



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

**Mounds View City Hall Council Chambers**  
**2401 County Road 10, Mounds View, Minnesota**  
**and**

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

### Minutes

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Michael Bradley called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 9:00 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** President Michael Bradley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres. John Waller, Treasurer Marcie Weinandt, and Secretary Jess Robertson

**Absent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres. Steve Wagamon-(with prior notice)

**Staff Present:** District Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Technician Emmet Hurley (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

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

**Visitors:** Chris Stowe; Catherine Decker; Administrator Nyle Zikmund, City of Mounds View

#### **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Stowe, 426 Pine Street, expressed concerns about how wetland credits are established and referenced the Browns Creek Wetland Preserve. He outlined what he believed was being done by selling wetland credits, which, in his opinion, was a scam, and expressed concerns about flooding issues, taking down trees for development, and filling in the wetlands. He noted that he still had flooding issues on his properties.

President Bradley clarified that the Rice Creek Brown's Preserve was only used for Rice Creek projects and credits were not sold to private parties.

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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

29 Manager Waller shared background information related to the legislature's determination that  
30 the DNR had many small wildlife management areas and instructed them to disperse them, and  
31 this was one of those examples that the DNR sold to the District.

## 32 **SETTING OF THE AGENDA**

33  
34 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the agenda as***  
35 ***presented. Motion carried 4-0.***  
36

## 37 **READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL**

38 **Minutes of the August 11, 2025, Workshop and August 13, 2025, Board of Managers Regular**  
39 **Meeting. Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the**  
40 **minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**  
41

## 42 **PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET, LEVY, AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

### 43 **DISTRICT CHARGES**

44 President Bradley recessed the regular meeting for the public hearing.  
45

46 President Bradley opened the public hearing on the 2026 Budget and Levy, including the  
47 watershed-wide property tax levy and a special levy for the Anoka County Ditch 53-62 (ACD 53-  
48 62) WMD.  
49

50 District Administrator Tomczik recognized the District's proper notice of the public hearing and  
51 presented the 2026 budget. He explained that the total budget supports the implementation  
52 of the District WMP and provides for resource management direction for the District. He  
53 reviewed each fund and intended work plans within the proposed 2026 budget including:  
54 General Administration; Communications and Outreach; Information Management; Restoration  
55 Projects; and provided additional detail to reflect on District position and areas that have  
56 received focused interest. He stated that Fund 60 - Restoration title was changed for clarity to  
57 'Restoration - Project Planning and Implementation'. District Administrator Tomczik stated the  
58 fund supports capital projects that provide flood control, drainage, and/or water quality benefit;  
59 excluding efforts that are solely for the purposes of maintaining MS103E systems of Fund 80 or  
60 existing RCWD facilities of Fund 95. The projects combine or augment other work the RCWD  
61 completes as no one program or project addresses the entirety of RCWD obligations and goals.  
62 He identified the difference between the municipal stormsewer design capacity of a 10yr storm  
63 event and the public drainage systems 2yr design, and the increased stormwater runoff volume  
64 draining into the public drainage system via paved surfaces. He recognized the District developed  
65 standards, regulations, District Wide Model, and along with projects of Fund 60, work to identify  
66 and address the increased demands providing stability in the public drainage systems and natural  
67 waterways and flood protection to downstream property owners. District Administrator Tomczik  
68 acknowledged the limits of MS103E as it does not enable the RCWD to initiate projects that  
69 improve, increase, ditch capacity and that increased capacity can only be initiated by a petition

70 from landowners on the system, not the District. He stated the 2026 budget for fund 60  
71 specifically proposes projects that address demands on the public drainage systems in  
72 conjunction with water quality and flood mitigation of RCD 235 / Jones Lake, JD 2/ Hardwood  
73 Creek storage feasibility, and JD 3 / Clearwater Creek bank stabilization. District Administrator  
74 Tomczik continued with intended work plans of Regulatory; Ditch and Creek Maintenance and  
75 noted District received interest on ACD 10-22-32 system as well and addressed it with the board  
76 considering at its April 23, 2025 meeting the ACD 10-22-32 Conditions memo after which the  
77 Board approved No-Loss Determination for ACD 10-22-32 West Pine Street Culvert Replacement.  
78 The memo detailed the current conditions of the ACD 10-22-32 system, the proposed  
79 management of those conditions, confirmed alignment with current program operational  
80 procedures. He noted that no funds are directly included for ACD 10-22-32 Alt 4, as no decision  
81 has been made, however, 8 of the 14 maintenance items on that system are completed or  
82 scheduled for completion by close of 2025. Administrator Tomczik went on to communicate on  
83 funds for Lake and Stream Management and District Facilities closing with ; estimations of fund  
84 balances; and proposed fund transfers.

85  
86 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the total proposed budget expenditures for 2026 are  
87 \$11,193,092, and revenue to cover those expenses are \$6,403,200, which comes from the  
88 District-wide general property tax levy, \$231,742 from Water Management Districts, \$641,200  
89 from fees and investment income, \$2,923,821 for the project anticipation fund, and \$993,129  
90 from secured grant funding. He explained that the District's fund balances remain sufficient  
91 under the anticipated 2026 year-end closing balance to meet the 40% fund balance policy. He  
92 reviewed the history of property tax implications for property holders and noted that they are  
93 anticipating that the proposed budget general levy implications would be relatively flat, similar  
94 to 2024 and 2025, and explained that the final 2026 tax rates were not yet available. He noted  
95 that the proposed District levy is a 3.56% increase over 2025 and noted that the tax impact  
96 estimate for \$400,000 of property value would be about \$63.00/year. He explained that the  
97 District anticipates the 2026 ACD 53-62 WMD charge to result in a total collection of \$222,242,  
98 which was \$219,397 in levied charges and \$2,845 in right-of-way direct billing.

99  
100 President Bradley explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments  
101 from interested parties and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak during the public  
102 hearing.

103  
104 Chris Stowe, 426 Pine Street, expressed concerns about: residents who may be on a fixed income  
105 related to tax levies; that the District seemed to be pushing for development; specific budget  
106 items related to vehicle purchases, salaries, and projects mentioned during District  
107 Administrator Tomczik's budget presentation; drainage issues that he did not believe were  
108 addressed within the budget; questioned expenses for things like Curlyleaf pondweed and the  
109 District website. He stated that he believed some of the Board members should recuse  
110 themselves from voting for some of the line items within the budget because they could be  
111 directly affected by some of the projects. He expressed his overall frustration and opposition to  
112 the proposed plan and where the money was going.

Catherine Decker stated that she concurred with what had been shared by Mr. Stowe.

Administrator Nyle Zikmund, City of Mounds View, stated that they were continuing to rehabilitate the city's entire stormwater system. He asked if the historical review of what the ditch had to get to, and if that was the next step in the process. He asked if the subsequent budget would then begin the work to restore the ditch.

President Bradley acknowledged that was correct.

Mr. Zikmund expressed his appreciation to the Board for their advocacy on this issue and for taking steps to get this work done.

There being no additional comments, President Bradley asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to close the public hearing.  
Motion carried 4-0.***

The public hearing was closed.

District Administrator Tomczik noted that the Board was welcome to give staff additional direction on the budget and explained that the 2026 budget was intended to be officially adopted at the September 10, 2025 meeting.

President Bradley reconvened the regular meeting.

Manager Robertson suggested that staff make sure to set aside time on the September 8, 2025, Workshop meeting to allow for discussion of the budget and comments from the Board before it comes back to the Board for final adoption.

Manager Waller stated that he believed that there were some possible savings that could be made within the proposed budget and gave examples within the Regulatory area due to duplication of work with cities. He expressed concerns about the restoration and creation of meanders, which he felt created more work later. He stated that the District has done well with getting grant money, but felt that sometimes the Board seeks out the grant money and then writes up the project afterwards, which at times end up being projects that are not essential. He expressed concerns about grant money taking up part of the cost of projects, but the costs have already been taxed, which means that the tax money becomes a budget surplus for the District. He stated that he felt the information shared by District Administrator Tomczik on improvements and maintenance of ditches and noted that it emphasized the importance of aggressive diligence on maintenance to keep the capacity going because the land uses have changed from agricultural to residential. He noted that the District had not been doing aggressive follow-up on the drainage systems and stated that once the historic ACSIC was established, he felt the District needed to keep the ditches clean. He explained that he would like to see the

Board cut the budget so there would be no tax increase, and go back to using grant money to offset the proposed tax increases.

President Bradley shared his position that regulatory savings will occur when cities come and petition the District to adopt their own rules and noted that, at this time, there were only 3 cities that have taken over those responsibilities. He stated that restoration to create meanders was out for a work order to develop costs and will return to the Board for a vote. He stated that every grant project included in the budget was individually approved by the Board. He recognized that the District had increased the public drainage maintenance budget by 33%, which he felt was moving in the right direction.

Manager Robertson asked that they find a way to promote healthy dialogue when they discuss the budget at the September 8, 2025, Workshop meeting.

#### **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

- 1. Check Register Dated August 27, 2025, in the Amount of \$298,444.32 and August Interim Financial Statements Prepared by Redpath and Company**

*Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the check register dated August 27, 2025, in the Amount of \$298,444.32 and the August Interim Financial Statements prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 4-0.*

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

- 1. Staff Reports**

Manager Weinandt stated that she finds the staff reports very interesting and educational. She highlighted some of the items included in the staff reports and the work being done by the District, which, in many cases, is State-wide.

- 2. September Calendar**

- 3. Administrator Updates**

District Administrator Tomczik stated the Blue Thumb trademark transfer was nearing completion from the transition from the District to Metro Blooms. He noted that the DNR has reported that the District area was currently in 'high flow', which was unusually high for this time of year.

- 4. Manager Updates**

Manager Weinandt stated that she and Project Manager Petry had attended the Ramsey County League of Cities meeting focused on the environment. She noted that at the meeting, they had recommended that the District have a representative at the September 12, 2025, meeting, where they were considering issuing a letter of support for the District's RCD 2, 3, and 5 project.

200  
201 President Bradley stated that he and Manager Weinandt voted on the Minnesota  
202 Watersheds resolutions and noted that they had all passed. He commended District  
203 Administrator Tomczik for his presentation on the District's proposal, which addressed  
204 the erroneous concerns that others had expressed.

205  
206 Manager Robertson stated that she was slated to attend the September 3, 2025, CAC,  
207 however, her city council meeting had changed to that date due to Labor Day, and asked  
208 if anyone else on the Board would swap dates with her.

209  
210 Manager Weinandt offered to take the September 3, 2025, CAC meeting.

211  
212 **ADJOURNMENT**

213 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17***  
214 ***a.m. Motion carried 4-0.***  
215