



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
February 5, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of February 5, 2025, 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/0Xdlda2cLNA>. Video time stamps are included after each agenda item in minutes.

PRESENT:

Val Eisele, President
Ben Karp, Vice President
Mark Gernes, Secretary
Matt Kramer, Treasurer
Stephanie Wang, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Kyle Kubitz, Monitoring Technician
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
David Vlasin, Project Coordinator

Consultants:

Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering

Visitors:

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:12)

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Karp seconded, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER – MATT KRAMER (0:27)

President Eisele expressed appreciation for Manager Kramer's service on the RWMWD Board of Managers.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (1:10)

- A. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2025
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 25-02 CS Gable
 - ii. 25-03 CS Gilchrist

- iii. 25-04 CS Terry
- D. Beltline Mississippi River Branch Repairs – Change Order No. 2
- E. District Liability Insurance Coverage Waiver

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Kramer seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (2:55)

No comments.

5. PERMIT PROGRAM (02:59)

A. Applications

i. 25-03 Keller Golfview Parking Improvements, Maplewood

Nicole Maras provided details of the permit application 25-03 Keller Golfview Parking Improvements, Maplewood. Nicole stated that this permit is related to permit 24-26 Ramsey County Keller Park Tuj Lub Expansion. Nicole stated that this application is to provide better parking, accessibility and lighting to the Keller Park Tub Lub courts.

Motion: Manager Kramer moved, Manager Wang seconded to approve permit application 25-03 Keller Golfview Parking Improvement, Maplewood.

Manager Wang - Aye

Manager Gernes - Aye

Manager Kramer - Aye

President Eisele - Aye

Manager Karp - Abstained

Motion approved.

B. Permit Program Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras provided details of the monthly memorandum. Nicole noted that there are still a few active sites but there had been a slowdown in active sites due to the season. Nicole noted that Kendra Kloth and Mary Fitzgerald attended the Minnesota Erosion Control Conference held in St. Cloud, MN. Nicole provided information on the of workshops attended at the conference.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (7:57)

A. Applications – None.

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the Stewardship Grant Program budget status. Ashlee noted that six applications had been received with three of those applications included on the February consent agenda. Ashlee pointed out a reduction in maintenance grants and explained the reduction was due to maintenance grants reaching the end of their 5-year lifespan.

7. ACTION ITEMS - NONE

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (13:28)

Tracey Galowitz provided details of the work the attorney's office completed throughout the past month which included recording of the Fish Creek easements, looking into a payment bond and working on an access agreement form.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (16:30)

No comments.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. 2024 Enhanced Street Sweeping Program Summary (18:56)

Paige Ahlborg reviewed the 2024 enhanced street sweeping program summary. Paige stated that the program is going well, and the cities involved were very excited about the program. Paige noted that there had been a change in the funding allocation due to the City of St. Paul performing 90% of their sweeping outside of the District. The District provided funds for the sweeping that had been completed with District boundaries. Originally, \$100,000 had been allocated for the City of St. Paul; the final funding amount provided was \$10,000. Paige continued to provide updates on the planning for the street sweeping program in 2025.

Erin Anderson-Wenz provided details on sampling and testing that had been performed by the City of Roseville through their street sweeping program. Erin stated that the data collected in the samples were compared to the PCA street sweeping phosphorus credit calculator and found that they were relatively similar.

President Eisele asked if the recommendations given to the Cities were followed and if so, what the numbers were for those recommended street sweeping locations.

Paige Ahlborg stated that the Cities went with an all-inclusive approach. Paige explained that there had been enough funding for Cities to not only complete sweeping in the recommended priority areas but also sweep their entire cities.

Manager Gernes asked for more information on the design of the data and if a better understanding of best strategies, techniques and equipment would arise from the information to further improve the program.

Paige Ahlborg stated that the Cities involved in the program are meeting the baselines laid out in the program, noting that it is always good to collect the data and use it to help improve the program.

President Eisele stated that he would like to see if there is any correlation between the street sweeping success and improvement of water quality in the near by impaired lakes.

Tina Carstens stated that the data would go into the TMDL reporting for the impaired waters.

B. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment Project Update Memo (36:14)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided details on the previous treatment of Kohlman Lake noting that an alum treatment had been completed in 2010. Erin explained that there had been intensive management of the macrophytes in the lake. Erin stated the macrophytes found included Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed, noting the direct impact they have on water quality. Erin stated that after the first alum treatment water quality significantly improved and remained clear for nearly 13 years and Kohlman Lake had been removed from the impaired waters list. Erin explained that the alum treatment does erode over time which allowed for the water quality to degrade indicating a need for another alum treatment. Erin went on to provide details on the options available for lake treatment, which included spot treatments and alum treatments.

President Eisele questioned if spot treatments would be manageable or if a full treatment to reduce the curly leaf pond weed in the lake.

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that over the last few years there had been a number of spot treatments being completed by the local resident's lake association. Erin stated a conversation would need to take place with the DNR to see what

treatments had been completed previously by the lake association as well as to gain an understanding of where and how much treatment had applied. Erin provided more details on what could happen when the treatments are applied, including a clearer water column which would promote a more diversity in the macrophytes found in the lake.

Manager Wang asked for more details on the engagement process with the residents.

Tina Carstens provided more information on the communications that had already taken place with residents and the lake association. Tina stated that residents have been supportive of an alum treatment, but more work would be done to further explain how the alum treatment would affect the lake.

Manager Kramer questioned if it made sense financially for the District to complete repeated alum treatments at Kohlman Lake. Manager Kramer noted that this will likely need to be address again in the future due to alum treatments not being a permanent solution.

Manger Wang questioned if cost sharing had been discussed with the lake association.

Tina Carstens explained that because Kohlman Lake is the beginning of a chain of lakes the water quality does affect other bodies of water further down the chain. Tina stated that the district had invested in the alum treatments due to the effect on all the waterbodies within the chain. Tina stated that special assessments had not been done in the past, but it could be something that happens in the future.

Manager Gernes questioned if harmful algae blooms had been seen in the lake.

Tina Carstens stated that she was not aware of any harmful algae blooms in Kohlman Lake.

President Eisele stated he thought it would be good to revisit the return on investment for an alum treatment at Kohlman Lake.

C. New Technology Topic Memo: Aeration (1:01:25)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided background on the memo stating that there had been a lot of interest after presentations that were given at the Minnesota Watersheds Conference. Erin stated that a deeper dive into the nanobubble technology had been completed due to a lack of peer reviewed research with this being a new technology. Erin went on to provide information on the different aeration technologies available discussing their methods, costs, benefits and limitations.

President Eisele questioned how often negative side effects are seen from aeration.

Erin Anderson Wenz stated that it is rare to see an aeration system used to oxygenate an entire lake. Erin explained that since it is done on a small scale larger problems on not commonly seen. Erin provided more information on the negative side effects that could occur from aeration.

President Eisele stated that he liked that the District looks at using innovative technology. President Eisele stated that he felt there would be a struggle working through this with the lack of evidence on the efficacy of nanobubble aeration technologies.

D. Phalen and Keller Lake Level Forecast Integration Scope Summary (1:19:44)

Tina Carstens provided an overview of the Phalen and Keller Lake level forecast integration scope summary. Tina explained that the goal would be to develop a tool that would be used to automate the control structures on Keller Channel and Lake Phalen.

President Eisele stated that he would like to ensure that there is a fail safe if something were to happen.

Manager Wang asked how often the controls were used to change lake levels.

Tina Carstens explained that due to continuous dry years since the lake level controls installation it had not been used often.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:24:54)

A. Meetings Attended

No comments

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

No comments.

C. Staff Anniversaries

No comments.

D. Board Action Log

No comments.

E. District DEIA Planning Process

No comments.

F. Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event Discussion

No comments.

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:51:12)

Project Feasibility Studies

A. Manufactured Homes Resilience Evaluation

B. Street Sweeping

C. Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study: Roseville Central Park

Watershed Management Plan Update

D. Watershed Management Plan Update: Phase 1-Steakholder Engagement

Research Projects

E. New-Technology Mini Case Studies

F. Wakefield Lake Aeration Feasibility Study

Project Operations

G. Lake-Level Station Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation

Capital Improvements

H. Roosevelt Homes

I. Targeted Retrofit Projects 2025

J. Stewardship Grant Program

K. Pioneer Park Stormwater Reuse

L. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements

M. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration

N. County Road C Culvert Replacement

O. Kohlman Creek Storage and Detention

P. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment

Q. Lake Wabasso Outlet Replacement

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

R. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification

S. 2025 CIP Maintenance and Repairs

T. Beltline and Battle Creek Storm Sewer Five-Year Inspections and Beltline Detailed Survey

U. Beltline Mississippi Branch Outfall Replacement Project

Program Updates

V. Natural Resources Program

W. Communications and Engagement Program

13. MANAGER COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:05:46)

No comments.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.