



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

The Regular Meeting of March 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/8rc4wJfX51w>. Video time stamps are included after each agenda item in minutes.

**PRESENT:**

Val Eisele, President  
Ben Karp, Vice President  
Mark Gernes, Secretary  
Stephanie Wang, Manager  
Gabi Grogan, Manager (via Zoom – non-voting)

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Staff:**

Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager  
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist  
David Vlasin, Project Coordinator  
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring Technician  
Patrick Williamson, Natural Resources Specialist  
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician  
Carrie Magnuson, Communication Specialist

**Consultants:**

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

**Visitors:**

Glen Olson, Citizens Advisory Committee

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:14)**

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

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:29)**

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2025
- B. Approval of Special Workshop Meeting Minutes February 24, 2025
- C. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- D. Permit Program
  - i. 25-04 Papehems Victoria Valley Orchard, Shoreview
  - ii. 25-06 North St. Paul Street Improvement Project
- E. Stewardship Grant Program
  - i. 25-07 CS Stephens
- F. 2025 Capital Improvements Project (CIP) – Change Order No. 1

Manager Wang questioned if the wet pond created from the lack of infiltration would remain at the location of permit application 25-06 North St. Paul Street Improvement Project. Manager Wang asked if there would be visibly noticeable difference for residents.

Nicole Maras stated that once the basin is functioning as designed it would be a dry filtration basin. Nicole provided details on the updates that would occur within the basin.

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

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

#### **4. VISITOR COMMENTS (05:26)**

No comments.

#### **5. PERMIT PROGRAM (05:43)**

##### A. Applications

##### i. 25-05 Ramsey County Bruce Vento Trail Extension, White Bear Lake

Nicole Maras provided details of permit application 25-05 Ramsey County Bruce Vento Trail, White Bear Lake. Nicole explained that a portion of the project would be located within VLAWMO boundaries, noting that this permit application applies only to the portion of the project located within RWMWD boundaries. Nicole went on to provide details of the project design including proposed infiltration to meet stormwater treatment and a compensatory storage area to account for the fill that was proposed to be placed in the onsite wetland. Nicole noted that this project was related to wetland replacement plan #24-32 WCA Ramsey County Bruce Vento Trail, White Bear Lake that had been approved by the Board at the December 2024 meeting. Nicole explained that the two areas of impact included bridge sections that were being included to avoid further impacts to the wetland, noting that some fill would be necessary for those bridge sections. Nicole explained that there was a variance request for buffer impacts for the trail as well as temporary impacts for the bridge sections in the buffer.

Manager Gernes stated that he believed that this project would be making improvements and that he appreciated the effort to minimize fill in the wetland.

President Eisele stated that he understood why the variance was needed and agreed that this was a good project.

Manager Karp stated that due to working for Ramsey County Parks and being involved in the project, he would be abstaining from the vote to approve the permit application.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded to approve permit application 25-05 Ramsey County Bruce Vento Trail Extension, White Bear Lake.

Manager Wang - Aye

Manager Gernes - Aye

Manager Karp - Abstained

President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

##### B. Permit Program Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras provided an overview of the monthly memorandum which included information on trainings and planning

meetings that occurred throughout past month.

**6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (16:17)**

A. Applications – None

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an overview of the stewardship grant budget status update. Ashlee noted that more outreach efforts would be happening in the upcoming months with the anticipation of more applications to follow. Ashlee stated that she also anticipated more incoming maintenance grant applications.

**7. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Board of Managers Annual meeting (18:46)

President Eisele asked for a motion to suspend the regular Board meeting and open the annual meeting.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to suspend the regular Board meeting and open the annual meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

i. Board Governance Manual

President Eisele provided details of the Board governance manual noting that there were no recommended changes proposed.

ii. Election of Officers

President Eisele explained the election of officers process.

President Eisele self-nominated for the position of President.

President Eisele nominated Manager Karp for the position of Vice President.

Manager Wang self-nominated for the position of Treasurer.

President Eisele nominated Manager Gernes for the position of Secretary.

iii. Citizen Advisory Committee Membership, Board Liaison Appointment, Activities

Manager Karp expressed interest in continuing as the Board liaison to the CAC.

Manager Wang also expressed interest in the Board liaison to the CAC. Manager Wang proposed co-liaisons to the CAC.

President Eisele nominated both Manager Wang and Manager Karp for the position of CAC liaison.

iv. Consulting Staff Selection

President Eisele provided information on the selection of consulting staff.

Engineer: Barr Engineering

Attorney: Galowitz Olson

Accountant: Redpath and Company

v. Official Designations

President Eisele provided information on the selection of official designations.

Official Bank of Deposit: 4M Fund with League of Minnesota Cities: US Bank

Official Newspaper: St. Paul Pioneer Press

vi. Oaths of Office

Tracey Galowitz administered the Oath of Office.

President Eisele, Manager Karp, Manager Gernes and Manager Wang completed the Oath of Office.

Tracey Galowitz noted that Manager Grogan had completed the Oath of Office at a prior meeting.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to appoint the board officers, citizen advisory committee members and designate the desired consulting staff, official bank of deposit, and official newspapers.

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

President Eisele asked for a motion to close the annual board meeting and reopen the regular board meeting.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to close the annual board meeting and reopen the regular board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

B. Roosevelt Homes Phase 3 Advertise for Bid

Erin Anderson Wenz provided an introduction to the third phase of the Roosevelt Homes project. Erin noted that this was a flood risk reduction project in an equity priority area.

Marcy Bean explained details of the Roosevelt Homes project and provided history on how this project came to be, noting that there were concerning flooding issues at the location. Marcy continued on to review phases one and two of the project, which included the construction of two basins, planting of the basins and converting over an acre of turf to native habitat. Marcy went on to explain that phase three deals with the conveyance portion of the project. Marcy provided more details of the plans of the phase three conveyance system. Marcy stated that a grant had been received for the project which would be used towards the construction of phase three. Marcy requested for the Boards approval to go out to bid, noting that those bids would be brought back to the Board for review at the April meeting.

President Eisele stated that he felt this project would be a great location for interesting signage that provides information and raises awareness within the community.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang 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 (4-0).

C. Maplewood Toyota and Cochran Recovery Services Advertise for Bid

Erin Anderson Wenz provided details of the Maplewood Toyota and Cochran Recovery Services 2025 retrofit project. Erin explained that the two projects would be bid separately due to the different types of work needing to be done at the locations.

Marcy Bean explained details on how the projects came to be. Marcy provided information on conversations that occurred with the property owners and what was found at the sites during visits in 2024. Marcy explained that the BMP plans were selected by the property owners. Marcy stated that there was a benefit to complete the projects, but it did not go as far as initially anticipated. Marcy went on to provide more details of the site locations and challenges. Marcy stated that if approved bids would be brought back to the Board at the April meeting.

Manager Karp requested more information on who would be providing the maintenance at the Maplewood Toyota site.

Mary Bean explained that the design was customized for Maplewood Toyota to use their own equipment to complete regular maintenance.

President Eisele asked for information on maintenance for the proposed tree trenches and rain gardens at the Cochran Recovery Services location.

Marcy Bean stated that the vegetation will be maintained by the construction contractor for a period of two years.

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes 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.

#### **8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:03:02)**

Tracey Galowitz provided an overview of the work the attorney's office completed in the last month. Tracey noted that this work included finalizing the access and easement agreement with Bailey's Nursery.

#### **9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:03:57)**

Manager Wang provided details of the Legislative Day event. Manager Wang stated that she was also able to meet with House Representative Amy Hemmingsen-Jaeger and State Senator Nicole Mitchell who represent Woodbury, noting that both representatives showed support of the District's efforts.

Manager Gernes provided details of the meeting him and President Eisele attended with House Representative Peter Fischer. Manager Gernes stated that Representative Fischer was also supportive of the District's efforts.

#### **10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS (1:20:53)**

##### **A. 2025 Engineering Services Story Map Walkthrough**

Erin Anderson Wenz explained the origin of the story map and how it changed over time. Erin provided a walkthrough of how the story map works and what can be found within the map which included information on flood risk reduction, water quality, research, operations and other projects throughout the District.

#### **11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:31:45)**

##### **A. Meetings Attended**

No comments.

##### **B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates**

No comments.

##### **C. Staff Anniversaries**

No comments.

##### **D. Board Action Log**

No comments.

##### **E. Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting**

No comments.

## 12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:38:17)

### *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. Wakefield Lake Aeration Feasibility Study

### *Project Operations*

- F. 2025 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring
- G. Lake-Level Station Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation
- H. Lake-Level Station Forecast Integration

### *Capital Improvements*

- I. Roosevelt Homes
- J. Targeted Retrofit Projects 2025
- K. Stewardship Grant Program

President Eisele questioned if the cost-benefit database could be leveraged to show that the District is a good steward of tax dollars during the upcoming watershed management plan engagement.

Nicole Maras stated that some of the quantitative data is shown in the District annual report but other opportunities could be looked at.

- L. Pioneer Park Stormwater Reuse
- M. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- N. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration
- O. County Road C Culvert Replacement
- P. Kohlman Creek Storage and Detention
- Q. Lake Wabasso Outlet Replacement
- R. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment

Manager Wang questioned when the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment would be known and how that would relate to the proposed alum treatment.

Erin Anderson Wenz explained that the herbicide treatment is taking place due to the assumption that an alum treatment will occur in the spring of 2026 unless the herbicide treatments are found to be ineffective.

### *CIP Project Repair and Maintenance*

- S. 2025 CIP Maintenance and Repairs
- T. Beltline Mississippi Branch Outfall Replacement Project
- U. Beltline and Battle Creek Storm Sewer Five-Year Inspections and Beltline Detailed Survey

### *Program Updates*

- V. Natural Resources Program
- W. Communications and Engagement Program
- X. Citizen Advisory Committee

## 13. MANAGER COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:03:24)

No comments.

**14. ADJOURN**

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Karp seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).