



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District  
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting  
July 11, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of July 11, 2018, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Marj Ebensteiner, President  
Cliff Aichinger, Vice President  
Dianne Ward, Treasurer  
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary  
Lawrence Swope, Manager

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Tina Carstens, District Administrator  
Tyler Olson, Barr Engineering  
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering  
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist  
Viet-Hanh Winchell, Attorney for District  
Bruce Copley, Crestview Resident  
Rebecca Beduhn, SEH  
Tyler Maxson, Hy-Vee

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager  
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector  
Simba Blood, Natural Resources Specialist  
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician  
Chris O'Brien, Communications Coordinator  
Jim Kellison, Trails Edge Apartments  
Jeff Rhoda, SEH

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Ebensteiner at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2018
- B. Change Order No. 2 – Frost/Kennard Spent Lime Filter

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL LIST**

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the July 11, 2018, bill list as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS**

Bruce Copley stated that in spite of normal or below normal rainfall, there has been no drop to the levels of Snail, Grass or Wetland A. He stated that residents continue to keep a close eye on the situation and there is no flooding

of homes at this time. He stated that he would like to see the culvert lowered because of the reluctance of Grass Lake to drop and additional storage in West Vadnais. He asked if the culvert near I-694 could be checked to ensure it is functioning. He stated that a 100-year rain event would flood a few homes on Snail Lake. He asked about the status of the wetland restoration that was supposed to be done with grant funds that were received. He asked that no additional water be sent to West Vadnais, Grass, or Snail Lakes as a result of the I-694/Rice Street project.

## **6. PERMIT PROGRAM**

### **A. Applications**

#### **Permit #18-13: Trails Edge Apartments – Maplewood**

Nicole Soderholm stated that this project will be an apartment building near the Costco site. She stated that there will be a stormwater reuse system under the parking lot which would be used for irrigation. She noted that the existing filtration basin will be expanded and shared by this user and Costco. Manager Swope stated that perhaps when staff is working with applicants, they make the suggestion for a water reuse system for irrigation. Manager Skinner stated that perhaps the District would have cost-share funds available for those applicants. She provided details on an example that was featured in a local tour.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-13. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Permit #18-14: 365 Owasso Blvd – Roseville**

Nicole noted that the area being disturbed is very small and a permit was triggered because of floodplain fill that will be needed for a shoreline restoration project. She stated that compensatory storage is being provided.

Motion: Dianne Ward moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #18-14. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Permit #18-15: Hy-Vee – Gem Lake**

Nicole stated that the applicant proposes to build a Hy-Vee store and will use above and below ground storage. President Ebensteiner asked for details on the oil and water separation and what will be done with the oil. Tyler Maxson explained that the oil is collected in the structure and then cleaned out. Tina Carstens noted that system is typically used near a filling station or repair shop. Tyler noted that this will be a smaller store and will not be a food store, but will be a larger scale convenience store.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-15. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Permit #18-16: Little Canada Elementary Addition**

Nicole stated that this will be an expansion of the Little Canada Elementary School.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #18-16. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Permit #18-17: Beede Meadows – Maplewood**

Nicole stated that this is a proposed small residential subdivision with seven single family homes. She stated that there are wetlands on the site, but lots are outside of that area and the wetland buffer requirements have been met.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #18-17. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Permit #18-18: I-694 & Rice Street Interchange including 18-08 WCA**

Nicole Soderholm stated that there have been a few discussions to introduce this project to the Board. She noted that the project is split between the District and VLAWMO. The full project area will be subject to RWMWD design requirements because they are more stringent. She stated that there is a mix of soils on the site and therefore a mix of filtration, infiltration, and a dry pond for rate control that will be used. She stated that the applicant is

providing more than the required amount of volume reduction, but the District has a 2" cap on the amount of credit that can be received. She stated that the District requires applicants to maintain or reduce the rate of water off the site as a whole. This project also reduces rates at each discharge point within the project area. She stated that the project is within a drinking water supply areas and therefore other agencies have been consulted to ensure infiltration could be incorporated into the project. Nicole referenced the wetland impacts, which were discussed at previous meetings. She noted that the 1.3 acres of impact mentioned at the last meeting included temporary impacts and the actual permanent impact will be 0.7 acres. She stated that the TEP recommended use of the BWSR local road bank for the wetland mitigation. She stated that there are no wetland banks within the watershed and therefore using the BWSR local road bank would be a variance to the District policy to have no net loss of wetlands.

Manager Skinner stated that she struggles with loss of wetland as challenging sites continue to be developed. Manager Aichinger explained that this is an intensive urbanized area and there are no opportunities to create viable wetlands. Tina Carstens noted that the floodplain storage is being mitigated through the project. Manager Aichinger stated that there have been a lot of road projects that have not resulted in wetland loss and in some cases, additional wetland is created.

Manager Skinner asked if animal habitat is a factor that the District considers. She stated that perhaps in the future the District ask that an equal amount of preserved land be provided in lieu of the wetland loss for animal habitat. Tina confirmed that is an option, but noted that on a linear road project, the bounds of the project are very tight and there is not available space. Manager Ward noted that it is difficult when the District is brought in after the design has been completed.

Manager Aichinger noted that the District has been working with the applicant for months. Nicole noted that the applicant made a presentation to the Board in October 2017 and last month to discuss the wetland impacts and obtain feedback from the Board. Manager Aichinger stated that in his opinion the project should qualify for the use of the BWSR local road bank. He noted that the permanent wetland loss is shallow marsh that is extremely degraded. Tina stated that the wetland will still be there, and the fill will occur on the outside edge of the wetland.

President Ebensteiner noted that the bigger question is how the District can stop losing wetlands. Manager Aichinger stated that is why the District has the wetland rules, which have resulted in tremendous gains over the years. Manager Skinner stated that she is okay allowing this project, as long as a precedent would not be set that would result in this continuing to occur on an annual basis. Manager Ward asked for additional information on the possibility of expanding or creating additional wetlands as discussed at the last meeting. Nicole replied that after consulting with the applicant, it was determined that the road will be in some of those locations and the other locations would pond water too close to the roadway. She provided information on the variance to the wetland buffer rule requested and noted that under existing conditions the buffer is not met. She stated that the applicant is actually creating additional upland buffer with the project.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #18-18 with the special provisions, variance request, and wetland replacement plan.

Manager Skinner stated that perhaps staff could research additional wetland opportunities for the future to discuss with future applicants. Manager Ward commented that the volume reduction helps her to support the project.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During June, 32 notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (10), install/maintain perimeter control (5), install/maintain construction entrance (4), sweep streets (1), stabilize exposed soils (2), contain liquid/solid wastes (2), remove discharged sediment (3), protect/maintain permanent BMPs (2), install/maintain ditch checks (1), and install/maintain energy dissipation (2).

## **7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

### **A. Applications**

#### Permit #18-13 CS: Rolling Hills – Infiltration Basin

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #18-13 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #18-14 CS: Battle Creek Elementary – Native Habitat Restoration

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-14 CS.

Manager Ward noted that asphalt is being replaced with turf and asked if that would allow for access for people with disabilities. Tina Carstens noted that access to the playground would remain the same.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #18-15 CS: Maplewood City Hall – Rain Gardens

Paige Ahlborg stated that there will be a six-foot-tall, narrow art feature at the entrance. She confirmed that there would be District signage as well for the project.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #18-15 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #18-16 CS: Menomoni Park – Infiltration Basin

Paige Ahlborg confirmed that the Board previously approved this a few years ago, but the city never moved forward and therefore the approval expired. She stated that the city is now ready to move forward and has reapplied.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #18-16 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

### **B. Budget Status Update**

Paige Ahlborg provided an update on the status of the budget.

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Willow Pond CMAC Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid**

Erin Anderson Wenz provided details on the proposed project plans. She stated that there is instrumentation involved and the Watershed District will buy the instrumentation and the contractor will install. She provided information on the contingency that is proposed and the construction oversight costs. She stated that the overall cost estimate would be \$310,600.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the plans and specifications, preliminary cost estimate, and proposed schedule; and direct staff to finalize the bidding documents and advertise the project for bid. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Skinner asked if there has been thought to expanding the pond to provide additional treatment. Erin Anderson Wenz noted that there are additional options that could be considered for optimization. She stated that expanding the basin would not be an option without removing additional trees.

## **9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A. Meetings Attended Noted.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates Noted.

C. Solar Project Update

Tina Carstens noted that the project began today and that the loudest part of the work will be done in a few days.

D. Board and CAC Tour Planning

Tina Carstens asked if the Board has ideas on what they would like to see on the tour. Manager Aichinger stated that when he mentioned focusing on Washington County, he suggested organizing a tour for Washington County specifically and not focusing the Board tour on that area. A suggestion was made to include the Fish Creek area. Manager Skinner stated that perhaps it would be helpful to tour some of the Grass Lake area that has been added to the District. Tina stated that perhaps some of the high priority flood risk areas could be included in the tour. Manager Skinner stated that perhaps it would be helpful to include some locations that could be a good fit for large District projects in the future. Tina confirmed that mid-September would be a good time for the tour.

E. MAWD Summer Tour Update

Tina Carstens noted that the MAWD Summer bus and boat tours recently occurred.

Manager Skinner noted that the U of MN requires students to complete 24 hours of service learning and noted that other organizations take advantage of that and perhaps that would be an opportunity for the District. She stated that another District has a sandbox learning tool, which would be a great educational tool. Manager Swope stated that he was impressed with the relationships that the watersheds had with their municipalities and the cooperative efforts.

F. 2019 Budget Planning

Tina Carstens noted that the budget memo was included in the Board packet and provided a summary. It was the consensus of the Board that the reserve funds should be kept available for large District projects that may come about in the future. Tina noted that while there are not additional staff members proposed, there would be an increase proposed for existing staff. She stated that health insurance projections should be received by September. She reviewed the proposed areas of program support, building maintenance, and the natural resources program.

Tina provided information on the proposed budgeting for the stewardship grant program. She also reviewed proposed budget information on the education program, water quality monitoring, research, capital improvements planning and projects, flood damage reduction fund, targeted retrofit projects, and maintenance and repair. She stated that there were some bigger projects this year that will also be completed this year.

**10. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

A. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

Erin Anderson Wenz noted that she was not present at the last meeting, but it was her understanding that the Board would like to review the different elements included on the project and program status report. She stated that, if desired, this could be done on an annual basis. She stated that this is not all the projects, but just the projects within the status report. Erin presented on each of the projects within the report and responded to questions.

- i. Permit Application Inspection/Enforcement
- ii. Beltline Resiliency Study
- iii. At Risk Subwatershed Feasibility Studies
- iv. Snail Lake and Grass Lake Study and Berm Raise Project

Erin reviewed the work that has been done in attempt to address the Grass Lake flooding. Manager Skinner asked and received confirmation that the berm would be in place and then the mat would protect the area from erosion if it does overflow. Erin stated that the contractor is working past the contract deadline. Dave stated that the previous Friday at midnight the contract expired for a portion of the project. He estimated that another 1.5 to two weeks would be needed to complete the project. He stated that the Vadnais Boulevard pipes under the CIP contract will be a focus after the berm is completed, per the direction of the Board at the last meeting.

Manager Ward asked if the pipe would be completed by the contract end date for that item. She asked if the District is okay to allow the contractor to work past the time of the contract. Dave noted that there are liquidated damages that can be accrued. Tina Carstens stated that the deadline for the Grass Lake berm was set as July 6<sup>th</sup> and asked if there is anything the District needs to do. Manager Aichinger noted that the contractor has received extensions and there are additional costs to having staff onsite. Viet-Hanh Winchell noted that there may be a cap as to the liquidated damages that can be collected per the contract, noting that she would have to review the terms of the contract. It was confirmed that the Board would need to wait until the work is completed. Tina noted that the contractor is actively working

**v. Snail, Grass, and West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting**

Erin provided updates on information that was sent to the DNR regarding the Grass Lake outlet. She stated that West Vadnais tends to stay high and a better understanding would need to be known in terms of an EAW or what would be needed to pursue that option. Tina noted that there are wetlands that would be impacted. Erin provided additional information on potential shoreline changes that would occur to East and West Vadnais and the information sharing with the DNR. Tyler Maxson provided information on the different discussions that are occurring regarding potential projects related to Grass Lake, East Vadnais, and West Vadnais Lakes. He advised of additional water monitoring that is occurring to gain additional information.

**vi. West to East Vadnais Lakes Gravity Flow Feasibility Evaluation**

**vii. District Wide Atlas 14 Modeling**

Erin described the process that the District and Barr have gone through to identify at risk areas within the District using the Atlas 14 figures. She stated that all the District models have been validated and the next steps will be to prioritize the areas and identify potential projects. She stated that Owasso Basin is the most flood prone area. She noted that additional information will be provided in a presentation the following month

**viii. Kohlman Weir Test System**

**ix. Roseville High School Campus Retrofit Feasibility Study**

**x. 2017 Tanners Lake Alum Facility Monitoring**

**xi. Frost/Kennard Project**

**xii. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project**

**xiii. Targeted Retrofit Projects**

**xiv. BMP Design Assistance and Review**

**xv. Owasso Basin Improvements**

**xvi. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel**

**xvii. CIP Maintenance/Repair 2018**

**xviii. Natural Resources Program**

**xix. Education Program**

**xx. Communications Program**

Tina noted that the communications update is a new item and will continue to be provided monthly. She stated that an education and communications presentation will be done at the next meeting.

**11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** No comments.

**12. REPORTS OF MANAGERS** No comments.

**13. ADJOURN**

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary