



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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

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

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: President Michael Bradley, 1st Vice-Pres. John Waller, 2nd Vice-Pres. Jess Robertson, Treasurer Marcie Weinandt, Secretary Janet Hegland

Absent: None

Staff Present: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Outreach & Grant Technician Molly Nelson, Lake & Stream Manager Matt Kocian, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley (video conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI)

Visitors: Bill Bergeron, Scott Costello

OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Manager Robertson stated that she would like to remove agenda item 2 under Items Requiring Board Action and move it to a future meeting.

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Bradley, to amend the agenda and remove item 2, Circle Pines Outfall, from Items Requiring Board Action and reschedule it for the next Board meeting.

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BOARD OF
MANAGERS

Janet Hegland
Anoka County

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

Manager Robertson explained that she had checked in with Circle Pines and explained that one of the challenging things related to this item is that she didn't really know what they wanted. She stated that in her conversation with them, she found out they are waiting for bids for the needed repairs. She explained that she felt it would make more sense for the Board to wait to discuss this item until after they have that kind of information.

President Bradley stated that he found that acceptable and explained that he wanted to get things fixed and didn't want the Board's actions to delay the repairs.

Manager Robertson stated that she had mentioned the idea of postponing the Board's discussion to a future meeting when she spoke with the City of Circle Pines. She stated that they had informed her that they didn't have the bids for the project, so there wouldn't be a delay if the Board pushed the discussion to the next meeting. She reiterated that she felt it made the most sense to wait until the project cost for the repairs was received before the Board tried to debate this item.

Administrator Tomczik noted that the work done by the District's contractor was in place, yet if the Board wanted to entertain the storm sewer repair 'ask' from the City of Circle Pines, moving it to a future meeting would not be problematic.

Motion carried 5-0.

READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

Minutes of August 24, 2026, Board of Managers Regular Meeting.

Manager Hegland briefly outlined two edits that she would like to make to the minutes:

Line 73, removal of "and 4th Ave" from the sentence

Line 264, change "backwater" to "back water"

Motion by Manager Hegland, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the August 24, 2026 meeting minutes, with the changes, as discussed. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests an opportunity for discussion:

Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action

No.	Applicant	Location	Plan Type	Recommendation
26-071	Min Tex Properties, LLC	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 6 items

It was moved by Manager Hegland and seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve the consent agenda permit 26-071 as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated August 31, 2026. Motion carried 5-0.

Water Quality Grant Program Cost Share Application

No.	Applicant	Location	Project Type	Eligible Total Project Cost	Pollutant Reduction	Funding Recommendation
R26-10	City of White Bear Lake	White Bear Lake	Curb-Cut Rain Garden	\$10,844.00	Volume: 6,923.0 cu-ft/yr TSS: 127.2 lbs./yr TP: 0.458 lbs./yr	\$8,133.00* not to exceed 75% of eligible project costs or up to \$10,000.00. *Cost-share split: -2026: \$2,648.42 -EOY 2026 or 2027: \$5,484.48

Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson gave an overview of the options for cost-share application R26-10. She explained that they could allocate the remaining funds in the 2026 budget for Ramsey County towards this project and have a pre-emptive hold on the 2027 funds for the remainder. She noted that the City of White Bear Lake had agreed, in writing, that they would be comfortable fronting the payment to the contractor until February of 2027. She noted that the second option is for the District to change the guidelines so, during the last month of the year, if there are remaining funds in any of the County budgets, it would then be opened up to all the Counties. She stated that this potential guideline change will be brought before the Board at their October meetings and if approved, that would mean the District could pay out this application for the full cost-share in 2026.

President Bradley noted that if the Board doesn't go with the second option, they would just increase their operating fund balance. He stated that he felt the second option that Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson had explained made sense to him.

It was moved by Manager Robertson and seconded by Manager Bradley, to authorize the Board President, on advice of counsel, to approve the Water Quality Grant Contract for R-26-10, as outlined in the above Table of Contents, in accordance with RCWD Outreach and Grants Technician's recommendations, dated September 2, 2026, not to exceed 75% of the eligible project costs or up to \$10,000, which is lower.

Manager Robertson explained that she would like to pursue the first option of taking funds from 2026. She stated that this had been discussed at the CAC meeting and appreciated the second option; she felt a robust conversation that still needed to happen with that option, which was putting the cart before the horse. She clarified that she wasn't saying that she disagreed with what was proposed, but wanted to keep it clean for the time being and the project can move forward. She explained that she would like to approve the first option and then let the Board have the more robust conversation surrounding the second option at their October meetings.

Manager Waller stated that he thought the District had done what was being proposed with stormwater grant funds that weren't used. He stated that he agreed with Manager Robertson that the Board should discuss this and noted that he wanted to make sure that they considered the tax situation.

Motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

1. RCWD Board Adoption of 2027 Budget, Set Levy, Certify Water Management District (WMD) Charges

Administrator Tomczik noted that there was a rounding issue in the certification amounts; Washington County numbers and should be \$1 less.

Manager Hegland asked if there would be further dialogue or workshop discussions scheduled between now and when they need to approve the Final Levy in December.

Administrator Tomczik explained that the Board could request that staff schedule additional meeting time.

Manager Hegland explained that having additional meetings was common at the city level, where they use the interim time to see if there may be ways to cut back before it is certified. She stated that she would appreciate it if staff scheduled this topic for future workshop discussions to give them time to dig deeper into some of the District's expenses.

Manager Robertson suggested that the Board plan for targeted conversations on this topic and not just have a free-for-all.

President Bradley suggested that the message be sent to the Board that the areas that they want discussed at this workshop be communicated by a specific date in order to give staff time to gather the necessary background materials.

Manager Robertson suggested that they choose a date in mid-October.

Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Robertson, to adopt Resolution 2026-12, Adopt 2027 Budget and Direct Certification of 2027 Tax Levy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers adopts a 2027 general fund and plan implementation budget totaling \$15,526,735;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a levy of \$6,143,782 be certified to the Counties of Anoka, Ramsey, Hennepin and Washington and levied upon all taxable property in the Rice Creek Watershed District for the year 2027, as authorized by the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.241, to pay the cost to prepare the District's watershed management plan and for projects identified in the plan as necessary to implement the purposes of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.201.

ROLL CALL:

Manager Bradley – Aye

151 **Manager Hegland - Aye**
152 **Manager Robertson – Aye**
153 **Manager Waller – Aye**
154 **Manager Weinandt – Aye**
155 **Motion carried 5-0.**
156

157 Administrator Tomczik asked the Board to bring the items that they want to discuss
158 related to the budget and levy to the October workshop, and then staff would gather the
159 information necessary for Board discussion at the November workshop meetings.
160

161 **2. ~~City of Circle Pines Outfall~~ (removed from the agenda)**
162

163 **3. Feasibility Study: Middle Rice Creek at Irondale**

164 Lake and Stream Manager Kocian stated that the Board had discussed this at one of the
165 summer workshop meetings. He identified the location of Middle Rice Creek, the
166 problems that are being seen, how they had tried to fix it in the past, and outlined what
167 was felt to be a better approach to fixing the issue. He explained that to address the
168 sediment source, the streambanks needed to be stabilized. He explained that if they
169 move forward with restoration and stabilization for Middle Rice Creek, the next highest
170 priority area is near Irondale High School. He stated that the first step in the process
171 would be to develop some feasibility alternatives so they can determine budget and
172 design plans. He stated that staff was recommending that the Board authorize entering
173 into an agreement with Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR) for the feasibility work and
174 noted that they were the design engineers for the last 2 upstream projects on Middle Rice
175 Creek.
176

177 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to authorize the***
178 ***Administrator to enter into an agreement with Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc. for***
179 ***stream stability feasibility work on Rice Creek near Irondale, for an amount not to***
180 ***exceed \$24,630. The Administrator is authorized to approve contract amendments for***
181 ***an amount not to exceed 10% of the contract price (\$2,463).***
182

183 Manager Waller noted that he thinks the Long Lake Sediment Basin has been cleaned 3
184 times and not just 2 as mentioned by Lake and Stream Manager Kocian. He explained that
185 he felt those costs should be added to give this more clarity and noted that the \$1.2
186 million work was done during COVID when nobody had any business. He stated that
187 there have been issues with sediment going into Long Lake for a long time and shared
188 examples of what happens in the area. He noted that it was important to point out that
189 sediment is supposed to go into the lake because that is the natural way things work. He
190 shared the history of what he remembered from the last times the sediment pond had
191 been cleaned out and noted that he expects that it will need to be cleaned out again in
192 the future. He stated that there was a USGS study regarding the sediment, and when
193 he asked where the sediment came from, the answer he got was that it was inconclusive.

He stated that this has been a complicated and expensive problem in the District. He noted that many times he believed the District was doing work that was more aesthetic than utilitarian.

President Bradley stated that his memory was that the District stopped putting aside money every year to dredge out the sediment pond because they had planned to use that money to fix the problem by meandering the stream. He stated that this has been planned as a multi-step process, so he wasn't surprised by this request.

Manager Waller stated that he did not disagree with President Bradley, but did not feel this was the solution to the problem and that the District would still be cleaning out the sediment pond.

Manager Robertson asked if she understood that information correctly before the Board was to seek proposals for erosion control, so in the future, the go-to solution isn't that they needed to dredge the Long Lake sediment basin.

Lake and Stream Manager Kocian confirmed that was essentially what was before the Board. He noted that even a fully untouched pristine system with no stressors placed on it always transports sediment. He stated that the purpose of the meander restoration and streambank stabilization work wasn't to get to zero sediment transport but to get from something that has been unnaturally accelerated down to a more natural sediment transport condition.

Manager Robertson asked about projects like this and the alternatives they were seeking and what impact it may have on things being planned, for example, TCAAP. She explained that she cannot imagine that the added development wasn't going to impact things. She asked if the District was planning for the corridor as it stands right now, or if they were planning for the corridor plus 10-20 years from now, which could have things look completely different.

Lake and Stream Manager Kocian stated that they were lucky that the TCAAP development would occur under the District rules, which will limit peak flow runoff, so they should not be seeing higher peak flows than what they are seeing right now with that development.

Regulatory Manager Hughes noted that it would also occur within the District's Flood Management zone, so it should be an improvement.

Manager Hegland asked if she understood correctly that this would not replace dredging out the sediment pond and was just slowing down the rate that it has to be done.

Lake and Stream Manager Kocian stated that was what they wanted, but due to some of the feasibility concerns about future dredging there, one scenario to consider would be if the District was successful at moving towards some natural background condition of sediment transport, that they may no longer maintain the sediment basin in the future.

President Bradley explained that this was the basis behind the decision to stop funding future dredging of the basin and would take the money for this purpose.

Manager Hegland asked if that scenario was part of the planning process being considered.

Lake and Stream Manager Kocian stated that with this specific study they were looking at alternatives for the segment near Irondale High School but does not get to the larger question of how close the District may be getting to the natural background condition of sediment transport. He stated that the USGS study mentioned by Manager Waller was done around 2022 and followed a period of extremely high flows, which highlighted the need to look at multiple ways of assessing sediment transport long-term.

Manager Robertson asked how large the sediment basin was and noted that, from the photo, it looked a lot like Jones Lake, and asked if they should be referring to Jones Lake as a sediment basin.

Manager Waller noted that Jones Lake was 40 acres and this sediment basin is around 5 acres. He stated that the sediment basin is the place the District uses every year to trap the carp. He clarified that he would vote in favor of EOR putting together the feasibility study, but wanted to point out that there has been a lot of money spent on Long Lake.

Motion carried 5-0.

Manager Weinandt stated that she had asked Lake and Stream Manager Kocian to talk a bit about Round Lake during the Manager Update portion of the meeting. She stated that she felt this highlighted that at a future meeting, the Board should have a review of where the District's responsibility is in the Rice Creek Commons development.

4. District Website Contact Statement Update

Administrator Tomczik explained that staff was looking to establish a policy that would post a statement on the website related to abuse or misuse of the system that would result in the potential blockage of their use. He stated that the proposed statement would read, *"This inquiry portal is for official use only. Abuse or misuse of this portal may result in a suspension of service."*

President Bradley asked if 'may result in suspension of service' would be for the individual or the portal.

279 Administrator Tomczik clarified that it would be suspension of their use of the portal.
280

281
282 President Bradley suggested a language change to make that intent more clear and
283 suggested, 'Abuse or misuse of this portal may result in suspension of service to the
284 individual misusing the portal.' He suggested that staff work with District Attorney Kolb
285 to amend the language to clarify that the suspension of service would be to the individual.
286

287 ***Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt the contact***
288 ***portal statement:***

289 ***"This inquiry portal is for official use only. Abuse or misuse of this portal may result in a***
290 ***suspension of service", and post it on the RCWD website, with the direction for staff to***
291 ***work with District Attorney Kolb to amend the language to clarify that the suspension***
292 ***of service would be to the individual.***
293

294 Manager Robertson stated that the staff report was vague and referenced the sentence,
295 'The District has experienced a bit of misuse/abuse of the system.' She asked what
296 would constitute 'a bit' of misuse/abuse and noted that it was a subjective adjective.
297 She stated that she would like to know what staff was trying to combat and would have
298 a difficult time giving direction to add legal language without knowing the problem staff
299 was trying to solve.
300

301 Manager Waller stated that he agreed that the language about misuse or abuse of the
302 system would be a subjective judgment and felt that they needed guardrails about what
303 it is.
304

305 Manager Robertson asked Administrator Tomczik to share what has happened and the
306 frequency of the occurrences.
307

308 Administrator Tomczik explained that there had been use of the portal for non-Rice Creek
309 business. He explained that the use was related to issues that didn't have relevance to
310 the business of the District, specifically about a staff person. He stated that the Board
311 could wait until District Attorney Kolb was present or otherwise to discuss this in more
312 detail.
313

314 ***Manager Robertson rescinded her motion.***
315

316 Manager Robertson suggested that the Board have a robust conversation about what
317 they were trying to address.
318

319 President Bradley suggested that they needed to specifically outline what the portal is for
320 and that any other use would be unauthorized.
321

322 ***President Bradley withdrew his second to the motion.***

323
324 Manager Waller stated that he felt the Board needed to discuss this when District
325 Attorney Kolb could be present and suggested that the Board move on without taking any
326 action.

- 327
328 **5. Check Register Dated September 9, 2026, in the Amount of \$192,300.56 Prepared by**
329 **Redpath and Company**
330 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the check***
331 ***register dated September 9, 2026, in the Amount of \$192,300.56, prepared by Redpath***
332 ***and Company. Motion carried 5-0.***
333

334 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

335 **1. District Engineer Updates and Timeline**

336 District Engineer Otterness referenced the information included in the monthly project
337 report for East Moore Lake Stormwater Resilience and Water Quality Analysis. He
338 stated that they had completed their initial report and had a discussion with the City of
339 Fridley, which had a lot of input that they were adding to the report. He noted that it
340 should be finalized soon, and noted that there was the potential to have quite a few viable
341 projects that may come out of this, so it will be useful as a planning tool.

342 343 **2. Administrator Updates**

344 Administrator Tomczik noted that the public hearing for ACD 10-22-32 is scheduled for
345 October 14, 2026, during the Board's regular meeting. He stated that he attended the
346 Summer Tour of Minnesota Watersheds and noted that DNR permitting was referenced
347 at the Administrator's meeting. He explained that Minnesota Watersheds was
348 continuing to look at efficiencies in DNR permitting. He noted that the same was true
349 with the Minnesota Plumbing Board in relation to stormwater reuse. He stated that the
350 Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association submitted a comment that they also
351 rejected the language and were concerned with the involvement of the Minnesota
352 Plumbing Board in work they do. He reminded the Board that the annual MN
353 Watershed's conference would be December 1-4, 2026, and the legislative event was
354 being forecasted for February 23, 2027.

355
356 Manager Hegland stated that she thought the next step for the ACD 10-22-32 project was
357 to have an information meeting for the municipalities and the County and asked what
358 was planned for the public hearing.

359
360 Administrator Tomczik explained that a public hearing was being held to substantiate the
361 record for the Board's position not to proceed with alternative 4.

362
363 The Board discussed next steps and directed staff to coordinate a meeting with the cities
364 of Lino Lakes and Columbus Councils and staff; and Anoka County Commissioners and

staff to discuss ACD 10-22-32 and surrounding current issues and ideas on how to solve them.

3. Manager Updates

Manager Waller stated that he had attended the Washington County Consortium meeting with some members of staff and gave a brief overview of the discussion with a representative from Stearns County. He noted that he had also attended the Summer Tour on the first day and was able to listen in on the Administrator meeting and gave a brief synopsis of some of the things that were discussed.

Manager Weinandt stated that she attended the Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour and the meeting. She explained that she had the Summer Tour packet available for anyone who may want to take a look at the information that was shared. She referenced the dredging of Round Lake and stated that she felt it may be a good idea to provide an update on how the District has been involved with the Rice Creek Commons development.

Lake & Stream Manager Kocian gave a brief overview of the District's involvement with the Round Lake dredging project, the contaminated sediment due to the nearby Army ammunition plant, and the possible transfer of ownership of Round Lake to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He explained that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has asked that the contaminated sediment be cleaned up, which has led to this project. He explained the way the contaminated sediment was being pumped up and over to the Army ammunition plant for treatment and clarified that the District's role in this project was just for technical support.

Manager Robertson stated that she attended the CAC meeting last week and outlined the topics of conversation at the meeting.

President Bradley stated that he and Manager Weinandt attended the Minnesota Watersheds Annual meeting on resolutions for the upcoming legislative session and reviewed the amendments that were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.