



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 6, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of May 6, 2020, was held via Zoom web conferencing. A video recording of the meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/eObW-3vTaKE> .

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
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Coordinator
Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Bruce Copley, Crestview resident
Melissa Elke, Twin Lake resident
Ward Isaacson, Twin Lake Association
Lauren Hazenson, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Dave Vlasin, District Technician
Burt Johnson, Twin Lake Association
Bill Dircks, Little Canada Public Works Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The members of the Board and staff introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2020, including written visitor comments
- B. Treasurer’s Report and Bill List
- C. Review and Accept the 2019 District Annual Financial Audit
- D. Permit Applications
 - i. 20-17 Woodbury PFAS Treatment Facility, Woodbury
 - ii. 20-20 Maplewood Dennis-McClelland SIP, Maplewood
 - iii. 20-21 Tartan High School Redevelopment Phase I, Oakdale
 - iv. 20-22 Maplewood Elementary, Maplewood
- E. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 20-20 CS Knappmiller, native habitat restoration
 - ii. 20-11 CS Ramundt, rain garden, native habitat restoration
 - iii. 20-12 CS Jacobson, native habitat restoration
 - iv. 20-13 CS Brenner, filtration basin
 - v. 20-14 CS Carver Lake Parking Lot, rain garden, native habitat restoration

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

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Copley referenced the West Vadnais Conveyance Study, noting that he was pleased to see that the District is reviewing the option of opportunistic pumping of West Vadnais Lake. He added the following suggestions which he believed might improve the study: modeling span from 2014-2019, the impact on overflow of Five Star Estates and Twin Lakes as part of the output, when estimating the downstream water levels it should be clearly stated if the water levels would have created specific problems if the pumping took place, and would want to know if (related to the manhole option) the pump outlet could be fed to the end of the culvert and whether it could be used year round.

Burt Johnson thanked staff for continuing conversations and putting on a Zoom presentation related to shoreline restoration. He stated that the Twin Lake Association continues its effort to restore the outlet on Twin Lake at its historic elevation, to prevent the inflow from West Vadnais, and to restore and preserve the water quality of the lake. He stated that tonight’s meeting is a momentous occasion for the outlet project, which serves to accomplish one of those goals, and expressed appreciation to the District and hoped that project moves forward. He referenced the operation plan, stated that he understands that the gate would be closed during the March through October months, unless the elevation reaches 872.8, at which it could be opened until the elevation reaches 872.2. He commented that seems reasonable and he would like to see that move forward. He stated that the goal of the Association is to have the lake held at a predictable level and believes that this project will accomplish that at 872.2. He stated that he agrees that there is a need to continue to review the capacity in West Vadnais.

5. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Permit #20-19: Maplewood County Road B and Arcade – Maplewood

A staff member provided details on the proposed road reconstruction project which includes an infiltration basin and the use of banked credits from the City. Details were provided on the variance requests for failing to meet the TSS requirement and wetland and buffer impacts. A Manager asked if the lack of meeting the TSS requirement would result in more pollution than currently occurs. A staff member replied that the proposed TSS load would still be less than existing conditions.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, Manager Ward seconded, to approve Permit #20-19.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During March, 13 notices were sent to address: install/maintain perimeter control (7), install/maintain construction entrance (1), sweep streets (2), stabilize exposed soils (1), and remove discharged sediment (2).

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (See consent agenda)

7. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Twin Lake Outlet Action Items

- i. Operation Plan Update
- ii. 20-18 RWMWD Twin Lake Outlet Project Permit
- iii. Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid

A staff member stated that options for opportunistic pumping were included as previously directed. A Manager asked if it is a guiding principle to move water downstream from one location to another. A staff member replied that water management is within the guiding principles of the District, but noted that there are many methods that can be used to accomplish that. Two Managers commended staff for the well written operation plan, which they believed accomplished the goals of the previous discussion. The Managers and staff discussed the comparison of risks versus benefits. Legal counsel asked if staff could develop an operating plan that would not require a variance and would still provide benefit to those upstream without exacerbating the risk downstream. A staff member confirmed that could be done, noting that the operating plan presented in March accomplished that. Legal counsel commented that when considering a variance, the District should consider avoiding such a variance that would nullify Rule D; a project should not increase the potential of flooding downstream. A Manager commented that they believed that the operation plan as presented, with the variance, accomplishes the intent of allowing opportunistic discharge downstream. Another Manager agreed. A staff member noted that the Board could move forward with the operation plan as proposed in March, without a variance, and once the operation plans and structures are in place downstream, this operation plan could be tweaked to allow opportunistic pumping.

It was the consensus of the Board to move ahead with the operation plan presented in March, which does not require a variance, with the understanding that there will be additional review once the structures and operation plans are in place downstream at Keller and Phalen.

A staff member explained that changes to the operation plan do not change the design plans and will instead factor into the permitting process. It was noted that the authorization to move forward with finalizing the design and solicit bid proposals can move forward at this time, if desired.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, President Ebensteiner seconded, to adopt the preliminary operating plan similar to the plan presented in March with direction to review opportunistic discharge possibilities once the downstream structures and operating plans are developed.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A staff member noted that the next action before the Board would be permit #20-18 which includes a variance for wetland impacts.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, President Swope seconded, to approve permit 20-18 with only the one variance for wetland impacts.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Manager Swope moved, President Aichinger seconded, to approve the preliminary design, estimated costs, and proposed project schedule, and direct staff to finalize the design and bidding documents and solicit bid proposals.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A staff member provided an update on the next steps and bidding process, noting that a recommendation for awarding the contract would be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting with construction anticipated to begin in June or July.

B. Beltline Resiliency Study Accept Response to Comment and Finalize Report

A staff member noted that the draft responses to the comments received to the study were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for review.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to accept the response to comment and direct staff to finalize the study report.

Further discussion: A Manager provided some specific input to the draft responses/comments, suggesting a few additional suggestions. Another Manager noted that they would like additional time to discuss some of the draft responses with staff and would rather delay action tonight. A staff member replied that there is no set timeline, noting that regardless of the response, staff would have taken the comments into account for the study.

Manager Aichinger withdrew the motion.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to table the response to comment.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- A. Meetings Attended
- B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates
- C. COVID-19 District Update

A staff member provided an update on District policies related to the continued Stay at Home Order and interaction with the public. Additional discussion is occurring on a staff level to determine the steps and transition that will be necessary when the Stay at Home Order is lifted.

- D. Ramsey County Property Tax Extension
- E. Introducing Lauren Hazenson – Communications and Outreach Coordinator

9. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

- A. Ongoing Project and Program Updates
 - i. Beltline Resiliency and Phalen Chain Water Level Studies
 - ii. West Vadnais to South I-694 Conveyance Feasibility Study

A staff member noted that the original scope for this study did not include pumping or opportunistic/shorter term pumping and therefore, following the direction of the Board, staff provided this more detailed scope in attempt to ensure the desires of the Board will be covered in the study. It was explained that this draft includes the ability for staff to provide the Board with the information that would be necessary to make the decision on whether or not pumping would be desired/beneficial. A Manager commented that they would find it helpful to have an evaluation of the system that would allow water to move out of the West Vadnais lake system in a swifter manner. Another Manager noted that opportunistic pumping is somewhat problematic, similar to the Twin Lake discussion the Board just had and therefore it may not be possible to do opportunistic pumping. Managers provided input to staff on the items that would be helpful within the study.

- iii. FEMA Flood Mapping
- iv. Automated Lake Monitoring Systems
- v. Wakefield Park/Frost Avenue Stormwater Project
- vi. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- vii. Target Stores Stormwater Retrofit Projects

A staff member noted that the requested cost per pound phosphorus removal rate was provided. It was noted that the design for one of the projects changed, which in turn changed the estimated cost. A Manager stated that it would also be helpful to have a list of previous projects and the rate of phosphorus removal and cost for the project. A staff member confirmed that the original scope of the project was changed and only one Target store is proposed to move forward at this time. It was noted that the other two projects may move forward in the future, just with different timing.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to endorse moving ahead with the East Saint Paul Target store project.

A roll call vote was performed:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- viii. Aldrich Arena Stormwater Project
- ix. Keller Channel Weir and Phalen Outlet Resiliency Modifications
- x. West Vadnais Lakes Outlet Lowering

A staff member provided an update noting that MnDOT is going to recommend approval of the requested permit.

A Manager asked for details on something recently installed. A staff member provided an update on the carp barrier that was installed in the channel.

- xi. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2020 Project
- xii. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel Inspection
- xiii. Natural Resources Program
- xiv. Education Program

10. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

A Manager commented that the changes to the agenda helped the meeting to run smoothly. A Manager thanked everyone, noting that this is a great group to work with and echoed the comment that the format ran smoothly with the changes to the Consent Agenda.

11. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Ward, Secretary