



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District  
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting  
July 1, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of July 1, 2020, was held via Zoom web conferencing. A video recording of the meeting can be found <https://youtu.be/TdjFn6eMIQs> .

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Marj Ebensteiner, President

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Tina Carstens, District Administrator  
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering  
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering  
Dave Vlasin, Water Quality Technician  
Kyle Walstrom, Twin Lake resident

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager  
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector  
Simba Blood, Natural Resources Specialist  
Viet-Hanh Winchell, Attorney for District  
Burt Johnson, Twin Lake resident

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Tina Carstens referenced Item C ii. 20-30 CS: Jones – Native Habitat Restoration, which is on the Consent Agenda. She noted that the dollar amount was not included in the request and therefore that item should be removed from the Consent Agenda to be considered as Item 6A.

Motion: Manager Ward moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve the agenda as amended.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Swope	aye
Vice President Aichinger	aye

Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2020
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List

- C. Stewardship Grant Program
  - i. 20-29 CS: Donahue – Shoreline Restoration
  - ii. ~~20-30 CS: Jones – Native Habitat Restoration~~
- D. CIP Maintenance and Repair Project – Change Order No. 2

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Further discussion: A Manager commented that staff was going to craft additional responses to the Beltline Study, per the direction of the last meeting and asked staff to provide that update later in the agenda.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Skinner	aye
Vice President Aichinger	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Swope	aye

Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

**4. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS**

Kyle Walstrom, Twin Lake Court resident, stated that the pump and pipes have been setup to pump from West Vadnais. He commented that the levels have been lower and asked if the pumps have yet run. He asked for an update on the status of the Twin Lake outlet project. He referenced West Vadnais and the potential proposals, noting that he is awaiting the Board discussion on that topic. He stated that the residents of Twin Lake are interested in lowering the level of Twin Lake.

A staff member confirmed that the approval and contract award for the Twin Lake outlet project occurred at the previous Board meeting.

Burt Johnson, President of Twin Lake Association, stated that the association was formed the previous year when Twin Lake was inundated with water from West Vadnais with the goals of establishing the historical outlet for Twin Lake, that West Vadnais not be allowed to flow into Twin Lake, and to preserve the water quality and clarity of Twin Lake. He stated that they are pleased to see that the outlet project is moving forward. He noted that there are still concerns with the operations plan, as they believe Twin Lake needs to be maintained at the elevation of 872.2. He stated that they are concerned with the potential of holding Twin Lake at 874. He stated that pumping West Vadnais seems to be a reasonable solution. He stated that they do not want to see water from West Vadnais coming into Twin Lake. He stated that written comments were submitted from a Twin Lake Association member and asked the Board to review those comments.

**5. PERMIT PROGRAM**

A. Applications

None.

B. Single Lot Residential Permit Adjustments

A staff member provided background and reviewed details on potential single lot residential permit adjustments. A Manager stated that they support this and believe this is a great idea. The Manager commented that it was mentioned that this is a trial and believed an ending date should be specified and the desired outcomes should be listed. The Manager stated that they support moving forward with this but asked that staff come back with those details.

Motion: Manager Ward moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to authorize staff to proceed with the suggestion and bring back additional details for formal approval at the next meeting.

Further discussion: A staff member stated that they would welcome additional detail from the Board on what they would like to see included. A Board member provided additional suggestions, noting that the time period could be this year and this trial could be reviewed after the permit season.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Ward	aye
Manager Swope	aye
Vice President Aichinger	aye
Manager Skinner	aye

Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

C. Monthly Enforcement Report

During June, eight notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (1), contain liquid/solid wastes (2), remove discharged sediment (1), implement proper dewatering (2), and install/maintain energy dissipation (2).

**6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

A. Applications

20-30 CS: Jones – Native Habitat Restoration

A staff member stated that this request is in the amount of \$9,600, rather than the zero dollars shown in the staff report.

Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve 20-30 CS.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Ward	aye
Manager Swope	aye
Vice President Aichinger	aye
Manager Skinner	aye

Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

B. Budget Status Update

A staff member provided a brief update, noting that staff is watching the remaining budget closely as funds are being spent quickly this year. A Manager noted that a large amount of the budget was used in priority areas.

**7. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

A. East Saint Paul Target Store BMP Retrofits Project Bid Award

A staff member reported that four bids were received with the low bidder being Sunram Construction. He noted that Sunram fulfilled all of the bidding requirements and therefore staff supports awarding the contract to Sunram.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to accept the bids and award the East St. Paul Target Store BMP Retrofit Project to Sunram Construction and direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award and prepare the agreements and review the required submittals.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Ward                    aye  
Manager Swope                 aye  
Vice President Aichinger     aye  
Manager Skinner               aye

Motion carried 4-0. (President Ebensteiner absent)

B. West Vadnais Lake South of I-694 Conveyance Feasibility Study

i. West Vadnais Lake Opportunistic Pumping Scenarios

A staff member stated that staff has been working on a number of studies resulting from the Beltline Study, and this is one of those four studies. It was explained that this was the first study on the list, moving from upstream to downstream. It was explained that this pipe would allow more water to flow downstream, once other improvements are in place downstream.

A staff member presented the West Vadnais Conveyance under Highway 694 feasibility study results, identifying the original goal of the study. A draft of the Beltline Resiliency phases was reviewed, identifying projects currently underway or that have already been completed. The identified alignment was highlighted and the reasons behind that alignment were explained. It was noted that the tail end of the alignment could change depending upon the results of the Owasso Basin Study. This alignment was chosen with the thought that the existing 15-inch pipe would remain in place. It was noted that the study includes options for upsizing of the pipe as well, to perhaps accommodate future needs. A cost estimate was reviewed, highlighting larger ticket items, prices that are subject to change, and opportunities where costs could be cut. Different modeling scenarios were reviewed as included in the technical memorandum. Opportunistic pumping feasibility was reviewed during the study using the existing 15-inch pipe and using the bypass option. It was noted that using the existing pipe was not found to provide the desired benefit, therefore, staff focused on the bypass option for the presentation. Staff stated that if opportunistic pumping is done using the bypass during the offseason, there is some reduction of overflows from Grass Lake to parkland and there is some lessening of West Vadnais Lake overflows to the bypass system in the summer, though most overflows would be captured by the emergency bypass system anyway.

A Manager commented that per the data in the report, it would seem that opportunistic pumping would be unnecessary as the bypass itself would provide the desired outcome more so than utilizing opportunistic pumping. A staff member noted that there would also be an additional cost in opportunistic pumping. A Manager commented that the off-season pumping could provide benefit as the levels would be brought down in the wintertime. It was commented that if there was a year with normal or less than normal precipitation, that lower elevation would provide a benefit to the system for some time. It was noted that the third condition that would need to be met for opportunistic pumping (downstream water is below the level where the combination of the additional released water and the occurrence of a 100-year rain event will not cause habitable structures to flood) has not been possible from 2014 to 2019. Legal counsel explained that any time the District is moving water and increasing potential water levels elsewhere, it does open the District up to the issue of liability. A Manager commented that there is also liability in failing to act, therefore there is balance needed and the Board should make an informed decision based on documented reasons. A staff member stated that staff will continue to document the ideas and questions brought forward by the Board in order to include those in the larger discussion that will occur at an upcoming meeting once the other study results are presented to the Board.

**8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

No comments.

C. 2021 Budget Planning Memo

Staff asked for input on dates and input related to the budget discussions. Managers provided some input on additional details they would like to see in the budget presentation.

**9. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

A. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

- i. Owasso Basin Bypass Program Update
- ii. West Vadnais to South I-694 Conveyance Feasibility Study
- iii. Willow Creek Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study
- iv. Ames Lake Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study
- v. FEMA Flood Mapping Updates
- vi. Water Management Plan Updates
- vii. Automated Lake Monitoring Systems
- viii. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Stormwater Project
- ix. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- x. Target Store Stormwater Retrofits
- xi. Kohlman Permeable Weir Test System
- xii. Aldrich Arena Stormwater Project
- xiii. Keller Channel Weir and Phalen Outlet Resiliency Modifications
- xiv. West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Lowering
- xv. Twin Lake Outlet
- xvi. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2020 Project
- xvii. 2019 Tanners Lake Alum Facility Monitoring
- xviii. Internal Load Management Discussion
- xix. Wakefield Lake Internal Loading Study
- xx. Natural Resources Program
- xxi. Education Program

Staff provided updates on the status of different construction projects included on the list.

A Manager asked about Blanding's turtles. A staff member provided additional details.

**10. REPORTS OF MANAGERS**

No comments.

**11. ADJOURN**

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Ward, Secretary