9,677	10,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	9,500	9,257	0	9,257	9,938	4.6%
4280	Postage	250	0	250	250	1,000	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	300	0	300	300	300	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	1,500	149	1,200	1,349	1,500	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	15,000	427	11,500	11,927	5,000	-66.7%
4330	Audit & Accounting	31,250	12,684	10,400	23,084	33,281	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	16,000	0	16,000	16,000	16,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	503	0	503	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4500	Engineering	1,250	0	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	2,750	799	1,619	2,417	2,750	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	750	248	490	738	750	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 636,440	\$ 223,491	\$ 344,788	\$ 568,280	\$ 650,425	2.2%
Projects							
	Rule Revision & Permit Guidance 70-01	15,000	2,257	5,000	7,257	5,000	-66.7%
	Permit Review, Inspect & Coord 70-03	825,000	261,263	645,000	906,263	818,000	-0.8%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 840,000	\$ 263,520	\$ 650,000	\$ 913,520	\$ 823,000	-2.0%
Total Expenses - Regulatory		\$ 1,476,440	\$ 487,011	\$ 994,788	\$ 1,481,800	\$ 1,473,425	-0.2%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Ditch Creek Maintenance - 80

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/01-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	1,325,079	0	1,272,076	1,272,076	2,165,413	63.4%
3101	WMD - ACD 10-22-32 80-04	0	318	0	318	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - ACD 31 80-05	0	0	120	120	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - ACD 46 80-06	0	0	88	88	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - RCD 4 80-07	0	9,596	(9,596)	(0)	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - ARJD 1 80-09	0	0	0	0	487,181	0.0%
3101	WMD - ACD 15 & AWJD 4 80-22	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3101	WMD - ACD 53-62 80-24	219,397	0	166,364	166,364	78,524	0.0%
3207	ROW - ACD 10-22-32 80-04	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - ACD 31 80-05	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - ACD 46 80-06	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - RCD 4 80-07	9,500	0	11,972	11,972	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - ARJD 1 80-09	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - ACD 15 & AWJD 4 80-22	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
3207	ROW - ACD 53-62 80-24	2,845	1,021	0	1,021	0	0.0%
3302	IDLE BWSR Grant - WBFIP Rice Creek 80-0	0	0	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
3700	Interest Income	48,164	17,310	1,200	18,510	53,572	11.2%
3705	Investment Income	62,520	4,762	0	4,762	76,948	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0	3,806	0	3,806	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		\$ 1,667,505	\$ 36,812	\$ 1,472,224	\$ 1,509,036	\$ 2,861,638	71.6%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	181,058	73,477	102,868	176,346	190,846	5.4%
4102	Interns	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4110	Benefits	29,658	7,944	11,121	19,065	27,941	-5.8%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	597	836	1,434	1,590	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	13,579	4,973	6,963	11,936	14,313	5.4%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	15,589	5,515	7,721	13,237	16,432	5.4%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	1,819	233	1,500	1,733	1,819	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	400	0	400	400	400	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	125	0	125	125	125	0.0%
4208	Printing	300	0	300	300	300	0.0%
4210	Rent	16,950	7,835	10,969	18,805	17,318	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	3,525	1,633	2,286	3,918	3,322	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	150	0	150	150	150	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	6,000	683	5,000	5,683	6,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	5,700	5,554	0	5,554	5,963	4.6%
4280	Postage	150	0	150	150	600	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	750	1,191	500	1,691	750	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	900	151	749	900	900	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	15,000	4,444	10,556	15,000	5,000	-66.7%
4330	Audit & Accounting	18,750	7,611	9,400	17,011	19,969	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	50	50	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	2,500	546	1,954	2,500	2,500	0.0%
4500	Engineering	3,000	577	2,423	3,000	3,000	0.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	1,650	479	971	1,450	1,650	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	450	149	301	450	450	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 332,304	\$ 123,593	\$ 191,544	\$ 315,137	\$ 335,638	1.0%
Projects							
	Natural Waterway Management 80-01	10,000	0	2,500	2,500	10,000	0.0%
	Ditch Maintenance 80-02	450,000	176,978	317,000	493,978	574,000	27.6%
	Repair Reports & Studies 80-03	209,000	45,334	163,666	209,000	94,000	-55.0%
	ACD 10-22-32 WMD 80-04	0	0	5,693	5,693	318	0.0%
	ACD 31 WMD 80-05	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	ACD 46 WMD 80-06	37,451	0	37,451	37,451	23,267	-37.9%
	RCD 4 WMD 80-07	82,389	0	86,944	86,944	0	-100.0%
	RCD 4 Repair 80-08	0	0	35,000	35,000	0	0.0%
	ARJD 1 WMD 80-09	0	0	0	0	916,800	0.0%
	ARJD 1 Repair 80-10	70,000	0	70,000	70,000	611,200	0.0%
	Municipal PDS Maintenance 80-15	35,000	0	5,000	5,000	50,000	42.9%
	WJD 2 Branch 1/2 Repair 80-20	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	AWJD 3 Repair 80-21	0	0	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
	ACD 15 & AWJD 4 WMD 80-22	18,370	0	18,370	18,370	0	-100.0%
	ACD 15 & AWJD 4 80-23	50,000	0	10,000	10,000	230,000	360.0%
	ACD 53-62 WMD 80-24	372,000	161,415	130,000	291,415	0	-100.0%
	ACD 53-62 Repair 80-25	248,000	104,749	70,000	174,749	0	-100.0%
	ACD 10-22-32 Repair 80-26	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0.0%
	RWJD 1 Repair 80-27	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	RWJD 1 WMD 80-28	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 1,682,210	\$ 488,476	\$ 1,006,624	\$ 1,495,100	\$ 2,609,585	55.1%
Total Expenses - Ditch & Creek		\$ 2,014,514	\$ 612,069	\$ 1,198,168	\$ 1,810,237	\$ 2,945,223	46.2%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - Lake Stream Management - 90

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/01-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	1,048,542	0	1,006,600	1,006,600	1,087,134	3.7%
3302	IDLE BWSR Grant - WBFIP Rice Creek 90-20	0		0	0	0	0.0%
3700	Interest Income	27,494	9,881	0	9,881	23,596	-14.2%
3705	Investment Income	35,689	2,718		2,718	33,893	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous Income	0		0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		\$ 1,111,725	\$ 12,599	\$ 1,006,600	\$ 1,019,199	\$ 1,144,623	3.0%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	246,585	100,536	140,750	241,285	262,797	6.6%
4102	Interns	5,404	0	0	0	5,612	3.8%
4110	Benefits	34,932	12,665	17,731	30,396	36,324	4.0%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	398	558	956	1,060	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	18,494	6,031	8,443	14,473	19,710	6.6%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	21,696	7,906	11,068	18,974	23,110	6.5%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	1,213	38	1,175	1,213	1,213	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4208	Printing	200	0	200	200	200	0.0%
4210	Rent	11,300	5,224	7,313	12,536	11,545	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	2,350	765	1,071	1,835	2,215	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	100	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	4,000	170	3,830	4,000	4,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	3,800	3,703	0	3,015	3,975	4.6%
4280	Postage	100	0	100	100	400	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	600	148	452	600	600	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	15,000	649	11,500	12,149	5,000	-66.7%
4330	Audit & Accounting	12,500	5,074	5,600	10,674	13,313	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	2,500	0	2,000	2,000	2,500	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0			50	
4410	Legal Fees-General	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	0.0%
4500	Engineering	1,250	0	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	1,100	320	747	1,067	1,100	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	300	99	201	300	300	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 396,725	\$ 143,725	\$ 226,337	\$ 369,374	\$ 409,623	3.3%
Projects							
	Water Quality Grant Program 90-01	273,238	23,499	121,561	145,060	402,633	47.4%
	Surface Water Monitoring Program 90-04	240,000	38,099	201,901	240,000	245,000	2.1%
	Common Carp Management 90-26	200,000	45,857	60,604	106,461	200,000	0.0%
	Curly Leaf Pondweed Management 90-27	40,000	0	12,000	12,000	40,000	0.0%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 753,238	\$ 107,455	\$ 396,066	\$ 503,521	\$ 887,633	17.8%
Total Expenses - Lake & Stream		\$ 1,149,963	\$ 251,180	\$ 622,403	\$ 872,896	\$ 1,297,256	12.8%

Draft-For Discussion Purposes Only

Rice Creek Watershed District Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - District Facilities - 95

Acct #	Account	2026 Annual Budget	YTD Thru 5/31/26	Projected 6/01-12/31/26	Projected 2026 Total	2027 Proposed Budget	% Difference between 2026 & 2027 Budgets
Revenues							
3100	General Property Tax	1,067,186	0	1,024,498	1,024,498	623,054	-41.6%
3700	Interest Income	32,537	11,693	600	12,293	11,858	-63.6%
3705	Investment Income	42,235	3,217	3,217	6,433	17,033	0.0%
3800	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Revenues		\$ 1,141,958	\$ 14,910	\$ 1,028,315	\$ 1,043,225	\$ 651,946	-42.9%
Expenses							
4000	Manager Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4010	Manager Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4011	Manager Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4100	Wages	135,015	54,515	76,321	130,836	142,884	5.8%
4102	Interns	5,404	0	5,404	5,404	5,612	3.8%
4110	Benefits	22,469	4,885	6,838	11,723	21,138	-5.9%
4115	Paid Leave Expense	0	199	279	478	530	0.0%
4120	PERA Expense	10,126	3,308	4,631	7,938	10,716	5.8%
4125	H.S.A. Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4130	Payroll Taxes	12,090	4,617	6,463	11,080	12,785	5.8%
4140	Payroll Taxes-Unemployment	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4200	Office Supplies	606	19	550	569	606	0.0%
4201	Supplies-Field	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4203	Computer Software	250	0	250	250	250	0.0%
4205	Meeting Supplies/Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4208	Printing	100	0	100	100	100	0.0%
4210	Rent	5,650	2,612	3,657	6,268	5,773	2.2%
4240	Telecommunications	1,175	757	1,060	1,818	1,107	-5.8%
4245	Dues	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
4250	Publications	50	0	50	50	50	0.0%
4265	Training & Education	2,000	437	1,400	1,837	2,000	0.0%
4270	Insurance & Bonds	1,900	1,851	0	1,851	1,988	4.6%
4280	Postage	50	0	50	50	200	300.0%
4290	Legal Notices-General	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4320	Staff Travel	300	258	42	300	300	0.0%
4322	Vehicle Expense	15,000	4,249	10,751	15,000	5,000	-66.7%
4330	Audit & Accounting	6,250	2,537	3,200	5,737	6,656	6.5%
4335	Professional Services	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
4337	Contracted Services	7,000	0	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%
4340	Recruitment	50	0	0	0	50	0.0%
4410	Legal Fees-General	1,000	610	350	960	1,000	0.0%
4500	Engineering	1,000	500	500	1,000	1,000	0.0%
4634	Equipment-Computer	500	0	500	500	500	0.0%
4635	Equipment-General	3,500	0	3,500	3,500	3,500	0.0%
4636	Equipment Lease	550	160	300	460	550	0.0%
4910	Bank Charges	150	50	100	150	150	0.0%
Total Admin Expenses		\$ 234,935	\$ 81,564	\$ 136,046	\$ 217,609	\$ 234,196	-0.3%
Projects							
	District Facilities Repair 95-03	933,210	20,480	912,730	933,210	275,000	-70.5%
	Inspection, Operation & Maint 95-04	192,750	4,331	25,000	29,331	142,750	-25.9%
Total Project Expenses		\$ 1,125,960	\$ 24,811	\$ 937,730	\$ 962,541	\$ 417,750	-62.9%
Total Expenses - District Facilities		\$ 1,360,895	\$ 106,374	\$ 1,073,776	\$ 1,180,150	\$ 651,946	-52.1%

2026 MN Watersheds Resolutions: Select Delegates and Alternates

MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: August 4, 2026
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Kendra Sommerfeld, Communications/Outreach Manager
Subject: 2026 MN Watersheds Resolutions: Select Delegates and Alternates

Introduction

Minnesota Watersheds has distributed the meeting packet for the 2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for member organizations to conduct association business, including consideration of proposed resolutions, discussion of the Legislative Platform, and selection of delegates to represent member organizations during voting.

Background

The Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will be held by Zoom on August 31, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Each member watershed organization is to select delegates and alternate delegates to represent the organization during the meeting. Staff has provided the Board with the meeting packet for review.

Request for Board Consensus

The Board is asked to:

- Review the attached Annual Meeting packet.
- Select delegates and alternate delegates to represent the Rice Creek Watershed District at the Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions. (Selections voted on at 12th Board meeting)
- Discuss the proposed Legislative Platform and provide any comments or direction regarding the District's position on the proposed resolutions and legislative priorities.

Attachment

- 2026 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Meeting Packet

**Minnesota Watersheds
2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
August 31, 2026
Via Zoom**

Member Meeting Materials

Enclosed are the following items:

1. Notice of Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
2. Delegate Appointment Form
3. Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
5. Proposed Legislative Platform Updates
6. Proposed Resolutions
7. Active Resolutions

Please note that the Delegate Appointment Forms are **REQUIRED**. For the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions to be held, **a quorum of 22 delegates MUST be present and must include at least one delegate from each of the three regions.** Please return your Delegate Appointment Forms to Jan Voit at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com at your earliest convenience.

This packet has been distributed to managers, commissioners, administrators, and staff via email. No paper copies of this packet will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

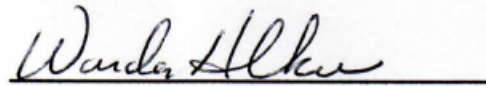
**We are looking forward to your participation in this year's
virtual Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions!**

Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will be held by Zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31 for the following purposes:

1. to receive and accept the report of the Secretary regarding the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions,
2. to consider and act upon proposed Legislative Platform updates, and
3. to consider and act upon proposed Resolutions.

Sincerely,



Wanda Holker
Secretary

Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Delegate Appointment Form

The _____ hereby certifies that it is

name of watershed organization

a watershed district or watershed management organization duly established and in good standing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B or 103D and is a member of Minnesota Watersheds for the year 2026.

The _____ hereby further certifies

name of watershed organization

the following individuals have been appointed as delegates, or as an alternate delegate, all of whom are managers in good standing with their respective watershed district or watershed management organization.

Delegate #1: _____

Delegate #2: _____

Alternate: _____

Authorized by: _____
Signature Date

Title

** Please return this form to jvoit@mnwatersheds.com at your earliest convenience. **



Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

AGENDA

Monday, August 31, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Join online: [CLICK HERE](#)

Join by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 819 9915 5892

Passcode: 362794

GENERAL BUSINESS

10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Process Overview

10:05 a.m. Approval of Agenda (Action)

ACTION ITEMS

10:05 a.m. **2025 MEETING MINUTES** (Action)

10:10 a.m. **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM** (Action)

10:30 a.m. **RESOLUTIONS HEARING** (Action)

Note: If you wish to testify "FOR" or "AGAINST", please raise your hand. You must be recognized by the chair before you speak. Limit your comments to two (2) minutes. Voting on each resolution will be done by hand raising.

Resolution 2026-01 – Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water

Resolution 2026-02 – Supporting Dedicated State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance

Resolution 2026-03 – Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff

Resolution 2026-04 – Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance

Resolution 2026-05 – Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management

Resolution 2026-06 – Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 Million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

Resolution 2026-07 – Seeking Establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Fund

Resolution 2026-08 – Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Source for Outdoor Uses

Resolution 2026-09 – To Protect Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Integrity from Wake Boat Impacts

12:30 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

Minnesota Watersheds | 1005 Mainstreet | Hopkins, MN 55343 | mnwatersheds.com

For more information, contact Jan Voit, jvoit@mnwatersheds.com | 507-822-0921

Minnesota Watersheds

Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

By Zoom

August 25, 2025



1. CALL TO ORDER

The 2025 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions was convened at 10:00 a.m. by President Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD). Twenty two delegates, with at least one delegate from each region, were required for a quorum. There were 33 delegates in attendance when the meeting began, representing all three regions. A quorum was present. The list of delegates can be found at the end of these minutes.

President Kramer explained meeting etiquette. Hand raising was practiced.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

Agenda

Marcie Weinandt, Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) moved to approve the agenda. Mike Lee, SRRWD seconded the motion. The motion passed by hand raising.

3. LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM CHANGES

President Kramer reported on the proposed changes to the Legislative Platform as provided in the meeting packet. Don Pereira, Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) moved to approve the Legislative Platform changes. James Johnson, Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) seconded the motion. The motion passed by hand raising.

4. RESOLUTIONS HEARING

Don Pereira, VBWD moved to open the Resolutions Hearing. The motion was seconded by Jill Crafton, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) which passed by hand raising. Don Pereira, VBWD, presided over the Resolutions Hearing.

Resolution 2025-01 Resolution Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Repairs

Nick Tomczik, RCWD presented the resolution. Marcie Weinandt, RCWD, moved to adopt Resolution 2025-01. Shawn Mazanec, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 was passed by hand raising: 30 in favor, nine opposed.

- **Adopted Resolution 2025-1: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420 to expand the WCA exemption to include all public drainage system repairs and commits its staff to further discussion through the Drainage Work Group in 2025 to promote passage of such legislation in upcoming sessions.

Resolution 2025-02 Resolution Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

Laura Jester, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission presented the resolution. Jill Crafton, RPBCWD, moved to adopt Resolution 2025-02. Chris-Ann Lauria, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 was passed by hand raising: 40 in favor, three opposed.

- **Adopted Resolution 2025-02: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Minnesota Watersheds seeks a revision to Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.79, Subd. 1 to explicitly include “joint powers watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County” to the list of political subdivisions that can participate in the county’s multijurisdictional reinvestment programs.

Resolution 2025-03 Resolution Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds and Tim Kelly, Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) presented the resolution. Jason Lund, CCWD moved to adopt Resolution 2025-03. James Johnson, RRWD, seconded the motion. The vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 was passed by hand raising: 38 in favor, two opposed.

- **Adopted Resolution 2025-03: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Minnesota Watersheds shall pursue legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.99, 84.027, and 116.03 to:
 - separate permit completeness review from compliance standards review so that statutory deadlines for permit decisions are meaningfully triggered.
 - require MDNR and MPCA to develop and publish a list of practical, reasonable information and criteria that constitutes a complete permit application.
 - mandate that, once submitted by the applicant, the application is deemed complete and allows review timelines to begin.
 - require MDNR and MPCA to notify an applicant in writing, within 30 days of receiving a permit application, whether the application is complete or incomplete. If the agency determines the application is incomplete, specific provisions of applicable rules and statutes must be cited, an explanation of what additional information is needed must be provided, and the agency must advise the applicant how the deficiencies can be remedied. If action on the permit application is not completed within 150 days, the permit is deemed to be granted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- the Board of Water and Soil Resources establish a formal process to distribute, on an annual basis, an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.
- pre-application meetings shall be required upon request by a qualified local agency with a project identified in state-approved plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, or other recognized water quality studies. Such meetings shall be scheduled within four weeks of the request.
- local agencies requesting such meetings must provide 10% - 20% design-level plans with sufficient specificity to identify natural resource concerns and constraints.
- failure of either MDNR or MPCA to attend a requested pre-application meeting shall be construed as satisfaction of relevant permitting standards, allowing the project to proceed toward final design and permitting.

Shawn Mazanec, CRWD, moved to close the resolutions hearing. Jill Crafton, RPBCWD, seconded the motion which passed by hand raising.

5. ADJOURNMENT

President Kramer thanked the members for their participation in the meeting. He thanked Don Pereira for chairing the Resolutions Hearing. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Wanda Holker, Secretary

REGION 1	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Linda Vavra		
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	Peter Fjestad	Cathy Affield	
Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	None		
Joe River Watershed District	None		
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers	Bill Petersen	Lein Schiller	
Pelican River Watershed District	Laurie Olson	Rick Michaelson	
Red Lake Watershed District	Gene Tiedemann		
Roseau River Watershed District	Jim Johnson	LaVerne Voll	
Sand Hill River Watershed District	Don Andringa		
Two Rivers Watershed District	Jerry Olsonawski	Daryl Klegstad	
Warroad River Watershed District	None		
Wild Rice Watershed District	Mike Christensen	Duane Erickson	
REGION 2	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Buffalo Creek Watershed District	None		
Cedar River Watershed District	None		
Clearwater River Watershed District	None		
Crooked Creek Watershed District	None		
High Island Creek Watershed District	None		
Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District	None		
Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District	Andrew Weber		
Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District	Ruth Schaefer	Jeff Gertgen	
North Fork Crow River Watershed District	Bob Brauchler	Jim Barchenger	Jim Weller
Okabena Ocheda Watershed District	Casey Ingenthron	Tom Ahlberg	
Shell Rock River Watershed District		Mike Lee	Brad Kramer
Turtle Creek Watershed District	None		
Upper Minnesota River Watershed District	Wanda Holker	Jon Bork	
Yellow Medicine River Watershed District	Tim Buysse	Randy Kamrath	
REGION 3	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Bassett Creek WMC	Joan Hauer		
Brown's Creek Watershed District	Celia Wirth		
Capitol Region Watershed District	Hawona Sullivan Janzen	Shawn Mazanec	Joe Collins
Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District	Paul Richert	Nick Bancks	
Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District	Jackie Anderson		
Coon Creek Watershed District	Jim Hafner	Jason Lund	
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Bill Olson	Steve Sando	
Mississippi WMO	None		
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District	Chris-Ann Lauria	Brian Kirk	
Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District	Beverly Burnett	Bruce Loney	
Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District	Benjamin Karp		Mark Gernes
Rice Creek Watershed District	Marcie Weinandt		
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District	Jill Crafton	Tom Duevel	
South Washington Watershed District	Mike Madigan	Emily Stephens	
Vadnais Lake Area WMO	None		
Valley Branch Watershed District	Don Pereira	Ed Marchan	



**MINNESOTA
WATERSHEDS**
Connecting People. Protecting Water.

2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Abstract

This document articulates clearly defined legislative policies so members and Minnesota Watersheds representatives on the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board, Clean Water Council, and Local Government Water Roundtable can accurately state our positions.

Adopted December 5, 2025

Contents

Purpose	3
Emerging Issues.....	3
Finance	3
1. Capacity.....	3
2. Grant Funding	4
Urban Stormwater	4
1. Stormwater Quality Treatment	4
2. Water Reuse	4
Water Quantity	4
1. Drainage	5
2. Funding	5
3. Flood Control	5
4. Regulation	5
5. Policy	6
Water Quality	6
1. Lakes.....	6
2. Wetlands	6
3. Rivers and Streams.....	6
4. Policy	6
Watershed Management and Operations	6
1. Watershed Powers	7
2. Watershed Duties.....	7
3. Watershed Planning	7
4. Human Resources	7
Agency Relations	7
1. Advocacy	7
2. Representation.....	8
3. Regulation	8
Regulations.....	8
Natural Resources	8
1. Planning	8
2. Policy	8

3. Habitat	9
Results	9
Water Quantity.....	9
Drainage (2024).....	9
Watershed Management and Operations	9
Watershed Duties (2025)	9
Watershed Planning (2024).....	10

Purpose

Minnesota Watersheds represents both watershed districts and watershed management organizations (collectively referred to as Watersheds). That representation underscores the necessity of protecting Watershed powers, duties, and planning responsibilities on a watershed basis.

This legislative platform outlines Minnesota Watersheds positions on legislative matters and serves as the foundation for our organization to support or oppose various local, state, and federal legislation. The legislative platform is based on adopted resolutions and emerging issues as identified by the MAWA Legislative Platform Committee and the Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Legislative Committees and adopted by the membership. It also is designed to clearly articulate defined legislative policies so members and Minnesota Watersheds representatives on the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board, Clean Water Council, and Local Government Water Roundtable can accurately state our positions.

When a resolution sunsets at the end of five years, it is removed from our Active Resolutions but remains as a policy in the Legislative Platform.

Emerging Issues

New or developing problems or concerns may arise that require attention before or during the legislative session. Those problems or concerns likely have not been addressed through the resolutions process, may or may not be identified in the legislative platform, but will need to be addressed by the lobbying team and executive director through attendance and meetings, written comments, testifying at hearings, or legislation. Flexibility is necessary so that the lobbying team and executive director can be proactive on behalf of Minnesota Watersheds with state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and at the legislature.

The Minnesota Watersheds Manual of Policy and Procedures states: *In the event legislation or state agency policy is introduced that may cause harm to Minnesota Watersheds members and there is no policy adopted by Minnesota Watersheds on the issue, the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors may review the legislation or policy and adopt a temporary position on the issue on behalf of the organization. The policy position will be in effect until the next annual resolutions hearing. At that time, the membership must review the policy position and vote on whether it should become a permanent policy position or should expire.*

Finance

Watersheds are tasked with many responsibilities by Minnesota statute and local priorities are set by their boards. To effectively perform those duties, adequate funding is necessary. Although some Watersheds have levy authority, there are many other avenues of funding that are important for achieving local water management, as well as water quality and quantity goals.

1. Capacity

- a. Support Clean Water Funds for implementation, not capacity (Resolution 2021-01A and B)
- b. Support capacity funding for watershed districts (Resolution 2021-02)
- c. Seek Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations (Resolution 2025-02)
- d. Support General Fund repayment of Soil and Water Conservation District capacity funds to the Clean Water Fund

2. Grant Funding

- a. Support metro watershed-based implementation funding for approved 103B plans only (Resolution 2021-07)
- b. Support a more equitable formula for watershed-based implementation funding in the metro
- c. Lobby for watershed-specific grant funding
- d. Lobby for the flood hazard mitigation grant program

Urban Stormwater

Watersheds and land use management partners work to reduce polluted stormwater runoff and/or increase infiltration from urbanization and hard surfaces. Many Watersheds in the state have adopted regulatory standards and/or official controls to successfully manage urban stormwater when land alterations occur. Watersheds also implement a variety of urban stormwater management practices to treat runoff before it enters our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

1. Stormwater Quality Treatment

- a. Support limited liability for certified commercial salt applicators (Resolution 2022-02)
- b. Support, partner/collaborate with a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4s – municipal separate storm sewer system) (if/where appropriate) in permit compliance activities
- c. Support the use of green infrastructure and minimizing impervious surfaces, where practical, in urban development and planning
- d. Where it may exist, support removing duplication of urban stormwater regulatory standards and controls
- e. Support the rescission of the Department of Labor and Industry/Plumbing Board Final Interpretation of Inquiry PB0159, storm drainage surcharge to return to common engineering practice for stormwater pond design

2. Water Reuse

- a. Support the Stormwater Reuse Task Force and for the Minnesota Department of Health to complete a review process (Resolution 2022-01)
- b. Support efforts to clarify and simplify State Plumbing Board rulings and requirements to facilitate more reuse of rainwater/stormwater

Water Quantity

Watersheds are directed by statute to conserve the natural resources of the state by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects. Specific purposes refer to flood damage reduction, stream flows, water supply, and drainage systems, as well as to identify and plan for effective protection and improvement of surface water and groundwater, and to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities. Numerous past, present, and future legislative initiatives have affected how water quantity issues are managed at the local level. This very broad-based topic includes management of the volume of water (drought, flooding, water supply), the flow of water (drainage, storm water, channel restoration, habitat), and recreational (lakes, rivers, wetlands) activities like fishing, boating, and hunting.

1. Drainage

- a. Support the current statutory requirements for notification and coordination in the development of petitioned repairs, drainage improvement projects, and new drainage systems
- b. Support the addition of a classification for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses
- c. Seek increased support for and participation in the Drainage Work Group (Resolution 2022-03)
- d. Oppose the drainage registry information portal
- e. Oppose incorporating increased environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria (M.S. 103E.015 requirements)
- f. Support new legislation modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) regarding Department of Natural Resources regulatory authority over public drainage maintenance and repairs (Resolution 2023-03)
- g. Support a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Reports (Resolution 2025-01)
- h. Oppose mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheets for drainage projects
- i. Investigate ways of maintaining water flow during periods of drought and explore opportunities for aquifer recharge
- j. Support increased state funding for planning and implementation of multipurpose drainage projects
- k. Oppose state rulemaking to regulate agricultural drainage
- l. Clarify that MPCA and DNR coordinate their activities, wherever appropriate, with the activities of watershed organizations and give deference to local government units implementing approved watershed management plans, comprehensive watershed management plans adopted under section 103B.801, total maximum daily load studies, and watershed restoration and protection strategies

2. Funding

- a. Obtain stable funding for flood damage reduction and natural resources enhancement projects (Resolution 2022-05)
- b. Clarify county financing obligations and/or authorize watershed district general obligation bonding for public drainage projects

3. Flood Control

- a. Support crop insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas (Resolution 2021-05)
- b. Seek action for streamlining the Department of Natural Resources Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Resolution 2023-04)

4. Regulation

- a. Support temporary water storage on Department of Natural Resources wetlands during major flood events
- b. Support managing water flows in the Minnesota River Basin (statewide) through increased water storage and other strategies and practices

- c. Work with Minnesota Department of Transportation to support flood control and how to handle increased water volume issues along state and federal highway systems (example from Bemidji district of the Minnesota Department of Transportation)

5. Policy

- a. Support funding for watershed-based climate resiliency projects and studies
- b. Support funding for best management practices that protect and enhance groundwater supply
- c. Seek the ability to allow resale of acquisition buyout property (Resolution 2024-04)

Water Quality

Protecting and improving the quality of surface and ground water in our Watersheds is an essential component of managing water resources on a watershed basis.

1. Lakes

- a. Support limiting wake boat activities (Resolution 2022-06)
- b. Support designation change and research needs for the Chinese Mystery Snail
- c. Support temporary lake quarantine authorization to control the spread of aquatic invasive species
- d. Support streamlining permit applications for rough fish management
- e. Support dredging as a best management practice to manage internal phosphorus loads in lakes

2. Wetlands

- a. Support a statutory requirement for water level control structures in wetland restorations and wetland banks
- b. Support federal, state, and local funding for wetland restoration and protection activities
- c. Seek clarification of the statutorily modified definition of wetlands and the effects on watershed implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 90, Article 3, section 77](#))

3. Rivers and Streams

- a. Support a statutory deadline for Department of Natural Resources Public Waters Work Permits (45-60 days)
- b. Support automatic transfer of public waters work permits to Watersheds (M.S. Chapter 103G.245 Subd.5)

4. Policy

- a. Support funding for watershed-based climate resiliency projects and studies
- b. Support funding for best management practices that protect groundwater quality
- c. Support development, adoption, and implementation of regulatory approaches to reducing chloride contamination in waters of the state (Resolution 2024-01)

Watershed Management and Operations

Protecting, enhancing, defending, and supporting existing Watershed statutory powers, duties, and planning responsibilities is necessary for effective and efficient watershed management and operations.

Specific Watershed powers, duties, and planning responsibilities are contained in Minnesota Statutes [Chapter 103B](#) and [Chapter 103D](#).

1. Watershed Powers

- a. Support and defend eminent domain powers [and the statutory appeals process](#) for watershed districts [as provided in M.S. 103D and 103E](#)
- b. Support Watershed powers to levy property taxes and collect special assessments
- c. Support a watershed district's power to accept the transfer of drainage systems in the watershed; to repair, improve, and maintain the transferred drainage systems; and to construct all new drainage systems and improvements of existing drainage systems in the watershed
- d. Support a Watershed's power to regulate the use and development of land within its boundaries

2. Watershed Duties

- a. Support a Watershed's duty to initiate projects
- b. Support a Watershed's duty to maintain and operate existing projects
- c. Allow alternative notice of watershed district proceedings by publication on the district's website (Resolution 2024-02)
- d. Support a Legislative Amendment to Clarify the Deadline for Watershed Districts to Certify Levies (Resolution 2025-06)

3. Watershed Planning

- a. Support a Watershed's ability to jointly or cooperatively manage and/or plan for the management of surface and ground water
- b. Support the connection between watershed-based implementation and funding
- c. Support development of a soil health goal for metropolitan watershed management plans
- d. Support education and outreach to encourage formation of watershed districts in unserved areas (Resolution 2023-06)

~~4. Human Resources~~

- ~~Seek revision to Minnesota Statute 471.617 to Include Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations (Resolution 2025-04)~~

Agency Relations

Watershed organizations work with many federal and state agencies to accomplish their mission. While relationships vary from administrative to funding and regulatory, agency policies and procedures can have a major impact on Watershed operations and projects. Maintaining strong, positive relations and ensuring Watersheds have a role in policy making is key to successful watershed management and operations.

1. Advocacy

- a. Require a 60-day review period before state agencies adopt new policies related to water and watershed management (Resolution 2021-06)
- b. Increase collaborative efforts between Minnesota Watersheds and all state agencies involved in water management

2. Representation

- a. Support watershed district managers being appointed, not allowing county commissioners to serve as managers

3. Regulation

- a. Streamline the Department of Natural Resources permitting process by increasing responsiveness, decreasing the amount of time it takes to approve permits, providing a detailed fee schedule prior to application, and conducting water level management practices that result in their reaction more quickly to serious, changing climate conditions
- b. Require watershed district permits for all state agencies (Resolution 2023-01)
- c. Oppose mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheets for drainage projects
- d. Request support to request new legislation to set permit review time limits upon the Department of Natural Resources (Resolution 2024-13)
- e. Seek Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness (Resolution 2025-03)
- f. Improve Mitigation Under the Minnesota Endangered Species Act (Resolution 2025-05)

Regulations

Watershed representation on state and local panels and committees and the ability for Watersheds to regulate development and use of land within the organization's boundaries without prohibitive regulatory restrictions is necessary.

- a. Oppose legislation that forces spending on political boundaries
- b. Support the ability to appeal public water designations
- c. Seek Watershed membership on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels (Resolution 2024-03)

Natural Resources

Minnesota Statutes direct Watersheds to conserve the natural resources of the state. Some of the purposes listed in statute are to conserve water in streams and water supply, alleviate soil erosion and siltation of water courses or water basins, regulate improvements by riparian property owners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and wetlands for preservation and beneficial public use; protect or enhance the water quality in water courses or water basins; and protect and preserve groundwater resources.

1. Planning

- a. Ensure timely updates to Wildlife Management Area plans
- b. Support Watershed inclusion in development of state plans (i.e., Prairie Plan, State Water Plan, etc.) related to water and watershed management

2. Policy

- a. Support funding for climate resiliency
- b. Seek clarification in the statutory language regarding funding for and updating the public waters inventory ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 116, Article 3, section 47](#))
- c. Seek the Department of Natural Resources to establish a "Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management" (Resolution 2024-05)

- d. Seek the Department of Natural Resources to adopt a program to incentivize calcareous fen management on private lands (Resolution 2024-07)
- e. Seek a formal process to distribute a complete list of calcareous fens annually (Resolution 2024-10)
- f. Seek the development of a calcareous fen work group (Resolution 2024-12)

3. Habitat

- a. Clarify buffer rule issues
- b. Support funding to reduce erosion and sedimentation
- c. Support funding for the enhancement, establishment, and protection of stream corridors and riparian areas
- d. Support funding for the enhancement and protection of habitats

Results

This section will document when an issue is resolved.

Water Quantity

Drainage (2024)

- Comply with the legislative mandate to review outlet adequacy and notification requirements in the Drainage Work Group
 - During the 2023 legislative session ([Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 60, Article 5, section 21](#)), BWSR and the DWG were directed by the legislature to evaluate and develop recommendations on the definition and application of outlet adequacy as provided in M.S. Chapter 103E.261 and public notice requirements for drainage activities, including a drainage registry portal. The report was developed during DWG meetings following the 2023 legislative session. The report was submitted to the legislature on February 1, 2024 as required by the statutory language.

Watershed Management and Operation

Human Resources (2026)

- Seek revision to Minnesota Statute 471.617 to Include Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations (Resolution 2025-04)
 - ~~SF3887 Pratt, Klein/HF3571 Bakeberg, Tabke, Cha, McDonald. A bill for an act relating to local government; allowing watershed districts to self-insure for certain employee health benefits; making technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.617, subdivisions 1, 2, 4, 4a. Passed both the House and Senate. Signed into law by Governor Walz on May 5.~~

Watershed Duties (2025)

- Support increased flexibility in the open meeting law
 - During the 2025 legislative session, the Open Meeting Law was amended to remove some of the requirements for remote meeting participation using interactive technology. Watershed boards and other local government bodies may conduct their meetings using interactive technology so long as:

- all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear and see one another and can hear and see all discussion and testimony presented at any location at which at least one member is present;
- members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can hear and see all discussion and testimony and all votes of members of the body;
- at least one member of the body is physically present at the regular meeting location; and
- all votes are conducted by roll call so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

Watershed Planning (2024)

- Support watershed autonomy during and following a One Watershed, One Plan development process
 - Changes were made to clarify and modernize M.S. Chapter 103D during the 2024 legislative session ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 90, Article 3, section 42](#)). M.S. Chapter 103D.401 was clarified that a watershed district maintains the authority to adopt a plan even when participating in a comprehensive watershed management planning program under section 103B.801 (One Watershed, One Plan/1W1P).

Legislative Committee Recommendations



The committee's recommendations on resolutions are as follows.

#	Resolution Title	Committee Recommendation
1	Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water	Recommends adoption
2	Supporting Dedicated State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance	Recommends adoption
3	Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff	Recommends adoption
4	Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance	Recommends adoption
5	Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management	Recommends adoption
6	Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 Million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid	Recommends adoption
7	Seeking Establishment of Hazard Mitigation Fund	Recommends adoption
8	Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Sources for Outdoor Uses	Recommends adoption
9	To Protect Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Integrity from Wake Boat Impacts	Recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-01

Resolution Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water

Proposing District: Wild Rice Watershed District
Contact Name: Tara Jensen, Administrator
Phone Number: 218-784-5501
Email Address: tara@wildricewatershed.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution:

Our Board of Managers feels that land owned by DNR and USFWS would provide opportunities for retention sites to store excess waters on wetlands owned and controlled by DNR and USFWS.

The primary goal outlined in the resolution is to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding impacts across Minnesota by increasing the capacity to temporarily store excess water during major flood events. The resolution emphasizes the strategic use of existing wetlands owned and managed by the DNR and USFWS as potential retention sites. This approach is intended to protect both public and private property by reducing downstream flood risks and providing opportunities for habitat improvements.

Additionally, the resolution supports a coordinated, interagency approach, including watershed districts, state agencies, and federal partners, to evaluate and implement these opportunities through a formal review process. The resolution does not establish detailed technical criteria or reference specific management plans; rather, it sets a policy direction and framework for further evaluation and collaboration.

The resolution proposes the establishment of a committee to work collaboratively with the DNR and USFWS to identify existing wetlands on public lands that could serve as floodwater retention sites.

While the resolution itself does not specifically reference LiDAR or other geospatial tools, the intent is to conduct a systematic identification and evaluation process of publicly owned wetlands. This effort will be improved by the high-resolution LiDAR that has been collected across the state of Minnesota. The ultimate tools and methodologies for that evaluation are not defined within the resolution and would be determined through coordination with the participating agencies.

Efforts to solve the problem

Our staff has worked with DNR to construct a control structure on the Goose Prairie WMA to allow excessive flood waters to be held during an identified date range in the spring. This structure allows excess floodwaters to be temporarily retained during a defined window in the spring, demonstrating the feasibility of using existing public wetlands for managed floodwater storage. This effort provides a successful, real-world example of how interagency coordination can result in functional projects that help reduce downstream flood impacts while also providing opportunities to improve habitat.

We would like there to be more effort and communication to encourage DNR and USFWS to review other parcels in which water could be stored to alleviate downstream flooding impacts.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Communicate the possibility to utilize public lands to store water with legislators in an effort to have them support the resolution and develop a committee to review public lands and potential storage opportunities which can occur on them.

Anticipated support or opposition

This resolution would be of interest to other watershed districts, counties, cities and wildlife organizations.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-01

Resolution Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water

WHEREAS, the WRWD discussed the frequent, severe floods within the State of Minnesota and further discussed ways to reduce flood impacts; and

WHEREAS, it is the WRWD's desire for watershed districts and other drainage authorities within the State of Minnesota to discuss with the DNR and the USFWS about the construction of retention sites on certain existing wetlands owned by the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the temporary diversion and storage of excess water in times of major flood events within said retention sites as doing so would reduce flood impacts to both private and public property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds appoint a committee to meet with the DNR and USFWS, identify existing wetlands owned by DNR and USFWS that could serve as retention sites, and discuss the potential for construction of retentions sites and storage of excess waters on said existing wetlands owned and controlled by DNR and USFWS in times of major flood events.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

Summary Background and Rationale for Shoreline Management Resolutions #2 - #5

Background that led to the submission of these resolutions

Minnesota's natural shorelines are continuing to disappear, contributing to degraded lake water quality, reduced habitat, and declining aquatic biological health. The 2023 Natural Shoreline Partnership report, *Minnesota's Vanishing Natural Shorelines: A Loss that Contributes to Degraded Lake Quality*, found that approximately 40 to 50 percent of Minnesota's natural shorelines have already been lost, and that natural shoreline loss is continuing at an estimated rate of 1 to 2 percent per decade. The report also found that mowed "lawn down to lake" shorelines allow 7 to 9 times more phosphorus to enter lakes than naturally vegetated shorelines and recommends a reasonable protection and restoration goal that 75 percent of a shoreline exist in natural vegetation at least 25 feet landward from the lake.

To explore this issue in greater depth, the statewide Natural Shoreline Partnership formed a Shoreline Protection Subcommittee to identify ways to improve how state agencies, local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners regulate and provide technical services for shoreline property owners. The Subcommittee met several times between September 2024 and April 2025 to review challenges with existing state and local rules, DNR Public Water Restoration Rules, shoreline assessments, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, and DNR enforcement procedures.

A central conclusion of the Subcommittee was that Minnesota's public waters rules are not necessarily the primary barrier to natural shoreline protection. Rather, many of the most significant challenges arise from how shoreline alteration rules are explained to the public, how those rules are administered, how consistently they are applied, and how state and local governments coordinate on projects that often affect areas both above and below the ordinary high water level.

Several recurring issues were identified. Public-facing DNR guidance for riprap, sand blankets, and ice-heave repair may be outdated, misunderstood, or applied inconsistently. "No permit required" shoreline activities can be difficult to track and verify. Criteria for determining demonstrated erosion need are not always clear. Coordination among DNR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, and townships varies across the state. Public agencies have also lost technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, and field-based landowner assistance.

These issues create practical problems for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies. Landowners may receive inconsistent information. Contractors may rely on long-standing practices that do not fully protect natural shoreline functions. Local governments may be asked to respond to shoreline impacts without adequate funding, training, or technical support. DNR staff may face increasing expectations without updated guidance, consistent procedures, or sufficient interagency coordination.

The following four resolutions are intended to address these related but distinct needs:

1. **Dedicated State Funding for Local Shoreline Management Assistance** — to build local capacity for landowner assistance, site evaluations, project review, restoration support, and permit coordination.
2. **Statewide Shoreline Management Training and Certification Program** — to improve consistency and technical understanding among state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, restoration, permitting, compliance, and landowner assistance.
3. **Updated Public Shoreline Guidance and Education** — to replace outdated public-facing shoreline alteration guidance and improve statewide communication about natural shoreline protection, bioengineering, riprap, sand blankets, ice-heave repair, permits, and alternatives to hard armoring.
4. **Public Waters Rule and Process Improvements for Shoreline Alterations** — to improve consistency in DNR implementation, develop clearer shoreline evaluation procedures, strengthen coordination among agencies and local governments, address recurring contractor violations, and improve rule and process clarity.

Together, these resolutions request that Minnesota Watersheds support state agency advocacy and, where necessary, legislative action to improve natural shoreline protection and restoration. The intent is not to create unnecessary regulation, but to make shoreline management more consistent, practical,

understandable, and effective for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies while better protecting Minnesota's public waters and natural shoreline functions.

This issue applies statewide and affects watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, landowners, contractors, DNR, BWSR, MPCA, and other partners involved in shoreline management and public waters protection.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-02

Resolution Supporting Dedicated State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance

Proposing District: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
Contact Name: Mike Isensee, Administrator
Phone Number: 612-839-6492
Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Minnesota's natural shorelines continue to be lost or degraded through cumulative shoreline alterations, vegetation removal, hard armoring, grading, sand blankets, and other activities that reduce water quality, habitat, and lake resilience. Local governments, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, counties, cities, and townships, are often the first point of contact for landowners seeking help with shoreline stabilization, restoration, permitting, and natural shoreline alternatives.

As the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other partners improve shoreline evaluation, guidance, and implementation of public waters restoration and shoreline management requirements, additional workload will likely fall on local partners. Many SWCDs and watershed districts do not currently have dedicated funding or staff capacity to provide consistent technical assistance, site visits, project review, landowner support, monitoring, and follow-through for shoreline management.

Successful shoreline protection depends on timely, locally available assistance that helps landowners understand and implement natural shoreline practices before hard armoring or other damaging alterations occur.

Efforts to solve the problem

The statewide Natural Shoreline Partnership has documented the continuing loss of natural shoreline and the need for stronger coordination, education, technical assistance, incentives, and restoration support. A Shoreline Protection Subcommittee later examined shoreline alteration management in more detail and identified a need to rebuild local and state technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration, bioengineering, landowner assistance, and coordinated review.

Local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, and lake associations already provide outreach and technical support where capacity exists. However, this assistance is inconsistent statewide because it often depends on local funding, grants, or limited staff availability.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Yes. Legislative action is likely needed to establish dedicated and ongoing state funding for local shoreline management assistance.

The purpose of legislative action would be to create a stable state funding source that supports SWCDs, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local partners in providing shoreline technical assistance, landowner site visits, project design support, permit coordination, monitoring, and implementation assistance.

If legislative action is not immediately pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate with DNR, BWSR, MPCA, and legislative committees to recognize shoreline management as a shared state-local responsibility and to include shoreline technical assistance in future state funding programs.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, lake associations, local governments, fisheries and habitat advocates, and organizations working to protect water quality and aquatic life.

Opposition or concern may come from parties concerned about new state spending or increased local government involvement in shoreline projects. These concerns can be addressed by emphasizing that the funding is intended to provide practical landowner assistance, improve consistency, reduce confusion, and support voluntary natural shoreline restoration before enforcement or regulatory conflicts occur.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions	x	Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state		Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-02

Resolution Supporting State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, and public waters provide substantial public benefits, including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood resilience, recreation, and property value protection; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s natural shorelines continue to be lost or degraded through cumulative shoreline alterations, vegetation removal, hard armoring, grading, and other activities that reduce habitat and water quality benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working to improve shoreline evaluation, guidance, and implementation of public waters restoration and shoreline management requirements; and

WHEREAS, improved shoreline evaluation and implementation will likely create additional workload for local governments, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, counties, and other local partners; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 383B.79 does not expressly include joint powers watershed management organizations (WMOs) in the list of political subdivisions allowed to officially participate in these programs.

WHEREAS, local governments are often the first point of contact for landowners seeking assistance with shoreline stabilization, restoration, permitting, and natural shoreline alternatives; and

WHEREAS, many SWCDs and watershed districts do not currently have adequate dedicated funding or staff capacity to provide consistent technical assistance, site evaluations, landowner support, and project follow-through for shoreline management; and

WHEREAS, successful shoreline protection and restoration depends on timely, practical, and locally available technical assistance that helps landowners understand and implement natural shoreline practices before hard-armoring or other damaging alterations occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the creation of dedicated state funding to assist Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local government partners with shoreline management technical assistance, project review, landowner support, and implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding should support local staff time, technical evaluations, landowner site visits, project design assistance, permit coordination, monitoring, and follow-up needed to advance natural shoreline protection and restoration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports state funding that recognizes shoreline management as a shared state-local responsibility requiring adequate and ongoing local capacity.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-03

Resolution Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff

Proposing District: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
Contact Name: Mike Isensee, Administrator
Phone Number: 612-839-6492
Email Address: mike.isensee@cmscwg.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

Shoreline management decisions often require technical evaluation of erosion causes, shoreline condition, vegetation, soils, slopes, wave energy, ice action, habitat impacts, water quality impacts, and the suitability of proposed stabilization or restoration methods. Inconsistent understanding and application of shoreline standards can result in inconsistent permitting decisions, landowner confusion, unnecessary hard armoring, and continued loss of natural shoreline functions.

The Wetland Conservation Act provides a useful model for structured training, certification, and interagency review that helps support consistent implementation across jurisdictions. Shoreline management would benefit from a similar statewide training and certification program for state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, permitting, restoration, compliance, and technical assistance.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee reviewed DNR Public Waters Rules, riprap, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, enforcement procedures, and local shoreline assessment work. The Subcommittee identified the need for shared training standards, consistent terminology, common evaluation methods, and improved understanding of natural shoreline restoration and bioengineering alternatives.

Local staff, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, and DNR staff currently work on shoreline issues, but training and technical capacity vary significantly across the state. This creates inconsistent outcomes for landowners and natural resource protection.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action may be needed if a formal statewide certification program requires statutory authority, dedicated funding, or direction to state agencies.

The purpose of legislative action would be to direct or fund the development of a statewide shoreline management training and certification program, modeled in part on the structured training and certification approach used for Wetland Conservation Act implementation. The program should include shoreline condition evaluation, erosion drivers, natural shoreline design, bioengineering methods, public waters permitting requirements, restoration standards, vegetation protection, habitat impacts, enforcement considerations, and long-term maintenance.

If legislation is not required, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate for DNR, BWSR, MPCA, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners to develop and implement the training program administratively.

Anticipated support or concern

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, SWCDs, local governments, state agency staff, lake associations, and professional organizations seeking more consistent shoreline evaluation and permitting.

Opposition or concern may come from those concerned about additional certification requirements, cost, or administrative burden. These concerns can be addressed by designing the program to improve consistency, provide practical field-based training, and support better landowner service rather than simply adding new requirements.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-03

Resolution Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff

WHEREAS, shoreline management decisions often require technical evaluation of erosion causes, shoreline condition, vegetation, soils, slopes, wave energy, ice action, habitat impacts, water quality impacts, and the suitability of proposed stabilization or restoration methods; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent understanding and application of shoreline standards can result in inconsistent permitting decisions, landowner confusion, unnecessary hard armoring, and continued loss of natural shoreline functions; and

WHEREAS, the Wetland Conservation Act provides a useful model for technical training, certification, and interagency review that helps support more consistent implementation across jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, shoreline management would benefit from a similar structured training and certification program for state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, permitting, restoration, compliance, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, counties, cities, townships, and DNR staff would benefit from shared training standards, consistent terminology, and common evaluation methods; and

WHEREAS, certification-based training would help ensure that shoreline evaluations consider the cause and degree of shoreline change, the impacts of proposed alterations, and the availability of natural or bioengineering alternatives before structural hard armoring is authorized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development of a statewide shoreline management training and certification program for state and local staff, modeled in part on the structured training and certification approach used for Wetland Conservation Act implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the training program should include evaluation of shoreline condition, erosion drivers, natural shoreline design, bioengineering methods, public waters permitting requirements, restoration standards, vegetation protection, habitat impacts, enforcement considerations, and long-term maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development of a consistent shoreline evaluation framework that can be used by DNR staff, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, and other local partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the use of technical evaluation panels or similar interagency review processes for complex shoreline alteration proposals, similar in concept to technical review processes used under the Wetland Conservation Act.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-04

Resolution Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance

Proposing District: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
Contact Name: Mike Isensee, Administrator
Phone Number: 612-839-6492
Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

Landowners, contractors, consultants, local officials, and local government staff rely on public-facing information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources when evaluating shoreline stabilization, restoration, and alteration options.

The Natural Shoreline Subcommittee identified several recurring issues with DNR guidance for riprap, sand blanket, and ice-heave “no permit required” documents. Requirements are often unmet, misunderstood or ignored; “no permit required” shoreline alterations are difficult to track and verify; criteria for determining a demonstrated need for riprap are ambiguous or inconsistently applied;

The outdated or incomplete shoreline alteration guidance documents can create confusion and may encourage practices that are not aligned with current natural shoreline science, restoration standards, state statute, or the protection of public waters.

Older riprap guidance and similar materials contribute to misunderstanding about when riprap is appropriate, what alternatives should be considered, and how natural shoreline functions should be protected. Public education materials should clearly identify the limited circumstances in which riprap, sand blankets, and ice-ridge repair are appropriate, explain the benefits of natural shorelines, including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat, slope stability, wave energy dissipation, climate resilience, and long-term property protection.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership developed Minnesota’s Vanishing Natural Shorelines, which documented the scale of natural shoreline loss and the connection between shoreline alteration and degraded lake quality. The Shoreline Protection Subcommittee then identified the need to update public-facing shoreline materials, improve consistency in messaging, and better explain the difference between natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, riprap, retaining walls, beach creation, vegetation removal, grading, and other shoreline alterations.

Local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, lake associations, and state agencies already provide public education, but messaging is not always consistent and may be undermined by older or outdated state guidance still available to the public.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action is not necessarily required if DNR can update all public-facing guidance, webpages, fact sheets, and permit materials administratively.

However, legislative action may be appropriate if agency direction or funding is needed to ensure outdated materials are replaced and updated guidance is developed in coordination with local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, BWSR, MPCA, lake associations, and other partners.

The purpose or intent would be to ensure that Minnesota’s public shoreline guidance reflects current natural shoreline science, state statute, best available restoration practices, and clear permitting expectations.

If legislation is not pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate directly with DNR and partner agencies to replace outdated shoreline alteration guidance, including older “Shoreline Alterations: Riprap” materials, and to coordinate statewide public education on natural shoreline protection and restoration.

Anticipated support or concern

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, SWCDs, lake associations, local governments, habitat advocates, and organizations working to improve water quality and shoreline stewardship.

Opposition or concern may come from various divisions or regional offices within the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that have relied on existing shoreline alteration guidance, fact sheets, and implementation practices for decades. Concerns may include staff capacity to update guidance, uncertainty about changing long-standing interpretations, the need for internal consistency across DNR programs and regions, concern that revised materials could increase review workload, and reluctance to create expectations that existing past practices were inadequate or inconsistent.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-04

Resolution Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance

WHEREAS, landowners, contractors, consultants, local officials, and local government staff rely on public-facing information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources when evaluating shoreline stabilization, restoration, and alteration options; and

WHEREAS, outdated shoreline alteration guidance can create confusion and may encourage practices that are not fully aligned with current natural shoreline science, restoration standards, state statute, or the protection of public waters; and

WHEREAS, the continued public availability of older shoreline riprap guidance may contribute to misunderstanding about when riprap is appropriate, what alternatives should be considered, and how natural shoreline functions should be protected; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s public education materials should clearly explain the benefits of natural shorelines, including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat, slope stability, wave energy dissipation, climate resilience, and long-term property protection; and

WHEREAS, effective public education should help landowners understand the difference between natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, riprap, retaining walls, beach creation, vegetation removal, grading, and other shoreline alterations; and

WHEREAS, updated public education materials should support consistent messaging by DNR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, contractors, consultants, and other partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources updating its public-facing shoreline management webpages, guidance documents, permit materials, and educational resources to reflect current natural shoreline science, state statute, and best available restoration practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports replacing outdated “Shoreline Alterations: Riprap” guidance and similar materials with updated guidance that more clearly prioritizes avoidance, minimization, natural shoreline restoration, bioengineering, vegetation protection, and long-term shoreline function.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that updated public education materials should clearly identify when permits or notifications are required, what activities may violate public waters rules, and what alternatives are available to landowners before hard armoring is pursued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports coordinated public education among DNR, BWSR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, and other partners to promote consistent shoreline management information statewide.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-05

Resolution Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management

Proposing District: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
Contact Name: Mike Isensee, Administrator
Phone Number: 612-839-6492
Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 establishes requirements for restoration and alteration of public waters, including activities that affect shorelines, beds, banks, and public water resources. Consistent implementation of Minnesota's public waters rules is necessary to protect natural shorelines, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the public interest in lakes, rivers, and streams.

Watershed districts and other local government partners have identified discrepancies and inconsistencies in the implementation of shoreline alteration rules, guidance, permitting, notification, and enforcement. These inconsistencies can result in landowner confusion, uneven regulatory outcomes, continued shoreline degradation, and reduced confidence in state and local shoreline management programs.

Shoreline alteration decisions should include a clear evaluation of existing shoreline condition, the cause and degree of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, less-impactful alternatives, and cumulative impacts to public waters. Contractors who repeatedly conduct shoreline alterations without required notice, permits, or approvals can create significant damage to public waters and place landowners and local governments in difficult compliance situations.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee reviewed challenges with existing state and local shoreline rules, DNR Public Waters Restoration Rules, shoreline assessments, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, and DNR enforcement procedures. The Subcommittee concluded that DNR Public Waters Rules are not necessarily the primary barrier to natural shoreline protection. Rather, the more significant problems are how shoreline alteration rules are expressed to the public, how those rules are administered, and how governments coordinate with each other on projects that span jurisdictional boundaries.

The Subcommittee developed recommendations to update DNR guidance, improve coordination among DNR and local governments, develop administrative procedures for "no permit required" shoreline work, create tools to determine demonstrated erosion need, strengthen training, clarify grading and filling requirements, encourage contractor training or certification, review General Permit barriers, and rebuild technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration and bioengineered shoreline design.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action may be needed if rule changes, agency direction, funding, or statutory clarification are necessary to ensure consistent statewide implementation of public waters shoreline alteration requirements.

The purpose or intent of legislative action would be to support clearer, more consistent, and more coordinated implementation of Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 and related public waters shoreline alteration requirements. This may include direction or support for DNR to:

1. Develop a consistent shoreline evaluation process;
2. Clarify how demonstrated erosion need is evaluated before riprap or other hard armoring is authorized;
3. Establish administrative procedures for "no permit required" shoreline work;
4. Improve coordination between DNR, local governments, SWCDs, and watershed districts;

5. Create a technical evaluation panel or similar interagency review process for complex or sensitive shoreline alteration proposals;
6. Ensure consistent DNR processes and determinations across regions and area offices;
7. Strengthen procedures for recurring contractor violations involving shoreline modifications completed without required notification, permits, or approvals; and
8. Review General Permit processes that may discourage natural or bioengineered shoreline alternatives.

If legislative action is not immediately pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate directly with DNR, MPCA, BWSR, counties, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners to implement these process improvements administratively.

Anticipated support or concern

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, local governments, lake associations, fisheries and habitat advocates, and organizations working to protect water quality, aquatic life, and public waters.

Opposition or concern may come from shoreline contractors, some riparian landowners, and parties concerned about additional process requirements, delays, or limits on shoreline hardening. These concerns can be addressed through clear guidance, timely review procedures, contractor training, practical landowner assistance, and recognition that the resolution seeks consistency, coordination, and protection of public waters rather than unnecessary regulation.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-05

Resolution Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 establishes requirements for restoration and alteration of public waters, including activities that affect shorelines, beds, banks, and public water resources; and

WHEREAS, consistent implementation of Minnesota’s public waters rules is necessary to protect natural shorelines, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the public interest in lakes, rivers, and streams; and

WHEREAS, watershed districts and other local government partners have identified discrepancies and inconsistencies in the implementation of shoreline alteration rules, guidance, permitting, notification, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent application of public waters rules can result in landowner confusion, uneven regulatory outcomes, continued shoreline degradation, and reduced confidence in state and local shoreline management programs; and

WHEREAS, shoreline alteration decisions should include a clear evaluation of the cause, severity, and extent of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, the availability of less-impactful alternatives, and the cumulative impact to public waters; and

WHEREAS, contractors who repeatedly conduct shoreline alterations without required notice, permits, or approvals can create significant damage to public waters and place landowners and local governments in difficult compliance situations; and

WHEREAS, clearer rules, procedures, and enforcement expectations would improve consistency, fairness, and environmental outcomes for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports rule, guidance, and process improvements by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure consistent implementation of Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 and related public waters shoreline alteration requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development and implementation of a consistent shoreline evaluation process that considers the existing shoreline condition, the cause and degree of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, natural shoreline alternatives, and the public water impacts of the proposed work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports creation of a technical evaluation panel or similar interagency process for complex or potentially impactful shoreline alteration proposals, similar in concept to review processes used under the Wetland Conservation Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports improved procedures to ensure consistent DNR processes and determinations across regions and area offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports stronger and more consistent enforcement for recurring contractor violations involving shoreline modifications completed without required notification, permits, or approvals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports rule and process changes that make shoreline management more understandable, consistent, timely, and effective for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies while better protecting Minnesota’s public waters and natural shorelines.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-06

Resolution Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 Million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

Proposing District: Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District
Contact Name: Joni Giese, Administrator
Phone Number: 952-440-0067
Email Address: jgiese@plslwd.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

For over a decade \$10 million has been annually appropriated from the state general fund for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid pursuant to Minnesota Statute 477A.19. The commissioner of revenue computes an amount of AIS prevention aid payable to each county in the state for the following year. Counties must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS at all access sites within the county. In recent years, Scott County has allocated AIS Prevention Aid to Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) to perform Curly-leaf pondweed treatments in district lakes and to offset the cost of boat inspections in district lakes.

As part of the 2025 legislative session, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 was revised to reduce the annual appropriation by 50 percent (\$5 million) for aid payable in 2027 and thereafter. At current funding levels, the AIS Prevention Aid comprises 37 percent of PLSLWD's aquatic vegetation management funding and comprises 50 percent of the PLSLWD's boat inspection funding.

Prior Lake is an extremely popular lake in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, with large numbers of boaters bringing their watercraft to the lake and thus increasing the risk of AIS spread. This issue is not limited to PLSLWD. The reduced funding negatively impacts counties, watershed organizations, soil and water conservation districts, lake associations, and other public agencies that work to prevent the spread of AIS.

Efforts to solve the problem

In 2025, when the proposed funding reduction was first brought forward, numerous organizations lobbied to retain historic funding levels. These efforts were successful in preserving the \$10 million funding levels for 2025 and 2026 and delaying the reduced \$5 million funding level to 2027. A coalition of lake associations are currently organizing to lobby for the preservation of the \$10 million funding levels during the 2027 legislative session. Watershed organizations should join with partners to lobby for the preservation of the \$10 million funding level.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action is the only means of addressing the matter as Minnesota Statute 477A.19 calls for the funding level to be reduced to \$5 million in 2027. The intent of this proposal is to request that Minnesota Statute 477A. 19 be revised to change 2027 funding to \$10 million and to remain at the \$10 million level thereafter.

Anticipated support or concern

The DNR could also be a partner as they administer and support the program. Lake associations, soil and water conservation districts, lake resorts, and communities that rely on lake activities for economic development are likely partners in supporting this legislative revision. Likely detractors from this legislation may be organizations that advocate for smaller government spending.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-06

Resolution Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 Million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid, allocates funds to counties within Minnesota for the purpose of preventing the introduction of or limiting the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within counties that receive the funding; and

WHEREAS, counties may appropriate a portion of the proceeds received from the state to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade, the state has annually appropriated \$10 million from the general fund for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid to Minnesota counties; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 was revised in 2025 to reduce the annual appropriation from \$10 million to \$5 million starting in 2027; AND

WHEREAS, watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, and lake associations in the state depend on Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid to prevent the introduction of and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid will result in reduced prevention efforts that will harm water resources in the state and negatively impact habitat, recreation, and economic development within the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds seeks to revise Minnesota State 477A.19 to preserve annual Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid at \$10 million payable in 2027 and annually thereafter.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-07

Resolution Seeking Establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Fund

Proposing District: Two Rivers Watershed District
Contact Name: Dan Money, Administrator
Phone Number: 218-843-3333
Email Address: dan.money@tworiverswd.com

Background that led to submission of this resolution

Watershed districts have a long history of fighting floods and reducing flood damages. Severe and repeated flooding is documented throughout MN. Current state funding to recover from disasters is available through MN Statute 12A, and funding to prevent/mitigate flooding is available through DNR's Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program under MN Statute 103F. According to DNR, the current known funding needs total \$213 million, however in the 2026 session the legislature only approved \$9 million in the bonding bill to address the problem. In fact, since 2010 there has been a steady decline in the funding of this program, and no funding was approved in 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2024. Therefore, it is apparent that other sources of funding are needed to meet the significant need.

Efforts to solve the problem

Over the past 5 years, meetings have been held with MN DNR to streamline their grant program and bring attention to the needs. This resulted in DNR overhauling the application process and this past session DNR asked for \$45 million to fund the program.

In addition, several meetings were held with various Senators and Representatives. While this was mildly effective, the result was still a significant under-funding of the program. However, HF 4581 and SF 5002 were introduced in 2026 to establish an additional program through the MN Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management that would provide an additional resource to provide funding for prevention / mitigation of natural disasters, including flooding. Although introduced, these bills were not heard in committee.

This resolution seeks to build upon Minnesota Watersheds 22-05 resolution that seeks stable funding for this issue. It is suggested that this issue should be considered one of the highest legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

YES. In order to provide a more stable, reliable source of funding that will help to mitigate the effects of severe and repeated flooding HF 4581/SF 5002 are proposed. These bills will create a new program and a new funding source to supplement existing sources which are dreadfully underfunded. It is proposed that the fund be used for hazard mitigation planning and projects that diminish the potential effects of emergencies through long term risk reduction. The new proposal is modelled after MN Statute 12A and therefore follows a tried and true example of success.

Anticipated support or concern

Potential Support: MN Homeland Security Emergency Management; MN Association of Emergency Managers; Association of MN Counties; Association of Townships; League of MN Cities

Potential Opposition: unknown.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-07

Resolution Seeking Establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Funding

WHEREAS, Severe flooding is known to occur repeatedly within the State of Minnesota, costing both public and private entities millions of dollars for repair and replacement of infrastructure, damage to homes, erosion and sediment control, and damage to cropland, and

WHEREAS, flooding also has severe and repeated impacts to water quality and habitat from erosion, sedimentation, nutrient loading, raw sewage discharges, and chemical spillage, and

WHEREAS, economic studies have estimated that for every dollar spent on flood damage reduction there is a six dollar return on investment, and

WHEREAS, The DNR's Flood Damage Reduction grant program (FHMG) under MN Statute 103F has historically been a successful tool for local governments to utilize to design and build projects to reduce and prevent flooding, protect the environment, and prevent social and economic losses, and

WHEREAS, The DNR's FHMG has not recently been funded adequately by the Legislature, in fact annual bonding appropriations have been significantly declining over the past 10 years with no funding appropriated in 5 out of the past 11 years. Current 2026 legislative appropriations for hazard mitigation funding only amount to 4% of the documented need, and

WHEREAS, The cost of construction continues to increase as proposed shovel ready projects continue to go unfunded, and

WHEREAS, additional funding sources and programs will be necessary to keep up with the need for hazard mitigation projects. In the 2026 legislative session HF 4581 and SF 5002 were introduced to address the problem but were not passed out of committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts pass a resolution to make hazard mitigation funding a top 2027 legislative priority and direct its lobbyist to work on passage of HF 4581 and SF 5002 as introduced in the 2026 legislative session.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-08

Resolution Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Source for Outdoor Uses

Proposing District: Capitol Region Watershed District
Contact Name: Anna Eleria, Administrator
Phone Number: 651-644-8888
Email Address: aeleria@capitolregionwd.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

The MN Plumbing Board, a board of the MN Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), is proposing revisions to Chapter 15 of the Uniform Plumbing Code and the 2020 MN Plumbing Code that would effectively prohibit stormwater as an alternative source of water for non-potable uses. Key proposed changes include prohibiting stormwater as an allowable source of water for irrigation and other outdoor uses, expanding plumbing code jurisdiction from buildings to entire sites, and requiring installation of irrigation systems by licensed plumbers which would displace existing landscape and irrigation professionals, and requiring usage of plumbing code-certified materials.

Stormwater reuse is a proven, cost-effective practice that protects lakes and rivers, conserves groundwater, improves water quality, reduces flooding, and supports climate resilience. Eliminating or restricting reuse would remove a critical tool used by municipalities who depend on groundwater for drinking water and seek to conserve it for that use, and watershed districts and municipalities that rely on reuse projects to meet MS4 permit requirements, particularly in areas where infiltration is not feasible.

The proposed changes create significant environmental, financial, and regulatory concerns. They could render existing reuse systems non-compliant, require costly retrofits, and jeopardize millions of dollars in public investments funded through Clean Water Fund grants administered by MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Metropolitan Council (Met Council), and local capital budgets.

Additionally, the proposal conflicts with longstanding state policies and guidance encouraging stormwater reuse, including MPCA stormwater guidance, the Metropolitan Council's 2050 Water Plan, and legislative directives to advance a framework for water reuse practices. It also conflicts with local ordinances, such as one in Lake Elmo, that require stormwater reuse to conserve groundwater. It also contradicts the purpose of the State Interagency Workgroup for Stormwater Capture and Use (SCU), of which the MN Department of Labor and Industry is a member of, for advancing the development and implementation of safe and sustainable stormwater capture and use practices. This group committed to continue active participation in the work group and support for a broad stakeholder engagement process to ensure a coordinated, collaborative and transparent approach to SCU guidance and policy in Minnesota.

Efforts to solve the problem

Minnesota Watersheds and Capitol Region Watershed District are working closely with a large and broad coalition group who share similar concerns. Key members of the coalition so far include the League of MN Cities, MN Cities Stormwater Coalition, MN Nursery and Landscape Association, MN Farmers Union and many others. For a full list, see the information below. Efforts to address these concerns include:

- Communicating with watershed districts and watershed management organizations to raise awareness of the issue, keep them informed of how they can help, and the activities of the coalition group
- Reaching out to various state agencies and boards including the Minnesota Plumbing Board, MN Department of Labor and Industry, MN Department of Public Health, MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, and others. The outreach has included notifying them of the proposed changes and our concerns
- Initiating outreach to legislators, counties, and conservation organizations
- Developing shared messaging, talking points and response strategies with the broad coalition group
- Raising concerns about the lack of coordination with agencies responsible for water quality and

stormwater management

To date, stakeholders are responding quickly and helping to get the word out to the groups and individuals listed above and in turn, they are also reaching out to State agency leaders and legislators and expressing their concerns. In addition, a request has been made for a special Plumbing Board meeting to show opposition to their proposed changes.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative actions are needed to address this issue. The intent of this resolution is to:

- Prevent adoption of plumbing code revisions that prohibit stormwater reuse
- Explicitly allow for stormwater capture and use for irrigation and other outdoor non-potable uses in State law
- Ensure coordination between the Plumbing Board, MPCA, MDH, BWSR, cities, watershed organizations, and other local governments
- Align plumbing regulations with existing state policies and guidelines supporting stormwater reuse, water conservation, groundwater protection, and climate resilience
- Protect prior public investments in stormwater reuse systems
- Maintain stormwater reuse as a viable strategy for MS4 compliance
- Ensure decisions on regulation and design for stormwater infrastructure are made by the appropriate agencies and practitioners

Recommended actions include:

- Legislation that allows stormwater reuse for irrigation and other outdoor uses. In 2025, Senate bill (S.F. No. 2442) was introduced and brought to the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee. This committee passed an amended bill and referred it to the Health and Human Services Committee in 2026. It is our understanding that it remains in the hands of the Health and Human Services Committee who has not and will not conduct a hearing in the 2026 legislative session.
- Direction to the Minnesota Plumbing Board to pause all revisions to plumbing code (including Chapter 15) until interagency coordination and alignment is achieved
- Continued coordination and advocacy with state agencies and policymakers

Anticipated support or opposition

There is a growing broad coalition of groups who are partnering in efforts to prevent changes to the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would explicitly eliminate stormwater as an alternative source of water for outdoor uses. As of May 14, 2026, the list of partners include:

- League of Minnesota Cities
- Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition
- Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Minnesota Watersheds
- LiUNA
- Associated General Contractors
- Housing First
- Minnesota Association of Cemeteries
- Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation
- Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
- Irrigators Association of Minnesota
- Hospitality Minnesota
- Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Freshwater Society
- American Society of Landscape Architects MN Chapter
- Anoka County

- Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association

Groups who are or may be opposed to our efforts include:

- Minnesota Plumbing Board
- Minnesota Pipe Trades Association
- Minnesota Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors
- Plumbing unions

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-08

Resolution Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Source for Outdoor Uses

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Plumbing Board, under the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), is proposing revisions to Chapter 15 of the Uniform Plumbing Code and related provisions of the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would prohibit stormwater as an alternate source of water for irrigation and other outdoor non-potable uses; and

WHEREAS, stormwater reuse is a proven and cost-effective practice that protects lakes and rivers, conserves groundwater, improves water quality, reduces flooding, and supports climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, restricting stormwater reuse would remove a critical compliance and water-management tool for municipalities, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local governments, particularly where groundwater resources are limited, where infiltration is not feasible and where reuse projects help meet MS4 permit requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed code changes could render existing reuse systems non-compliant, require costly retrofits, and jeopardize significant public investments funded through local budgets and grants administered by Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Metropolitan Council (Met Council); and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes conflict with the directives of the MN Legislature in 2015, 2017, and 2021 to advance safe and sustainable water reuse in Minnesota, including stormwater capture and use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes conflict with longstanding state and local policies and guidance encouraging stormwater reuse including MPCA's Stormwater Manual and Met Council's 2025 Water Policy Plan;

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of local governments, watershed organizations, professional associations, businesses, and nonprofit partners has formed in support of preserving stormwater reuse as a lawful and practical water-management strategy; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Senate Bill SF2442, a 2025 bill relating to the outdoor use of rainwater and stormwater, would authorize state agencies and local governments to allow untreated rainwater or stormwater for outdoor purposes when the probability of human or animal consumption or immersion is low or nonexistent, and was reported out of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee to the Health and Human Services Committee in March 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to explicitly allow stormwater as an alternate water source for outdoor non-potable purposes, including irrigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to assign MPCA as the State agency responsible for oversight of stormwater capture and use systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds requests that the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and the Minnesota Plumbing Board pause proposed plumbing code revisions affecting stormwater reuse until interagency coordination and meaningful stakeholder engagement are completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future regulation of stormwater capture and use should align with existing State policy and guidelines, protect prior public investments, and preserve stormwater reuse as a viable strategy for water conservation, groundwater protection, and stormwater management.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-09

Resolution to Protect Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Integrity from Wake Boat Impacts

Proposing District: Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District
Contact Name: Terry Jeffery, Administrator
Phone Number: 952-687-1107
Email Address: tjeffery@rpbcwd.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution

There is increasing evidence, including recent studies by the University of MN, Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL), that the operation of wake boats produce significant erosive forces both horizontally¹ and vertically. This results in shoreline degradation and loss as well as suspension of sediments from the lake substrate. The vertical prop wash damages aquatic vegetation and degrades aquatic habitat². Currently, there is only voluntary guidance regarding the operation of these watercrafts in relation to shorelines and no guidance on depth of water in which operation should occur.

Any regulations on the operation of these watercraft is through locally enacted ordinances. As this is an issue with statewide implications, reliance on local ordinances is insufficient to address.

Efforts to solve the problem

The RPBCWD has funded the research performed by SAFL. The RPBCWD has provided education to Lake Associations and local municipalities on the impacts of wake boat operation. The RPBCWD, or any watershed district, does not have the authority to regulate surface water usage for watercraft.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

As this is a statewide issue and the Department of Natural Resources largely relies on local ordinances to implement their regulatory framework, this is an issue that is best addressed through statewide regulation on one or more of the following:

- A minimum water depth for wake-surfing operations, consistent with SAFL research on lakebed disturbance and sediment resuspension;
- A minimum setback distance from shorelines, docks, and emergent vegetation as necessary to protect shoreline stability, habitat integrity, and water quality, consistent with SAFL research; and
- Require that new and existing wake boats be equipped with ballast systems that can be fully drained and effectively decontaminated to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species and contaminants between water bodies.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support for this will vary. Numerous lake association groups will support this while many others will oppose. The same holds true for various recreation groups. Angling associations and groups would be anticipated to support while recreational boaters may be in opposition. Municipalities that are within RPBCWD have been reticent to enacting unilateral code changes to address the operation of wake boats but may be more amenable to a statewide initiative.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

¹ [A Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake](#)

² [A Field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydrodynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed](#)

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2026-09

Resolution to Protect Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Integrity from Wake Boat Impacts

WHEREAS, in 2022, Minnesota Watersheds adopted a Resolution to Limit Wake Boat Activities, which called for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- a) limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
- b) require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks;
- c) Provide funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Watersheds Manual of Policy and Procedures, this Resolution will sunset in 2027, but the impacts from wake boat activities on lake ecosystems and shorelines have persisted and grown worse; property owners and lake users continue to report widespread damage to property, disruptions to fishing, and degradation of lake environments from wake boats; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the statutory authority to adopt rules relating to the “rules of the road” for watercraft navigation, and, at the request of local government, the use of the waters of the state by watercraft; currently, the DNR’s primary approach to dealing with wake boat impacts is through review of locally enacted ordinances and an “Own Your Wake” campaign to promote voluntary compliance with general wake guidelines; these guidelines suggest staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures to reduce the likelihood wakes will cause damage, these guidelines are silent on a minimum water depth for wake surfing; and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) has published two studies of the impacts of wake boats; the first study, A Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake, concluded that when operating under typical wake surfing conditions, wake surf boats required distances greater than 500 ft to attenuate wake wave characteristics (height, energy, and power) to levels equivalent to non-wake surf boats operating under typical planing conditions; SAFL’s second study, A Field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydrodynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed published July 2025, recommends that wake boats operate in 20 feet of water or greater when in semi-displacement mode to minimize impacts to the lake bottom; and

WHEREAS, the SAFL studies demonstrate that the DNR’s current voluntary guidelines are insufficient to protect lake ecosystems and shorelines; only four percent (4%) of Minnesota’s lakes currently have local ordinances restricting wake boat operation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that would require the DNR to establish minimum operational and design standards for inboard motorized recreational vessels equipped with ballast or wake-enhancement systems (wake boats), including:

- A minimum water depth for wake-surfing operations, consistent with SAFL research on lakebed disturbance and sediment resuspension;
- A minimum setback distance from shorelines, docks, and emergent vegetation as necessary to protect shoreline stability, habitat integrity, and water quality, consistent with SAFL research; and
- Require that new and existing wake boats be equipped with ballast systems that can be fully drained and effectively decontaminated to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species and contaminants between water bodies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports funding for SAFL to pursue further research to focus on the impact of boat and wind waves on the environment close to shore, including plants.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

Active Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions

June 29, 2026



FINANCE

Capacity

2025-02: Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

Minnesota Watersheds seeks a revision to Minnesota Statutes, Section 383B.79, Subd. 1 to explicitly include “joint powers watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County” to the list of political subdivisions that can participate in the county’s multijurisdictional reinvestment programs.

URBAN STORMWATER

Stormwater Quality Treatment

2022-02 Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators

Minnesota Watersheds supports enactment of state law that provides limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established state salt-applicator certification program and follow best management practices.

Water Reuse

2022-01 Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force

Minnesota Watersheds supports administratively or legislatively including at least one Minnesota Watersheds member on the Minnesota Department of Health’s workgroup to move forward, prioritize, and implement the recommendations of the interagency report on reuse of stormwater and rainwater in Minnesota.

WATER QUANTITY

Drainage

2022-03: Seek Increased Support and Participation for the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG)

- Minnesota Watersheds communications increase awareness of the DWG (meeting dates and links, topics, minutes, reports) amongst members.
- Minnesota Watersheds training opportunities strongly encourage participation in the DWG by watershed staff and board managers (for watersheds that serve as ditch authorities or work on drainage projects) – for e.g., add agenda space for DWG member updates, host a DWG meeting as part of a regular event.
- In preparation for Minnesota Watersheds member legislative visits, staff add a standing reminder for watershed drainage authorities to inform legislators on the existence, purpose, and outcomes of the DWG, and reinforce the legitimacy of the DWG as a multi-faceted problem-solving body.
- During Minnesota Watersheds staff Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) visits, regularly seek updates on how facilitation of the DWG is leading to improvements for member drainage authorities and convey this information to members.

2023-03: Support New Legislation Modeled after HF4863 and SF4814 (2026) Regarding DNR Regulatory Authority over Public Drainage Maintenance and Repairs

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation modeled after [HF4863](#) and [SF4814](#) and commits its lobbying efforts toward promoting the passage of the bills in subsequent sessions.

2025-01: Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Repairs

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420 to expand the WCA exemption to include all public drainage system repairs and commits its staff to further discussion through the Drainage Work Group in 2025 to promote passage of such legislation in upcoming sessions.

Funding

2022-05: Obtain Stable Funding for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resources Enhancement Projects

Minnesota Watersheds supports collaborating with the Red River Watershed Management Board and state agencies to seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to provide stable sources of funding through existing or potentially new programs that provide flood damage reduction and/or natural resources enhancements. A suggested sustainable level of funding is \$30 million per year for the next 10 years.

Flood Control

2023-04 Seeking Action for Streamlining the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Minnesota Watersheds seeks action requiring the DNR to establish transparent scoring, ranking, and funding criteria for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (M.S. Chapter 103F) and asking the Minnesota Legislature to fully fund the state's share of eligible projects that are on the DNR's list within each two-year bonding cycle. Information regarding scoring, ranking, and funding should be provided annually to project applicants.

Policy

2024-04: Seeking the Ability to Allow Resale of Acquisition Buyout Property

Minnesota Watersheds seeks federal legislation to allow the conveyance by an LGU of flood acquisition buyout real estate to a public entity or to a qualified conservation organization, or alternatively a resale to a private taxpayer, subject to the FEMA Model Deed Restrictions as stated in Exhibit A.

WATER QUALITY

Lakes

2022-06: Limit Wake Boat Activities

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- Limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
- Require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks; and
- Providing funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems.

Policy

2024-01: Regulatory Approaches to Reducing Chloride Contamination

Minnesota Watersheds supports development, adoption, and implementation of regulatory approaches to reducing chloride contamination in waters of the state.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Duties

2025-06: Support a Legislative Amendment to Clarify the Deadline for Watershed Districts to Certify Levies

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes §§103D.911 and 103D.915 to specify a levy certification deadline of September 30.

2023-05: Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law

Minnesota Watersheds hereby supports changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide greater flexibility in the use of interactive technology by allowing members to participate remotely in a nonpublic location that is not noticed, without limit on the number of times such remote participation may occur; and allowing public participation from a remote location by interactive technology, or alternatively from the regular meeting location where interactive technology will be made available for each meeting, unless otherwise noticed under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021; and that Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring watershed district to prepare and publish procedures for conducting public meetings using interactive technology.

2024-02: Alternative Notice of Watershed District Proceedings by Publication on the District's website

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Watershed Law to provide for publication on a watershed district's website as an alternative to publication in a legal newspaper.

Watershed Planning

2023-06 Education and Outreach to Encourage Formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas

Minnesota Watersheds, in consultation with its membership, will develop a framework for education and outreach intended to encourage petition and advocacy for the formation of watershed districts in areas of the state not presently served by watershed-based public agencies.

Human Resources

2025-04 Revision to Minnesota Statute 471.617 to Include Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations

Minnesota Watersheds seeks revision to Minnesota Statute 471.617, Subdivisions 1 and 2 to explicitly include "Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations" on the list of political subdivisions allowed to self-insure for employee health benefits.

AGENCY RELATIONS

Regulation

2023-01 Require Watershed District Permits for all State Agencies

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes § 103D.345, Subd. 5 to read as follows: **Subd. 5. Applicability of permit requirements to state.** A rule adopted by the managers that requires a permit for an activity applies to all state agencies, including the Department of Transportation.

2024-13 Request New Legislation to Set Permit Review Time Limits upon the DNR

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes to implement a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an EAW.

2025-03 Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

Minnesota Watersheds shall pursue legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.99, 84.027, and 116.03 to:

- Separate permit completeness review from compliance standards review so that statutory deadlines for permit decisions are meaningfully triggered.
 - Require MDNR and MPCA to develop and publish a list of practical, reasonable information and criteria that constitutes a complete permit application.
-

- Mandate that, once submitted by the applicant, the application is deemed complete and allows review timelines to begin.
- Require MDNR and MPCA to notify an applicant in writing, within 30 days of receiving a permit application, whether the application is complete or incomplete. If the agency determines the application is incomplete, specific provisions of applicable rules and statutes must be cited, an explanation of what additional information is needed must be provided, and the agency must advise the applicant how the deficiencies can be remedied. If action on the permit application is not completed within 150 days, the permit is deemed to be granted; and that
- The Board of Water and Soil Resources establish a formal process to distribute, on an annual basis, an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.
- Pre-application meetings shall be required upon request by a qualified local agency with a project identified in state-approved plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, or other recognized water quality studies. Such meetings shall be scheduled within four weeks of the request.
- Local agencies requesting such meetings must provide 10% - 20% design-level plans with sufficient specificity to identify natural resource concerns and constraints.
- Failure of either MDNR or MPCA to attend a requested pre-application meeting shall be construed as satisfaction of relevant permitting standards, allowing the project to proceed toward final design and permitting.

2025-05 Improving Mitigation Under the Minnesota Endangered Species Act

Minnesota Watersheds should pursue legislation that addresses the need to improve threatened and endangered species mitigation by addressing past gaps and future challenges arising from approved water quality restoration projects, and

- that Minnesota Statute 84.0895 should be amended to require the Commissioner of Natural Resources to develop and implement recovery plans for the conservation and survival of state listed endangered and threatened species, and
- the Commissioner shall cooperate to the maximum extent practicable with local land and water management authorities. Such cooperation in implementing the endangered species act shall allow the Commissioner to:
 - Enter into management agreements with any local land managing unit of government for the administration and management of an area established for the conservation of endangered or threatened species.
 - Enter into cooperative agreements which establishes and maintains an adequate and active program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species.
 - Conduct periodic review of locally administered programs at no greater frequency than annual intervals.
- Minnesota Statutes 84.0895 Subd 7, which outlines general exceptions, should be amended by adding (f) the commissioner must give approval under this subdivision to water management projects that are part of a state approved:
 - Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans and capital improvement plans under MS 103B or MS 103D;
 - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS);
 - Load reduction studies,
 - Impairment monitoring and other studies, particularly studies involving impairments for fish and aquatic life.
- Minnesota Statutes 84.0895 should be amended to provide for “conservation banking” defined by a site or suite of sites that provide the ecological functions and services expressed as credits that are conserved and managed in perpetuity for a species and used expressly to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same species.

REGULATIONS

2024-03: Provide for Watershed Management Organization Representation on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels

Minnesota Watersheds supports amendment of Minnesota Statutes 103G.2242, subdivision 2 to include a watershed management organization representative on TEPs that are convened in cases where the organization is not the WCA LGU.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Policy

2024-5: Seeking the DNR to Establish a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management”

Minnesota Watersheds supports DNR establishing a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management” as a tool for project proposers to analyze a project’s feasibility or cost effectiveness.

2024-7: Seeking the DNR to Adopt a Program to Incentivize Calcareous Fen Management on Private Lands

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources adopting a program through which a fee is paid to landowners to incentivize them to manage the quantity and quality of the Calcareous Fens on private lands, which program is made similar to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program or similar to a perpetual easement through the Board of Water and Soil Resources Reinvest in Minnesota.

2024-10: Seeking a Formal Process to Distribute a Complete List of Calcareous Fens Annually

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Board of Water and Soil Resources establishing a formal process to distribute on an annual basis an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.

2024-12: Seeking the Development of a Calcareous Fen Work Group

Minnesota Watersheds supports the relevant state agencies, together with relevant stakeholders (including watershed districts), convene a work group to develop by consensus clear, objective and measurable criteria for determining the presence and quality of Calcareous Fen, which criteria shall thereafter be used by all state and local units of government.

Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2026

All resolutions cease to be active at the end of the fifth year following the resolution’s adoption.

2021-01A: Support SWCD Capacity Fund Sources

Minnesota Watersheds supports SWCD capacity funds to come from county and state general funds.

2021-01B: Support Clean Water Funds for Implementation, Not Capacity

Minnesota Watersheds supports Clean Water Funds being used for implementation and not for capacity.

2021-04: Support Crop Insurance to Include Crop Losses Within Impoundment Areas

Minnesota Watersheds supports expansion of Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas.

2021-05: Support 60-day Review Required for State Agencies on Policy Changes

Minnesota Watersheds supports requiring state agencies to provide a meaningful, not less than 60-day review and comment period from affected local units of government on new or amended water management policies, programs, or initiatives with a response to those comments required prior to adoption.

2021-06: Support Metro Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for Approved 103B Plans Only

Minnesota Watersheds supports BWSR distribution of metro WBIF among the 23 watershed management organizations with state-approved comprehensive, multi-year 103B watershed management plans. Those plans implement multijurisdictional priorities at a watershed scale and facilitate funding projects of any eligible local government unit (including soil and water conservation districts, counties, cities, and townships).