



RAMSEY-WASHINGTON

METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Minutes of Regular Board Meeting November 2, 2022

The Regular Meeting of November 2, 2022, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, and via Zoom web conferencing, at 6:30 p.m. A video recording of the meeting can be found at https://youtu.be/kX-Qmf_WvM. Video time stamps included after each agenda item in minutes.

PRESENT:

Larry Swope, President
Dianne Ward, Vice President
Dr. Pam Skinner, Secretary (via Zoom)
Val Eisele, Treasurer
Matt Kramer, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Marcie Weslock, Elan Design Lab

Keith Pilgrim, Barr Engineering
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Inspector
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (00:45)

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

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Eisele	aye
Manager Kramer	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Swope	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (1:03)

A. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2022

B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List

C. Permit Program

- i. 22-29: Villas of Gervais Lake, Little Canada
- ii. 22-30: Wells Fargo Redevelopment, Woodbury
- iii. 22-31: White Bear Lake Apartments II, White Bear Lake
- iv. 22-32: Oakdale Elementary Demolition, Oakdale

- v. 22-33: Ram Cty WBA – Larpenteur Improvements, Maplewood/St. Paul
- vi. 22-34: Pioneer Park Improvements, Little Canada
- vii. 22-35: Rosedale Estates Temporary Parking, Roseville
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 22-31 CS: Adkins, Native Habitat Restoration
 - ii. 22-32 CS: Green, Porous Driveway
 - iii. 22-33 CS: Hutchinson, Rain Garden
- E. Lake Owasso Shoreline Restoration Project – Change Order No. 1

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

Further discussion: Manager Eisele referenced Permit #22-32 and asked if this would be an area where land could be purchased for the intention of creating wetlands. Nicole Soderholm stated that staff has met with the school district as this is part of the redevelopment of the school, therefore specific needs and uses are identified for this area.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Eisele	aye
Manager Kramer	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Swope	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (2:59)

No comments.

5. PERMIT PROGRAM (3:00)

A. Applications – See Consent Agenda

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During October, 12 notices were sent to address: install/maintain inlet protection (4), install/maintain perimeter control (4), contain/dispose of liquid and solid wastes (2), install/maintain construction entrance (1), implement temporary soil stabilization (1).

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (3:53)

A. Applications – See Consent Agenda

B. Budget Status Update

President Swope referenced a dollar amount shown and asked for clarification. Paige Ahlborg replied that balance should show as zero and she would make that correction.

7. ACTION ITEMS (4:38)

A. 2023 CIP Maintenance and Repair Project Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid

President Swope asked if there were projects that did not make the list. Dave Vlasin commented that everything that needed to be done made the list.

Manager Eisele asked for clarification on the scoring. He noted that some of the scores are the same, but it was not clear why those were prioritized as well as how some of the scores were normalized. Dave Vlasin stated that

he would have to look into it to determine what normalizes that score. He confirmed that he could send that information to the Board once reviewed.

Manager Eisele commented that he enjoyed seeing the use of the score. Erin Anderson Wenz replied that this is the first time they are going through the process, so she can commit to looking into that and providing information to the Board. She stated that the sites that popped, are sites that fell into line pretty logically. Manager Eisele commented that he would also be interested in seeing the rest of the list as well since this is the first time they are using it in this process.

President Swope commented that he would also find that interesting as to why some projects went to the top of the list, but others did not make the list.

Erin Anderson Wenz provided details on the anticipated cost breakdown and the assumptions that were made related to the potential for contamination of the sedimentation that would be removed. She provided details on the pond cleanouts that would be reimbursed by the cities. She stated that a 20 percent contingency was factored in for the overall project because of the volatility of costs in the market.

Manager Eisele asked for details on projects nine, 10 and 11 and whether Woodbury would be reimbursing those costs. Erin Anderson Wenz confirmed that those costs would be reimbursed. Tina Carstens commented that those projects would be sediment removal and not full dredging. Dave Vlasin commented that if there were overages for those costs, the cities would be responsible for those costs as well.

President Swope asked and received confirmation that this would return to the Board for approval once the bids are received.

Manager Eisele referenced a project and asked for additional details. Dave Vlasin noted that project would only be cleaning the filter rock and would not include replacement of the filter strip. He confirmed that filter strip replacement would come forward sometime in the future.

Manager Eisele asked the process that would be followed if the Board would want something added to the project after bids are received. Dave Vlasin commented that could be added as a change order.

President Swope commented that it seems there are a lot of smaller projects this year and commended staff for the excellent materials provided in the packet.

Motion: Manager Eisele moved, Manager Kramer seconded, to approve the preliminary design, estimated costs, and proposed project schedule, and direct staff to finalize the design and bidding documents and advertise the project for bid.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Eisele	aye
Manager Kramer	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Swope	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2022 Targeted Retrofit Projects – Change Order No. 4

Tina Carstens stated that part of this pertains to the City of Saint Paul requirements that were not included in the plans as well as changes in the field due to site conditions.

Erin Anderson Wenz provided additional details on the proposed change order. She explained that the change in the asphalt and dirt amounts changed the project pricing. She also mentioned that one more change order would be included next month's Board packet as a result of an error on the original project Bid Form.

Erin Anderson Wenz commented that the contract documents do specify that the contractor is responsible for obtaining necessary permits, but that occurs after a project is awarded therefore that would not have been known prior to bid submission, therefore the bids would have been even in that regard. She stated that they are removing the cost burden to the District from Barr Engineering having to redesign under the Saint Paul permitting requirements as Barr staff did not catch that earlier in the process. She stated that they had not worked with the contractor in the past, but they did a great job and were fair and trustworthy. She noted that this has been a learning experience for the District and Barr. She noted that these change order reflect changes that were needed for the project but acknowledged that it was not the most efficient. She stated that the project was built well.

President Swope asked if there would be an increased cost for the trees to be installed in the spring. Erin Anderson Wenz replied that there would not be any extra charging.

Manager Eisele stated that when the bids come in, there is a table presented and the lowest viable bid is chosen. He asked if there are additional things considered when reviewing the bids, such as whether some contractors considered the necessary permits. Erin Anderson Wenz replied that staff only collects the papers within the bid package. Tina Carstens stated that the information also includes the bid tabulations and unit pricing.

Manager Eisele asked if the assumptions could be requested. Erin Anderson Wenz noted that could be very messy because of all the assumptions that a contractor uses. She noted that the unit prices from different contractors typically vary because of different conditions, noting that perhaps a contractor has a place they could offload dirt for a lower price. She acknowledged that this project has had some big change orders which is why it continues to be discussed.

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Eisele seconded, to approve Change Order No. 4.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Eisele	aye
Manager Kramer	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Swope	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (34:30)

Tracey Galowitz provided an update on recent activity of legal staff in the past month. She also provided details on the bid review process that is completed to ensure something is not missed without giving an unfair advantage.

9. BOARD ISSUES, POLICIES, AND OPERATION (FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING) (37:30)

A. Board Action Log: Additions, deletions

Manager Ward referenced a previous idea to plant edible plants within stormwater features and stated that she has noticed different municipalities beginning to do that. She noted that perhaps that could be added under new technologies for the future.

Manager Eisele stated that there was a good conversation last week related to the proposal for street sweeping from Woodbury and asked if there should be policies in place for a grant proposal that comes forward. He noted

that perhaps a mechanism could be designed to review those proposals. Tina Carstens stated that those requests come through the Stewardship Grant Program, which has criteria that are evaluated. She noted that staff brings requests forward that they believe meet the criteria of the program.

Manager Eisele asked if another city could come forward with a similar proposal. Tina Carstens stated that if the intent of the program is met, that project is brought forward. She noted that there have been proposals that have not necessarily met the criteria but have value and therefore staff has brought those forward in another manner, using the example of a research project or public art.

Manager Ward commented that often there have been cases that are unique but when repeat requests come in, then a policy should be developed to review those requests.

Tina Carstens acknowledged that perhaps with the last request it would have been helpful to have more background information on how staff believed the request met the program criteria.

B. Metro MAWD Updates

President Swope provided an update on the most recent Metro MAWD meeting that he attended and reviewed the future meeting schedule for that group. He suggested that a representative from the MN Stormwater Research Council be invited back to provide the Board with an update.

C. BWSR Grants

No comments.

D. Awards: BWSR and MAWA

Tina Carstens provided an update on the nominations for awards.

Manager Eisele commented that the Board will be nominating Tina Carstens for the Administrator of the Year Award and noted that he has been working with President Swope and members of staff to complete the nomination. He stated that once completed, he would like to present the nomination to the Board for review. Tracey Galowitz noted that additional input could be emailed to Manager Eisele directly from a Manager without incident. She commented that she would also love to add input to the nomination.

President Swope referenced the nomination due date and provided a schedule for the draft to be sent to the Board for review prior to submission.

E. Stormwater Research Council

No further comments.

F. Manager Topics

No comments.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS (54:47)

A. Internal Load Reduction Cost Benefit – Presentation by Keith Pilgrim, Barr

Keith Pilgrim stated that internal loading and methods of internal loading control are based upon phosphorus concentrations within the sediment and hence some background information was provided on sediment and on internal loading to provide context regarding the methodology employed and the results. He explained that organic phosphorus is different and important for shallow lakes and provided details on organic phosphorus in in this type of lake.

Keith Pilgrim reviewed an approach that could be used in attempt to keep the iron in the sediment to control the internal loading. He commented that one of the standard approaches has been to apply an alum treatment.

Manager Skinner asked if plants and animals could be used to soak up iron phosphate. Keith Pilgrim commented that plants would have that capacity.

Keith Pilgrim reviewed four strategies that could be used to control internal loading in shallow lakes.

Manager Eisele asked for details on the potential use of calcium for this purpose. Erin Anderson Wenz provided details on how calcium is used in a filtration system, such as in a weir. Keith Pilgrim commented that he would not necessarily feel comfortable adding just calcium to a lake but noted that it could be added in conjunction with another material.

Keith Pilgrim reviewed the cost-benefit analysis of load control approaches and provided more details on each of the approaches including dredging, aquatic plant harvesting, aluminum treatment, and phoslock treatment.

Manager Eisele asked if staff is aware of other proprietary solutions available. Keith Pilgrim replied that there are some metal byproducts that are being marketed for that use.

Keith Pilgrim continued to review the cost-benefit analysis and details of forced air aeration and the pilot program the District is currently completing.

Manager Skinner noted the additional benefit to the fish habitat. Bill Bartodziej replied that was one of the main reasons an aerator was placed in Bennett, in order to prevent a large fish kill during the winter. He stated that they kept it running in the summer in order to gain this additional research data. Keith Pilgrim provided additional details on the research data being collected. Bill Bartodziej commented that the aerator on Casey Lake has been in place for a number of years and they have not experienced fish kill during that time. He felt confident that similar results would be provided in the other locations when aeration has been installed.

Keith Pilgrim provided details on the phosphorus levels within Bennett Lake during different times of the year. He commented that lakes could benefit from an addition of iron (in conjunction with aeration) in order to better control the phosphorus levels. He then provided details on additional treatment methods including iron and forced air aeration, direct oxygen injection, and nanobubbles. He then summarized the cost-benefit summary for the different options with additional data such as cost of total phosphorus removed per pound, per year. He provided clarification on the ten-year lifespan estimated for each method in this report. He commented that dredging would have the most uncertainty based on the data available to make the assessment. He provided input on the different methods and how successful they are considered.

Manager Skinner commented that the aeration will also assist in habitat, noting that bluegills eat carp eggs and therefore results in less carp disturbing the bottom of the lake.

Keith Pilgrim stated that there are potential adverse effects with aluminum and provided additional details. He commented that based upon US EPA criteria there would be potential for aquatic life toxicity for certain species (e.g., zooplankton) with an alum treatment and reviewed different things that should be considered. Keith Pilgrim also noted that the fish effects were for newly hatched fish and that adult fish would not be affected by aluminum. Keith Pilgrim also noted that other considerations are important when considering the effects of an alum treatment such as exposure period and estimated in-lake aluminum concentrations. He also provided some data and information he found on human health toxicity related to aluminum. He also reviewed data collected from the Tanners Lake alum treatment plant. He stated that primary risk with aluminum treatment would be short term and likely during the actual treatment and a short-term risk to aquatic life during the treatment.

Manager Skinner referenced a 2018 review that was done reviewing data available on aluminum treatments and encouraged staff to review that document. She also provided additional information she has come across related

to the toxicity of aluminum. She noted that aluminum in the ion form is the most toxic to animals. She appreciated the presentation tonight, noting that she learned a lot.

Keith Pilgrim provided additional details on the form of aluminum that is used in treatment.

Manager Ward commented that she appreciated the details on the different treatments available and the explanation that one method would not be recommended for every shallow lake because their conditions are different.

President Swope recognized that Manager Skinner does not prefer the use of alum but noted that the District does have an alum plant. He stated that eventually the District will need to treat West Vadnais Lake and different options will need to be considered. He asked if alternate treatment methods would achieve the TMDL requirements attempting to be achieved. Tina Carstens stated that the numbers within the report provided the cost estimates to address those TMDL requirements for internal loading.

Keith Pilgrim noted that they are continuing to study Bennett to determine how effective aeration is in shallow lakes. Tina Carstens commented that some of these methods are more unknown as the District and other local entities have not used these methods. She commented that Tanners Lake is a stormwater treatment with alum, which is a different treatment than what would be recommended for a shallow lake.

Manager Ward commented that perhaps an alum policy should be added to the Board Action Log.

Manager Ward noted that perhaps these methods are used together in some cases. She also noted that perhaps reduction of external loading also assists in managing the internal loading.

President Swope commented that it was a great report and provided a lot of insight.

B. Pioneer Park Stormwater Reuse Project Scope Summary

Tina Carstens stated that this project was born out of the Ramsey County report which identified potential reuse sites. She stated that the work in 2023 would be planning and design with potential construction in 2024.

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that while Barr has worked on projects of this nature, Ramsey Washington has not yet done this type of project. She stated that this type of project makes sense as the water can be reused to irrigate the park land. She stated that there are not elements within the prioritization tool for reuse simply for the purpose of reuse. She commented that although there would be other benefits of interest, they used the prioritization tool as it exists to review the project.

Manager Eisele asked for details on the link to five-mile radius to White Bear Lake. Tina Carstens stated that data is part of the DNR's identification of a five-mile radius around the lake where water use must be conserved if the lake reaches a certain level because of the link in groundwater.

Manager Ward commented that they anticipated that other things may come along that should be added to the prioritization tool and perhaps this is added to the list to consider. Erin Anderson Wenz commented that Ramsey County has its own system for identifying equity areas and underserved communities. She stated that a point was not given for that because it did not land within the District's equity area, but it did fall within the equity area for the County. Tina Carstens noted that staff also discussed potentially using that same data to perhaps adjust the District's equity area.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (2:32:16)

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Tina Carstens noted the dates sent out for the wetland workshops stating that while she was not able to identify dates that would work for all five members, she did find two dates that worked for four of the members.

Manager Ward commented that she could perhaps attend on November 28th. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the wetland workshop on November 28th at 5 p.m.

C. Ongoing Project Update

No comments.

D. MAWD Annual Meeting

Motion: Manager Ward moved, Manager Kramer seconded, to appoint Manager Eisele and President Swope as the delegates for the MAWD Annual Meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Eisele	aye
Manager Kramer	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Swope	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Conference Highlights

Tina Carstens provided details on the WEFTEC Conference that she attended which was held in New Orleans October 10th through the 12th. She also provided a summary from the Minnesota Water Resources Conference that was held October 18th through the 19th in St. Paul. She noted that District staff provided a presentation on the North and East Saint Paul Target Store Stormwater Retrofits.

Paige Ahlborg commented that she enjoyed providing the presentation and hearing input following from others that are interested in implementing similar programs.

Tina Carstens stated that Bill Bartodziej recently provided a presentation on ecological restoration in the Phalen Chain of Lakes which was well received. She stated that next week there is another conference, NALMS, where another District staff member will be giving a presentation on gauging the impact of a shallow lakes educational video.

Manager Eisele asked if these presentations could be publicized on the District website. Tina Carstens confirmed that information could be shared on the website.

Manager Kramer left the meeting.

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (2:57:00)

Project Feasibility Studies

- A. Interim Emergency Response Planning
- B. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Feasibility Study
- C. Kohlman Creek/Wakefield Lake Diversion Feasibility Study
- D. County Ditch 17 Improvements Feasibility Study
- E. Phalen Village Feasibility Study
- F. Ames Lake Area Flood Risk Reduction Planning Study

- G. Owasso Basin/North Star Estates Improvements
- H. Double Driveway Pond Optimization Study
- I. Carver Ponds Improvement Study
- J. South Metro Mississippi River TSS TMDL

Monitoring Water Quality and Special Projects

- K. Annual Water Quality Report Assistance

Research Projects

- L. Kohlman Permeable Weir Test System
- M. Shallow Lake Aeration Study

Capital Improvements

- N. Target Store Stormwater Retrofit Projects
- O. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- P. Stewardship Grant Program – Street Sweeping
- Q. Lake Emily Subwatershed Regional BMP

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

- R. Beltline Five Year Inspection
- S. District Inspection Standardization
- T. 2023 CIP Maintenance and Repair Project

Program Updates

- U. Natural Resources Program
- V. Public Involvement and Education Program
- W. Communications Program and Website
- X. Citizen Advisory Committee

President Swope referenced Item Q and asked what a wetland restoration project would be. Erin Anderson Wenz noted that is an area that could be considered in the future.

13. MANAGER COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH’S MEETING (2:59:04)

No comments.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Ward moved, Manager Eisele seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.