



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District  
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting  
September 12, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of September 12, 2019, 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  
Laurann Kirschner, Attorney for District  
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering  
Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager  
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist  
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector

Steve LaBerge, Dudley Ave., Shoreview  
Terry Telega, Twin Lake Trail, Little Canada  
Sean Murphy, Luther Subaru  
Clark Wicklund, Alliant Engineering  
Shari Ahrens, Westwood P.S.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2019

Manager Swope noted on page five, the third paragraph, it should state, "...flood control projects have been completed to protect only low-lying homes."

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Manager Swope noted that the budget for insurance has been used and asked if the costs were higher than anticipated. Tina Carstens explained that the District simply paid the annual cost for property insurance.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Dr. Pam Skinner seconded, to approve the September 12, 2019, bill list as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

Steve LeBerge stated that in response to the discussion last month regarding Grass Lake, the long-held assumption that groundwater seepage and evaporation from Grass Lake were adequate to meet demands were wrong. He stated that with the recent issues with flooding in the watershed district and the elevated water levels, it would seem irresponsible to increase the flow of water from Owasso and Wabasso into Grass Lake without increasing downstream flows and significantly lowering Grass Lake and West Vadnais Lake levels.

## 6. PERMIT PROGRAM

### A. Applications

#### Permit #19-37: Contanda Terminal Berm Replacement – St. Paul

Nicole Soderholm noted that this is a retroactive approval as the work was already completed due to the emergency status due to flooding.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-37. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #19-38: McKnight Road – Anchor Block Commons, North St. Paul

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve Permit #19-38.

Further discussion: Manager Swope noted that this is located adjacent to another development and asked if the water plans interact with each other. Nicole replied that each development provides its own treatment, owning and maintaining its own infrastructure. She explained that this approval would cover grading, roads and infrastructure with each project that comes forward applying for its own permit.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #19-39: Wooddale Flex Building – Woodbury

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-39. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #19-40: Luther White Bear Lake Subaru Parking – Vadnais Heights

Manager Swope asked what is currently in this area that would be replaced with paving. It was confirmed that the area is currently vacant and composed of trees and grass.

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-40.

Further discussion: Manager Swope asked if the paved area would still capture and treat rain in the same manner as the grass. Nicole confirmed that the District rules would still need to be met, treating and capturing the same amount of runoff that is currently provided by the grass.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Permit #19-41: Margaret Street Apartments – North St. Paul

Motion: Dr. Pam Skinner moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Permit #19-41.

Further discussion: Manager Skinner referenced the underground parking and wanted to ensure that the District is not allowing projects to be built that will be continually flooded. She noted that this area has high groundwater levels and asked if that would cause flooding of the underground structure when it rains. Nicole replied that the District rules deal with surface floodplain. She noted that there are freeboard requirements and advised that there is an impermeable liner proposed for this project. Manager Skinner stated that it would seem that the property owner would be responsible if the underground garage floods. Nicole stated that stormwater is regulated by the District while groundwater is not. Manager Aichinger noted that there will be a sump system installed with the project which would then respond to groundwater seepage. He asked if there is a plan on when construction

would begin. Shari Ahrens, representing the applicant, replied that they are working with the city and would like to start building this fall.

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Monthly Enforcement Report**

During August, 15 notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (2), install/maintain perimeter control (5), install/maintain construction entrance (1), stabilize exposed soils (1), contain/dispose of liquid and solid waste (1), remove discharged sediment (2), implement proper dewatering (2), and protect/maintain permanent BMPs (1).

**7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

**A. Applications**

Permit #19-23 CS: Hoffman – Rain Gardens and Native Habitat Planting

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Dianne Ward seconded, to approve Permit #19-23 CS. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Discussion Item: Additional Fund Approval Memo**

Tina Carstens stated that after the last discussion Paige Ahlborg created this draft.

Manager Ward stated that she appreciates the information and found it helpful. She stated that when an exception is recommended, she would appreciate the link to the applicable justification. Manager Swope agreed that this is exactly what he was looking for as well. He noted that he found it interesting that after the Board increased the allowed amount, there were additional exceptions that came forward. President Ebensteiner noted that once that limit was increased, the opportunity for larger projects came forward. Paige stated that in the past, with the lower limit, people were not as apt to apply because of the low amount allowed and therefore when that limit was increased, it also increased the opportunity for residents to bring forward more projects.

**C. Budget Status Update No comments.**

**8. 2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY PUBLIC HEARING**

President Ebensteiner opened the public hearing at 6:53 p.m.

No comments made.

Motion: Cliff Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to close the public hearing at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval of the 2020 Preliminary Budget and Levy Certification to Ramsey and Washington Counties – Resolution 19-02.**

Tina Carstens reviewed the proposed budget and levy for 2020, along with comparison information from the approved 2019 budget and levy. She highlighted the budget percentage by program area.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve the draft budget for purposes of the preliminary levy and adopt Resolution #19-02. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Change Order No. 2 – CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019**

Tina handed out a revised change order sheet at the board meeting. \$79,708 is the correct total.

Motion: Lawrence Swope moved, Cliff Aichinger seconded, to approve Change Order No. 2. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

A. Meetings Attended

Tina explained what role we will play in the Hillcrest planning process and how this will play a role in their public planning process. Staff are reviewing Barr’s scope and Board will see that in October.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates No comment.

C. Board Brainstorming Meeting – Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Discussion was had on the upcoming meeting and the topic of discussion.

D. Manager per Diems

The Board discussed the recent legislative increase of the per diem for watershed Board members from \$75 to \$125 per meeting. The Board decided that to maintain consistency with other watershed organizations and to keep current with the financial requirements of future Board members, the Board compensation should be increased.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Lawrence Swope seconded, to approve raising the regular and special board meeting per diems to \$125 and \$75 for other meetings.

**11. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

A. New Project Scope: Twin Lake Outlet Feasibility Study

Discussion was had on the goals of the project as well as the deliverables and time schedule. The board requested that this study also look at the possible multiple benefits along with the pros and cons of those options.

B. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

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| i. <u>Twin Lake Emergency Response Management 2019</u>          | xi. <u>Iron Aggregate Pond Application Research</u>        |
| ii. <u>Owasso County Park</u>                                   | xii. <u>Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Project</u>            |
| iii. <u>Beltline Resiliency Study</u>                           | xiii. <u>Targeted Retrofit Projects</u>                    |
| iv. <u>FEMA Flood Mapping</u>                                   | xiv. <u>Targets and Motel 6 Targeted Retrofit Projects</u> |
| v. <u>Snail, Grass and West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Permitting</u> | xv. <u>Willow Pond CMAC</u>                                |
| vi. <u>500 Year Atlas 14 Modeling</u>                           | xvi. <u>Cottage Place Wetland Restoration</u>              |
| vii. <u>Wetland Restoration</u>                                 | xvii. <u>Aldrich Arena Site Design</u>                     |
| viii. <u>Auto Lake Monitoring Systems</u>                       | xviii. <u>CIP Maintenance and Repair 2019 Project</u>      |
| ix. <u>Maplewood Mall Monitoring</u>                            | xix. <u>Natural Resources Program</u>                      |
| x. <u>Spent Lime Pond Research Project</u>                      | xx. <u>Education Program</u>                               |

**12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**13. REPORTS OF MANAGERS**

**14. ADJOURN**

Motion: Manager Skinner moved, Manager Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary