



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

The Regular Meeting of April 1, 2020, was held via Zoom web conferencing. A video recording of the meeting can be found at https://youtu.be/Vs_9W81Smkc.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this month's Board meeting was held via a video conferencing platform called Zoom. Board members, staff consultants and general public were able to join in via video and/or phone. Only items requiring action were included in the packet and on the agenda. Visitor comments were emailed to tina.carstens@rwmwd.org prior to the meeting. Some comments that were pertinent to agenda items were read at the meeting but the full comments submitted are attached to these minutes.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering
Robert Johnson, Resident
Kelly Bopray, Frattalone Wetland Specialist
Matt Woodruff, Frattalone Civil Engineer
Burt Johnson, Twin Lake Association President
Cheryl LeClair-Sommer, Twin Lake Resident

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Coordinator
Terry Telega, Twin Lake Resident
Bruce Copley, Crestview Resident
Mitch Honsa, Frattalone Design Engineer
Terry Siebent, St. Paul Emergency Management Director
Tim Freeman, Frattalone Development Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

Further discussion: A Manager requested to add a manager comment period at the end of the agenda and asked whether visitor comments were going to be received. It was noted that the agenda did not include that element. Attorney for the District provided input noting that amendments to the agenda would need to be done via motion.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Aichinger seconded, to add a manager comment period to the end of the agenda.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope aye

Manager Aichinger aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Ward aye
President Ebensteiner nay

Motion carried.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to add visitor comments to the agenda.

Further discussion: A staff member stated that the agenda asked that visitor comments be provided to her prior to the meeting via email, which will be distributed to the Board and can be included fully in the meeting minutes. A manager stated that the meeting was setup to have visitor comments submitted in this method and the intent is to keep this meeting short. A manager stated that she was under the impression that providing the instructions to visitors on how to access the meeting meant that visitors would be able to make comments. Two managers stated that they would be opposed to allowing visitors to comment at this meeting in this format. A Manager noted that comments specific to a permit can be reviewed by staff during the discussion of that item, rather than allowing visitor comments during this meeting.

A roll call vote was performed on the motion to add Visitor Comments to the agenda:

Manager Swope nay
Manager Ward aye
Manager Aichinger nay
Manager Skinner nay
President Ebensteiner nay

Motion failed.

A roll call vote was performed to approve the agenda:

Manager Aichinger aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Ward aye
Manager Swope aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

3. VERBAL UPDATE FROM ADMINISTRATOR ON RWMWD COVID-19 RESPONSE

A staff member provided an update on the District response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is working from home as much as possible, while some staff continue to complete essential service work in the field. Staff continues to respond to email and voicemail messages and completing work. A staff member confirmed that while staff is working from home, they continue to receive full salary and any work in the field requiring two employees requires those employees to drive separately.

A Manager suggested delaying the May meeting to later in the month which could possibly allow for an in-person meeting. Staff members provided input on payment of the bills and the 60-day review timeline. Additional Managers stated that they would like to hold the May meeting on the regular date in a similar format, if needed, in order to complete necessary business. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the regular May Board meeting on its regular date in an electronic format.

4. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2020

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to approve the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Further discussion: A Manager requested to add, under the Beltline Resiliency Study, it should state, “...all of the ~~elements~~ comments received...” Under the Target Store Retrofit Project, the following statement should be added, “Staff indicated that they would prepare information on the cost per pounds of phosphorus removal for past projects.”

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope aye
Manager Aichinger aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Ward aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT AND BILL LIST

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve the April 1, 2020, bill list as submitted.

Further discussion: Staff noted that funds will be received in June from a grant received for the retrofit project and the District will receive the first tax levy portion in July.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Aichinger aye
Manager Ward aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

6. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #20-14: Central Park Pathway Maintenance – Roseville

A staff member stated that the city is looking to maintain trails within a park, noting that the existing trails are located within a wetland complex and therefore the District rules were triggered. The city will provide compensatory storage resulting in no net loss of floodplain.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve Permit #20-14.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Aichinger aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Swope aye
Manager Ward aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

Permit #20-15: Spoon Lake Boat Launch Reconstruction

A staff member stated that this application is to reconstruct a boat launch that triggered the floodplain rule. Ramsey County Parks will provide compensatory storage for the fill placement.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve Permit #20-15.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Aichinger	aye
Manager Ward	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried.

Permit #20-16: Mondello Shores + #20-03 WCA Mondello Shores Wetland Replacement Plan – Vadnais Heights and Little Canada

A staff member provided a brief presentation on the project which is proposed on the Frattalone property and would replace the light agricultural use that currently exists with residential development. The project meets the volume reduction water quality standards. The project results in work below the floodplain and therefore compensatory storage is proposed. The project would result in a net increase of flood storage and decrease in the existing runoff rates. The project would propose to fill the smaller northern wetland and expand the southern wetland, which would meet the District's policy for no net loss of wetlands. The applicant is also submitting a wetland replacement plan to satisfy the WCA requirements, noting that the applicant will be purchasing wetland bank credits to satisfy the requirement. The applicant submitted a variance request for disturbance to the wetland buffer in order to complete the work. The applicant would be required to obtain a MPCA permit and comply with District and State regulations for erosion and sediment control. Additional information was provided on the condition related to the District's outlet, which would need to occur in order for the development to be constructed as proposed. The permit is consistent with other developments permitted through the District.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #20-16 and #20-03 WCA.

Further discussion: A Manager asked if the southern wetland could be expanded further so that the purchase of offsite wetland credits would not be necessary. A staff member explained that the type of replacement that could be done would not meet the WCA requirements which is why additional credits are necessary. A Manager asked under what conditions, if any, the site would overflow to Twin Lake. A staff member stated that the peak runoff rates would decrease and provided additional information on how the water would discharge from the site. The staff member confirmed that there are situations in which water would run from this property into Twin Lake and reviewed the current runoff rates compared to the runoff rates under the proposed development as well as the provision that the connection would be required to the MnDOT system. A Manager asked if this additional flow would impact the flow to Owasso Basin and other downstream areas. A staff member confirmed that runoff volume from that site would be conveyed into the MnDOT system and would discharge south, and in order to mitigate that additional volume the outlet would be provided with flexibility for the Managers to operate it in a manner to mitigate that risk. The staff member provided additional details on the operation plan that would be necessary. A staff member confirmed that, as proposed, the flow rate to Twin Lake would not increase over the current conditions. A Manager provided additional details on the operation plan that was discussed recently, noting that the Managers supported opportunistic discharge during the summer months. A Manager asked how

the 100-year flood level would be impacted under the alternative configuration included by the applicant. A representative explained that WCA requires an alternative option to be shown, which is what that document was. The staff member explained that if that alternative would follow, that wetland would not maintain hydrology and would not be preferred over the proposed configuration. A Manager stated that they would be hesitant to allow this to move forward without allowing the residents that desired to make comments be allowed the ability to speak.

A staff member read aloud portions of visitor comments related to this application for the Board to receive and consider with additional staff members providing additional clarifications. It was confirmed that the Board makes its decision based on the information provided and is separate from the city approvals. Staff confirmed that they could follow up with Vadnais Heights to discuss the activity at the Vadnais Heights Planning Commission meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	nay
Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Aichinger	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried.

7. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #20-06 CS: Butler – Native Habitat Restoration

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve Permit #20-06 CS.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Aichinger	aye
Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Skinner	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried.

Permit #20-07 CS: Keller Golfview – Porous Parking

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve Permit #20-07 CS.

Further discussion: A Manager asked for clarification on the portion of the porous pavement that the cost-share would fund and whether there is adequate flow to the area to reduce stormwater runoff. A staff member confirmed that the cost-share would only fund a portion of the porous pavement that the applicant is installing and confirmed that there would be adequate flow to result in reduced stormwater runoff.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Aichinger	aye
Manager Swope	aye
Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Ward	aye

President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

Permit #20-08 CS: Hagerman – Master Water Steward Shoreline Restoration

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve Permit #20-08 CS.

Further discussion: A Manager commented that this is a great area for restoration and hoped that it would encourage others to complete similar work. Another Manager asked if this area would be inundated if the water level in Lake Gervais were to increase. A staff member replied that the plantings should not be impacted.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Ward aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Swope aye
Manager Aichinger aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried.

8. MANAGER COMMENT PERIOD

A Manager commented on the minutes that were just approved, asking how the District intends to follow up on the items that the Board requested additional information on. A staff member replied that those items could be included in the next Board packet. A Manager stated that they would still like to continue the discussion related to the new minute format, as the manager found the new method extremely hard to follow and believed that it reduced the transparency to the outside world. Another Manager proposed to postpone that discussion until the Board can meet in person to allow for a more interactive discussion.

It was the consensus of the Board to postpone the special wetland meeting until a time the Board can meet in person

A Manager asked that the Board be provided with the full packet, including project and program updates, even if those items are not included on the agenda.

Staff noted that the decision on WaterFest will be made later in April, but advised that the event will most likely be canceled.

A Manager asked for a status update on the lowering of the West Vadnais outlet. A staff member provided an update, noting that staff has reached out to a contractor that is available and interested and could begin work once the District receives the necessary permits from the DNR and MnDOT. The staff member commented that the permits should be obtained the next week, with the contractor beginning the following week.

A staff member provided an update on the interview process for the Communications Coordinator position.

9. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.