



**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
RAMSEY COUNTY DITCH 4 REPAIR REPORT & WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Thursday, December 7, 2023

**Roseville City Council Chambers
2660 Civic Center Dr, Roseville, MN, 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 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Michael Bradley, 1st Vice-Pres. John Waller, 2nd Vice-Pres. Steven Wagamon, and Secretary Jess Robertson

Absent: Treasurer Marcie Weinandt (with previous notice)

Staff Present: District Administrator Nick Tomczik, Public Drainage Inspector Ashlee Ricci, Office Manager Theresa Stasica, District Technical Field Assistant Abel Green (via video-teleconference)

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness and Engineer Adam Nies from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); Attorney John Kolb from Rinke Noonan

Visitors: James & Sandra Priesnir, Bill Jenner, Rob Barona, and Laura Alaghash (via video-teleconference)

President Bradley opened the public hearing and stated the purpose of this hearing is to review the Engineer's recommended repair for Ramsey County Ditch (RCD) 4 and the associated proposed water management district (WMD) charges and to receive comment from those affected by the proposed repairs. He asked the Board if anyone had further remarks. No remarks were received. He introduced Public Drainage Inspector Ricci.

Public Drainage Inspector Ricci introduced the history of the public process and brief description of the District. She introduced District Drainage Engineer Nies.

District Drainage Engineer Nies gave a presentation of information related to the District and its function and management of public drainage systems and water management district charges. He concluded that the repair and proposed WMD charges are consistent with past Board actions and that they are necessary to meet current and future stormwater management needs.

Drainage Attorney Kolb noted for proceedings of this type, under the Drainage code, the District is required to give specific notices pursuant to statute and additional notices pursuant to Board policy. Drainage Attorney Kolb listed the legal hearing notice publications, including newspaper

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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

35 publications, email notice, mailed postcards and reports, and posted the notice on the District
36 website, and office door.

37 President Bradley asked if the Board had any questions for the staff or consultants. No
38 questions were received. President Bradley stated that the Board is ready to hear from
39 members of the public who wish to comment.

40 President Bradley then invited those in in-person attendance that wished to comment to please
41 state their name and address as they begin their comments. He invited those on the video-
42 teleconference who wished to speak to unmute and state their name and address.

43 Jim Priesnitz appeared and asked for clarification on the scope of work and expressed concern
44 regarding the stabilization and revegetation of his property adjacent to the drainage system.
45 The engineer and staff responded by discussing the scope of repair including the removal of
46 trees and other obstructions within the ditch and immediately adjacent to the ditch bank, the
47 thinning of canopy to encourage the growth of grasses and other deep-rooted vegetation
48 within the drainage corridor.

49 Rob Barona appeared and noted neighborhood concerns regarding a trail adjacent to the
50 drainage system.

51 Laura Alaghbash (via video-teleconference) called in and noted her concerns regarding a trail
52 adjacent to the drainage system. Staff and the Board noted that the trail is not part of the
53 public drainage system and is outside of the authority of the Drainage Authority.

54 President Bradley asked if there was anyone else who would care to speak or if anyone had
55 written materials they wish to present? With no further testimony from the public, President
56 Bradley closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

57 President Bradley invited discussion from the Board regarding guidance to staff to prepare an
58 order for the repair.

59 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, move that we direct staff to***
60 ***prepare findings and an order consistent with the proceedings, including responses to all***
61 ***comments received through the public comment process; that the findings and order be***
62 ***written to order the repair of Ramsey County Ditch 4 consistent with the engineer's***
63 ***recommendation and allocate costs of the repair, including imposition of Water Management***
64 ***District Charges as recommended; and that we recess this hearing to the Board's regular***
65 ***meeting on December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Shoreview City Council Chamber, 4600***
66 ***Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN, or by adjournment to an appropriate time on the Board's***
67 ***agenda, at which meeting we will consider findings and an order for the proposed repair.***
68 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

69 Attorney Kolb noted for clarification that the upcoming Board meeting is at a different time
70 than usual, on December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Shoreview City Council Chamber, 4600
71 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN.

72 The public hearing was recessed at 7:32 p.m.