



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 1, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of October 1, 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 is available at <https://youtu.be/gMrq4uWX9ok>. Video time stamps are included after each agenda item in minutes.

PRESENT:

Val Eisele, President
Ben Karp, Vice President
Mark Gernes, Secretary
Stephanie Wang, Treasurer
Gabi Grogan, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Kyle Kubitz, Monitoring Technician
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator

Consultants:

Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC

Visitors:

Kristin Seaman, City of Woodbury
Amy Timm, MPCA
Fawkes Char, MPCA

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 Grogan moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:25)

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2025
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 25-26 Cowren Elementary Addition, North St. Paul
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 25-38 CS Dunbar
- E. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project – Change Order No. 1

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (1:20)

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (1:26)

A. Applications

i. 25-27 Bulk Silo Terminal, St. Paul

Mary Fitzgerald provided details of permit application 25-27 Bulk Silo Terminal, St. Paul. Mary noted that the permit application included a variance request due to the project's inability to meet Rule D flood control requirements, as compensatory storage was not available. Mary stated that a no-rise certificate had been issued for the project.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve permit application 25-27 Bulk Silo Terminal, St. Paul

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. 25-28 Woodbury Public Safety Building Redevelopment, Woodbury

Mary Fitzgerald provided details of permit 25-28 Woodbury Public Safety Building Redevelopment, Woodbury. Mary explained that the permit application triggered a variance request for rule E, wetland management. Mary explained that the building and parking lot are within the wetland buffer, and further mitigation could not be completed. Mary stated that the impervious area within the buffer would be reduced by 1,800 sq. ft., thereby decreasing the overall impact. Mary stated that there would be permanent and temporary impacts to the wetland buffer. Mary noted that the flood control rule was also triggered, but that rule was being met by providing compensatory storage on site. Mary provided more details on the BMPs and stormwater systems that would be installed on site.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve permit application 25-28 Woodbury Public Safety Building Redevelopment, Woodbury.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Mary Fitzgerald provided an overview of the monthly regulatory memorandum. Mary reviewed violations, meetings, and project updates from September. Mary discussed recent inspections of permit #24-17, The Heights, and discussed non-compliance issues at the site, which could cause serious environmental damage if a rain event were to occur.

Tracey Galowitz provided information regarding permit #24-17, The Heights. Tracey provided information on enforcement options for the Board to discuss as it decides how to proceed. Tracey detailed the enforcement options, which included an injunction, a stop-work order, or an abatement. Tracey provided details of an upcoming meeting with the St. Paul Port Authority regarding the 14 violations that remain unfixed.

Manager Karp stated that he supported the abatement option to resolve the issues.

President Eisele stated that abatement and sending a letter would be a good way to approach the situation.

Tracey provided more details of what could be included in the letter. Tracey provided additional information on the abatement process.

Manager Wang stated that she fully supported moving forward with the proposed actions.

Manager Gernes also expressed support for taking the proposed actions.

Manager Grogan stated that she was also supportive of moving forward with the proposed actions.

President Eisele requested that the City of St. Paul be included in the upcoming conversations with the St. Paul Port Authority.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to determine that the violation has been ongoing and severe enough to ask the attorney to take the legal action necessary to correct and bring the facility into compliance with the permit, and to use abatement if that is necessary to ensure it is done correctly.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (42:19)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an overview of the budget status update. Ashlee noted that the program is on track to spend down its 2025 budget. Ashlee stated there will be more projects coming at the November meeting, as well as some upcoming staff approvals.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment Project Advertise for Bid (1:45:40)

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to approve the preliminary design, estimated cost, 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 Approval (1:46:59)

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to recommend and approve the proposed Watershed Excellence Award winners.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:49:36)

Tracey Galowitz provided an update on the work the attorney's office completed throughout September. Tracey introduced Tori Kelm, who will begin working with the district.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:51:10)

Tina Carstens discussed upcoming conversations on the watershed management plan update and chloride.

President Eisele proposed a separate workshop for discussions on the watershed management plan.

Manager Karp agreed that a workshop would give more time for discussion.

The Board agreed that a workshop should be scheduled to discuss the watershed management plan, while the chloride discussion will be held at the next board meeting.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS (47:30)

A. Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint: Where are we now? Fawkes Char, MPCA (47:30)

Fawkes Char provided background information to Minnesota's PFAS blueprint. Fawkes discussed what PFAS is, the different types of PFAS, and where PFAS come from, which included direct discharge into air and water, as well as products being made with PFAS. Fawkes provided information on the health effects and exposure risks of PFAS, as well as the prevalence of PFAS in drinking water. Fawkes discussed Minnesota's statewide strategic response and the blueprint for addressing PFAS pollution, protecting ecosystem health, ensuring safe consumption of fish and game, and managing PFAS waste. Fawkes provided information on permitting actions and monitoring outcomes. Fawkes discussed PFAS in RWMWD surface water, noting there had been detection in 23 lakes, with the highest concentrations in Pig's Eye Lake and the lowest in Lake Owasso. Fawkes continued to discuss the surface water quality standards in Minnesota. Fawkes provided information on the district's role in the PFAS reduction blueprint, noting that parts of the district fall under a priority 2 area for restoring/enhancing aquatic resources. Fawkes continued to discuss the prohibition of PFAS products in Minnesota.

The board expressed appreciation for the information provided.

B. New Technology Topics: Chloride Removal from Surface Waters (1:53:00)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided information on new technologies for chloride removal from surface waters. Erin noted that more strategies would be coming to the board in November.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (2:03:11)

A. Meetings Attended

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

C. Staff Anniversaries

D. Board Action Log

E. Minnesota Watersheds Updates

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (2:04:08)

Project Feasibility Studies

- A. Manufactured Homes Resilience Evaluation
- B. Evaluation of Compliance with the South Metro Mississippi TSS TMDL
- C. Street Sweeping
- D. Interim Emergency Response Plans
- E. Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study: Roseville Central Park
- F. Stormwater Model Updates
- G. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks
- H. Wetland Restoration Planning

Watershed Management Plan Update

- I. Watershed Management Plan Update: Phase 1 – Stakeholder Engagement
- J. Watershed Management Plan Update: Phase 2 – Complex Pre-Work

Lake Studies and TMDL Reports

- K. 2025 Grant Applications

Research Projects

- L. New-Technology Mini Case Studies
- M. Wakefield Lake Aeration Feasibility Study

Project Operations

- N. Lake-Level Station Operation and Maintenance and Raing Gauge Installation
- O. Lake-Level Station Forecast Integration

Capital Improvements

- P. Roosevelt Homes
- Q. Targeted Retrofit Projects 2025
- R. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- S. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration
- T. Kohlman Creek Improvements
- U. Lake Wabasso Outlet Replacement
- V. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
- CIP Project Repair and Maintenance*
- W. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- X. RWMWD Office Parking-Lot Retrofit
- Program Updates*
- Y. Natural Resources Program
- Z. Communications and Outreach Program
- AA. Citizen Advisory Committee

13. MANAGER COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:09:27)

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.