



Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
December 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting of December 10, 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/nl66DxlqfRc>. 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
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Lauren Hazenson, Communications Program Manager
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring Technician

Consultants:

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

Visitors:

Erika Olson, Xcel Energy
Jake Fahrenkrog, ERM
Rene Heflin, Metropolitan Council
Stephen Norton, Metropolitan Council
Michael Stellmach, SEH Inc.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:12)

President Eisele proposed moving item 3C iii, permit application 25-34 Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park trail Rehabilitation, Shoreview, to item 5A ii.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:46)

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2025
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 25-32 MWWTP 4th Incinerator, St. Paul
 - ii. 25-33 RWMWD 2026 CIP

- iii. 25-34 Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park trail Rehabilitation, Shoreview
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 25-61 CS Reimer
- E. BMP Services Agreement – Washington Conservation District
- F. BMP Services Agreement – Ramsey County
- G. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project – Change Order No. 3

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (3:14)

No comments.

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (3:40)

A. Applications

i. 25-35 Pig's Eye Xcel Line Rebuild 0892/0893

Mary Fitzgerald provided details of permit application 25-35 Pig's Eye Xcel Line Rebuild 0892/0893. Mary noted there was a variance request for rule D. Mary stated that compensatory storage was unable to be met due to the nature and location of the project. Mary explained that the project is in the unaffected area of the flood plain of the Mississippi River and the disturbance would be small enough to not cause a change in the flood storage provided.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve permit application 25-35 Pig's Eye Xcel Line Rebuild 0892/0893.

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. 25-34 Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation, Shoreview

Mary Fitzgerald provided details of permit application 25-34 Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation, Shoreview. Mary noted that this application was pulled from the consent agenda due to the applicant being Ramsey County Parks and Recreation.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded to approve permit application 25-34 Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation, Shoreview.

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Gernes – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

President Eisele – Aye

Manager Karp - Abstained

Motion approved.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Mary Fitzgerald provided details of the monthly regulatory memorandum.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (17:52)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the budget status report.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2026 Board Meeting Dates (20:23)

Tina Carstens reviewed the 2026 board meeting dates.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the 2026 Board meeting dates.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment Bid Review and Approval (22:37)

Erin Anderson Wenz reviewed the bid opening for the Kohlman Lake alum treatment. Erin noted that there was one bidder for the project. Erin compared the engineers' estimated cost and the bid received.

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Grogan seconded to accept the bids and award the Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment project to SOLitude Lake Management LLC, direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award, prepare the agreements, and review the required submittals.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repair Project Bid Review and Approval (27:13)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided information on the bids received for the 2026 CIP maintenance and repair project. Erin stated that Fitzgerald Excavating was the lowest responsible bidder. Erin reviewed the engineers' estimate and discussed how that compared to the bid received from Fitzgerald Excavating.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to accept the bids and award the 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repair project to Fitzgerald Excavating, direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award, prepare the agreements, and review the required submittals.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. 2026 Budget and Levy Final Approval (30:04)

Tina Carstens reviewed the 2026 budget and levy certification. Tina noted that there were no significant changes from the budget approved at the September meeting.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the proposed FY 2026 General Fund and CIP budgets and adopt resolution 25-02.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (32:52)

Laurann Kirschner provided information on the work the attorney's office completed throughout the month of November.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (34:17)

Manager Wang discussed topics from the MN Watersheds Conference. Manager Wang's first topic of discussion was a watershed district's ability to establish a watershed management district for specific lakes and the benefits of doing so.

Manger Wang went on to discuss legislative partnerships and how showing the work the district completes creates value for constituents. The final topic Manager Wang discussed related to chloride pollution and what strategies could be implemented to mitigate the use of salt for deicing.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. New Technology Report – On-Site Buckthorn to Biochar(59:00)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided information on the new technology report.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:04:44)

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 (1:08:02)

Project Feasibility Studies

A. Manufactured Homes Resilience Evaluation

B. Street Sweeping

C. Interim Emergency Response Plans

D. Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study: Roseville Central Park

E. Stormwater Model Updates

F. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks

G. Wetland Restoration Planning

Monitoring Water Quality/ Project Monitoring

H. Battle Creek and Fish Creek Monitoring

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. 2025 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring

O. Lake-Level Station Forecast Integration

Capital Improvements

P. Targeted Retrofit Projects 2025

Q. Kohlman Creek Improvements

R. Lake Wabasso Outlet Replacement

S. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

T. 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repairs

U. RWMWD Office Parking-Lot Retrofit

V. Beltline and Battle Creek Five-Year Inspection

Program Updates

- W. Natural Resources Program
- X. Communications and Outreach Program
- Y. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (1:16:46)

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager moved, Manager seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.