



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 4, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of October 4, 2023, 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/E0GPQk_INJw. Video time stamps included after each agenda item in minutes.

PRESENT:

Val Eisele, President
Dr. Pam Skinner, Vice President (via Zoom)
Matt Kramer, Treasurer
Ben Karp, Secretary

ABSENT:

Mark Gernes, Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Nicole Maras, Permit Inspector
Mary Fitzgerald, District Inspector
Tyler Olsen, Barr Engineering
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager

Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
Nicole Peterson, BMP Inspector Intern
Lyndsey Flaten, Water Monitoring Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (00:16)

Tina Carstens requested to add Item 7B, Watershed Excellence Awards.

President Eisele requested to remove Item D from the Consent Agenda. Tina Carstens noted that could be considered as Item 7C.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Kramer seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (01:19)

- A. Approval of Minutes from September 6 2023
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 23-47 CS Westbrook, Rain Garden
- ~~D. Change Order No. 2 – Arbogast Underground Stormwater Filter~~

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Karp seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (01:53)

No comments.

5. PERMIT PROGRAM (02:10)

A. Applications

Permit #23-23: Bailey Nursery Wetland CAP – Woodbury

Nicole Maras presented a project at the Bailey Nursery location, noting that a contamination restoration project is being required by the Department of Agriculture. She stated that a wetland delineation was completed along with Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) approval. She explained that contaminated soils will be removed and disposed of off-site. She stated that the variance is related to the disturbance of the buffers and the wetland, noting that all disturbance will be temporary.

President Eisele commented that this permit is unique because the project will provide benefit, but still had to go through the entire process.

Manager Karp asked for details on the decompaction strategy, as the heavy equipment could compact the soils. Nicole Maras commented that there is a stabilized access and noted that she can discuss that with the contractor onsite. She noted that staff always has a preconstruction meeting with the contractor and that can be discussed at that time, along with the restoration plans.

President Eisele asked if there are better seed mixes that would establish more quickly or robustly. Nicole Maras commented that a good seed mix was selected. President Eisele asked if additional protections are needed during excavation because of the contaminated material. Nicole Maras replied that a corrective action plan is required by the Department of Agriculture and that agency will supervise that activity. She noted that typical erosion control measures will be followed along with ensuring that the materials do not travel from the site.

Manager Karp asked if the wetland to the west has been tested. Nicole Maras replied that the District did not do the testing or flag the contamination, so she did not have those details.

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Karp seconded, to approve Permit #23-23 with the special provisions and variance. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During September, 30 notices were sent to address: contain liquid/solid wastes (6), install/maintain perimeter control (6), install/maintain inlet protection (5), install/maintain construction entrance (4), general permit requirements (4), sweep streets (2), maintain/protect permanent BMPs (2), and stabilize exposed soils (1).

Nicole Maras and Mary Fitzgerald provided additional details on the enforcement grades and enforcement process.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (25:00)

A. Applications – See consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Paige Ahlborg provided a brief overview of the report.

7. ACTION ITEMS (27:00)

A. Pioneer Park Accept Plans and Solicit Bids

Paige Ahlborg commented that this is a stormwater reuse project at Pioneer Park in Little Canada. She explained that the stormwater would be used to irrigate the ball fields.

Brad Lindaman commented that there is a six-month delay for the equipment, they would want to move forward with this to allow for installation in the spring/summer.

President Eisele asked if there would be signage for this project. Paige Ahlborg confirmed that there would be signage explaining the project.

Manager Kramer commented that the range of benefit shown in the report seems to be very big. Brad Lindaman commented that the alum treatment facility provides that low end and without the lower end projects, the range would be tighter.

Manager Karp commented that this is a great project. He asked if a Department of Labor and Industry review was required for the permit process and whether there were any comments on the reuse. Tina Carstens replied that she did not believe it was required.

Motion: Manager Karp 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 solicit bid proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Watershed Excellence Awards

Tina Carstens commented that the CAC and staff reviewed the nominations, with the CAC holding ballot voting to make these recommendations.

President Eisele commented that the CAC has a history of having thorough discussions and agreed with the recommendations. Manager Karp commented that he was present for the CAC discussions and noted that group did an excellent job talking about all the nominations and making tough decisions.

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Karp seconded, to approve the proposed Watershed Excellence Award winners. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Change Order No. 2 – Arbogast Underground Stormwater Filter

President Eisele asked for details. Brad Lindaman commented that the communications line was not known or marked and therefore was in conflict where the outlet was going to be located and had to be moved. President Eisele asked if the District was obligated to move the line. Brad Lindaman commented that it is his understanding that it is the owner of the line that is obligated to move the line, but because of project timing, the District decided to proceed with moving the line.

President Eisele asked for details on the contingency budget. Tina Carstens stated that more information on contingency can be provided in the future and this change is within the total project cost.

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Karp seconded, to approve Change Order No. 2 – Arbogast Underground Stormwater Filter. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (39:10)

Tracey Galowitz reviewed the work legal counsel has done for the District during the last month including several contract reviewed and an access agreement drafted.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (39:53)

President Eisele asked if the Board had a chance to send notes to staff on the Board role. He asked that managers send those comments to Tina Carstens if they have not already.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS (40:55)

A. BMP Inspector Intern Experience Presentation

Mary Fitzgerald introduced Nicole Peterson, BMP Inspector Intern.

Nicole Peterson commented that there are over 2,240 permitted stormwater BMPs recorded in the District and highlighted the most common types of BMPs. She explained that her job this summer was to inspect the permanent BMPs to determine functionality and maintenance needs. She highlighted some of the things that she would look for when completing an inspection as well as the grades that would be issued for each BMP. She also provided examples of projects within the different grade levels. She provided a summary of the inspections and reviewed the most common maintenance needs. She provided details on other opportunities she explored during her internship with the District.

B. Targeted Retrofit Program – A Decade in Review Presentation

Paige Ahlborg commented that she will be presenting this at the Water Resource Conference as well. She provided background information on the targeted retrofit program, which began in 2013 first focusing on churches and then moving to schools. She stated that there are now 24 projects located at churches and schools with an emphasis on cost-effective water quality improvements. She stated that commercial sites were added to the program in 2016, providing the examples of Aldrich Arena, Boys and Girls Club and Target stores. She reported that during the last ten years, 54 stormwater BMPs were installed at 36 sites and reviewed the related statistics. She also highlighted what could be next for the program and provided details on ongoing maintenance and educational signage.

President Eisele asked if the TMDL data is tracked. Tina Carstens confirmed that data is tracked and required to be reported to the MPCA. She explained how the program began with grant funding and has grown into what it is today.

C. Watershed Management Plan Gaps Analysis Scope Summary

Tina Carstens noted that this is moving forward now for a relatively low dollar amount, with more to come.

President Eisele commented that this seems to be a good first step.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:12:48)

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

No comments.

C. Board Action Log and Updates

No comments.

D. Staff Presentations at Upcoming Conferences

Tina Carstens noted the upcoming presentations that staff will be providing at different events.

E. Minnesota Watersheds Updates

Tina Carstens noted that the conference is coming up and asked that the Board let her know if they plan to attend.

F. Integrating Natural Hazard Mitigation and Clean Water Act Planning and Project Implementation Workshop

Tina Carstens stated that she provided a summary of the workshop she attended within her report and provided a brief overview. She also noted different funding opportunities that were identified.

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:21:43)

Project Feasibility Studies

- A. Interim Emergency Response Planning
- B. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Feasibility Study
- C. Ames Lake Area Flood Risk Reduction Planning Study
- D. Owasso Basin/North Star Estates Improvements
- E. Resiliency Study for Non-Beltline Tributary Areas
- F. Retrofit Inventory

Research Projects

- G. Kohlman Lake Aquatic Plant Management Effects Study
- H. Shallow Lake Aeration Study

Project Operations

- I. 2023 Automated Lake Level Station Maintenance and Rain Gage Installation

Capital Improvements

- J. Woodbury Target Store Stormwater Retrofit Project
- K. Roosevelt Homes Targeted Retrofit Project
- L. Stewardship Grant Program Support
- M. Arbogast Stormwater Filtration BMP
- N. Double Driveway Pond and Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- O. Pioneer Park Stormwater Reuse

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

- P. Beltline 5-Year Inspection
- Q. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification

Program Updates

- R. Natural Resources Program
- S. Public Involvement and Education Program
- T. Communications and Outreach Program
- U. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Update

No comments.

13. MANAGER COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

No comments.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Kramer seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.