

APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, August 11, 2025

Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota

and
Meeting also conducted by alternative means
(teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote locations

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

Attendance: Mike Bradley, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt

Absent: Steve Wagamon and Jess Robertson -with prior notice

Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Lake & Stream Manager Matt Kocian, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Communications & Outreach Manager Kendra Sommerfeld, Project Manager David Petry, Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering Inc. and District Attorney John Kolb-Rinke Noonan (video-conference)

Visitors:

Metropolitan Council Groundwater Recharge Efforts – White Bear Lake

Lake and Stream Manager Kocian provided a presentation on the White Bear Lake Water Levels and the Metropolitan Council-led White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group. The Met Council recently submitted a question to the Board: Does the RCWD Board support the investigation of potential surface water pumping from Peltier/Centerville, the Bald Eagle outlet, Ramsey Washinton Judicial Ditch 1, and areas of the City of Grant (outside of RCWD) to White Bear Lake. The Board discussed the information presented and MCES Work Group request.

Manager Bradley offered the following motion,

(1) Providing Rice Creek Watershed District's (RCWD) position on the use of surface water from Bald Eagle Lake (Ditch 1, or Bald Eagle Lake outlet), or Peltier/Centerville Lakes to augment water surface levels in White Bear Lake.

(2) RCWD supports the investigation of potential sources for re-use and diversion for the purpose of hydraulic augmentation of White Bear Lake. However, with respect to the use of water from these specific resources, RCWD is guided by its Watershed Management Plan. RCWD's Watershed Management Plan (as addressed through its stormwater grant program and other approved comprehensive sub-watershed plans) strongly endorses using water reuse and groundwater recharge where the water is not needed to sustain existing surface water levels and/or the diverted water addresses capacity constraints/flooding concerns.

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**BOARD OF
MANAGERS**

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Steven P. Wagamon
Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

With respect to Bald Eagle, Peltier and Centerville Lakes, the surface water has been used for decades to support existing surface water levels. Further, there are no flooding or capacity concerns that would be addressed by diverting surface water from Bald Eagle, Centerville or Peltier Lakes.

(3) In addition to being inconsistent with RCWD's Watershed Management Plan, diverting surface water from Bald Eagle, Centerville and Peltier Lakes would not "ensure the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources," as required by Minn. Laws 2023, Chap.60, Art. 1, Sec. 5(f). Nor is such diversion consistent with the duty under Minn. Laws 2023, Chap. 60, Art. 1, Sec. 5(f), to increase ground water recharge.

(4) Further, there are legitimate concerns for water quality impacts on White Bear Lake as water from these other RCWD sub-watersheds each have higher nutrient loads than White Bear Lake, and water diversion would increase the risk of future cross contamination.

Seconded by Manager Weinandt.

Manager Waller proposed to add the word "current" before the text Watershed Management Plan within the motion. In the second paragraph, delete all text following the second sentence. Delete all of paragraph 3.

Friendly amendment by Manager Bradley to accept the addition of the word "current" before Watershed Management Plan in 2nd paragraph. Leave 2nd paragraph as written. Delete the entire 3rd paragraph. Add the final paragraph: "This response does not address areas of the City of Grant, or other alternatives such as the access to the White Bear Lake Subwatershed and its drainage to ditch 11."

Manager Weinandt approved the friendly amendment.

Final Motion:

Position on Rice Creek Watershed District's (RCWD) use of surface water from Bald Eagle Lake (Ditch 1, or Bald Eagle Lake outlet), or Peltier/Centerville Lakes to augment water surface levels in white Bear Lake.

RCWD supports the investigation of potential sources for re-use and diversion for the purpose of hydraulic augmentation of White Bear Lake. However, with respect to the use of water from these specific resources, RCWD is guided by its current Watershed Management Plan. RCWD's current Watershed Management Plan (as addressed through its stormwater grant program and other approved comprehensive sub-watershed plans) strongly endorses using water reuse and groundwater recharge where the water is not needed to sustain existing surface water levels and/or the diverted water addresses capacity constraints/flooding concerns. With respect to Bald Eagle, Peltier and Centerville Lakes, the surface water has been used for decades to support existing surface water levels. Further, there are no flooding or capacity concerns that would be addressed by diverting surface water from Bald Eagle, Centerville or Peltier Lakes.

Further, there are legitimate concerns for water quality impacts on White Bear Lake as water from these other RCWD sub-watersheds each have higher nutrient loads than White Bear Lake, and water diversion would increase the risk of future cross contamination.

This response does not address areas of the City of Grant, or other alternatives such as the access to the White Bear Lake Subwatershed and its drainage to ditch 11.

Motion carried 2-1 (Manager Waller opposed).

2025 MN Watersheds Resolutions – RCWD Delegates and Voting

Staff stated the 2025 MN Watersheds Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will take place virtually via Zoom on August 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The Board will need to identify 2 delegates. The Board by consensus identified Manager Bradley and Weinandt as delegates with no alternate. The Board reviewed the resolutions which included the District's. The Board by consensus agreed to support the resolutions and legislative platforms presented and consider both items for action at Wednesday's meeting.

BWSR/MAWA Outstanding Watershed Staff Awards – Solicitation of Nominations

President Bradley nominated Communications and Outreach Manager Kendra Sommerfeld for outstanding watershed staff award. The Board by consensus agreed to the nomination. Staff will complete and send in appropriate paperwork for the nomination.

Administrator Updates

- Per Manager Waller's request, a Forest Lake open house notice was distributed to the Board regarding their Proposed Eureka Avenue North Improvements Project.

The workshop was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.