



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District  
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting  
February 4, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of February 4, 2026, 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/0rPvH5L1q\\_8](https://youtu.be/0rPvH5L1q_8). 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 (Virtual)

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Staff:**

Tina Carstens, Administrator  
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator  
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager  
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist  
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician  
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator  
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist  
Eric Korte, Monitoring Program Manager

**Consultants:**

Laurann Kirschner, Attorney for District  
Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC  
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering

**Visitors:**

Dave Nash, Alliant Engineering  
Deb Ridgeway, DR Horton

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:11)**

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve the agenda. A roll call was performed:

Manager Karp – Aye  
Manager Gernes – Aye  
Manager Wang – Aye  
Manager Grogan – Aye  
President Eisele – Aye  
Motion approved.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:34)**

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026
- B. Treasurer’s Report and Bill List
- C. Stewardship Grant Program
  - i. 26-01 CS Owasso Heights Townhomes Phase 2

- ii. 26-02 CS Quest
- iii. 26-03 CS Woodbury 2026 Street Sweeping
- iv. 26-05 CS White Bear Lake 2026 Street Sweeper

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve the consent agenda. A roll call was performed:

Manager Karp – Aye  
Manager Gernes – Aye  
Manager Wang – Aye  
Manager Grogan – Aye  
President Eisele – Aye  
Motion approved.

#### **4. VISITOR COMMENTS (03:12)**

No comments.

#### **5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (03:31)**

##### **A. Applications**

##### **i. 26-06 Century Ponds, Maplewood**

Nicole Maras provided details of permit application 26-06 Century Ponds, Maplewood. Nicole noted that wetlands and constructed ponds were identified on the site. Nicole explained that the historical wetlands are all to be preserved. Nicole stated there was a variance request for temporary and permanent buffer disturbances. Nicole provided additional details on the proposed impact on the buffers.

Deb Ridgeway provided details of the project and grounds maintenance plans, including the development plan and timeline.

Dave Nash provided additional information on retaining walls, stormsewer plans, and pipe outlets.

Manager Gernes stated his concern with the disturbance to the buffers and use of turf grass.

Deb Ridgeway provided more details on the use of turf grass during development.

Manager Gernes expressed his concerns over what affects the requested variance would have on the wetlands.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve permit application 26-06 Century Ponds, Maplewood. A roll call was performed:

Manager Karp – Aye  
Manager Gernes – Nay  
Manager Wang – Aye  
Manager Grogan – Aye  
President Eisele – Aye  
Motion approved.

##### **B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum**

Nicole Maras provided details of the monthly regulatory memorandum. Nicole discussed the Wetland Professionals Symposium and the information the Regulatory team learned there.

C. BMP Maintenance Program Update

Mary Fitzgerald provided an overview of the Regulatory program team and the number of closed permit BMPs within the District.

Kendra Kloth discussed the barriers to inspecting the permit BMPs which included communication breakdown, focusing on active sites over closed permits, and staff time constraints. Kendra reviewed the 2025 Regulatory program goals. Kendra highlighted the new page added to the District website which can be used by landowners to submit annual inspection reports.

Mary Fitzgerald provided additional details of the new web page and how it has been working. Mary noted they had seen thorough submittals coming from the website. Mary stated that the use of blast emails and the new webpage had been successful thus far.

Kendra Kloth highlighted successes of the Regulatory program in 2025 which included on-site meetings with landowners and public organizations, presentations with maintenance staff and providing guidance via email & phone.

Mary Fitzgerald discussed the Regulatory program goals for 2026.

**6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (58:00)**

A. Applications

i. 26-02 CS Pioneer Park Pond Buffer Restoration

Ashlee Ricci provided details of the Stewardship Grant application 26-02 CS Pioneer Park Pond Buffer Restoration. Ashlee stated that the native buffers were eligible for 50% coverage up to a total of \$15,000. Staff recommends funding \$15,000 per phase for a total not to exceed \$45,000. Ashlee explained that the City of Little Canada is planning to complete all phases at once due to cost and potential risks to the resource.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to approve grant application CS 26-02 CS Pioneer Park Pond Buffer Restoration. A roll call was performed:

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Gernes – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the budget status report.

**7. ACTION ITEMS - None**

**8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:04:33)**

Tori Kelm provided information on the work the attorney's office completed throughout the month of January, including the publishing of notices for bid for professional services. Tori noted that those bids would be presented to the Board at the March meeting.

**9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:05:03)**

Manager Wang discussed making a connection with the County Commissioners and explained the 2025 activity highlight sheet she created to share with the Washington County Commissioners. Manager Wang discussed the response she received.

President Eisele stated that he felt a highlight sheet would be a good thing to provide to the Ramsey County Commissioners as well.

**10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS**

A. New Technology Report: AquaBLOK/AquaGATE Media for PFAS Removal (1:09:36)

Brandon Barnes provided details of the AquaBLOK/AquaGate media used for PFAS removal. Brandon stated that many stormwater BMPs are not capable of PFAS removal. Brandon explained how AquaBLOK and AquaGATE work and the differences between the two. Brandon noted that opportunities to utilize these technologies would be further investigated.

B. Wetland Restoration Planning Project Work Plan (1:18:12)

Tina Carstens provided information on the wetland restoration planning project work plan.

C. Battle Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study Phase 2 Project Work Plan (1:24:55)

Brandon Barnes stated that Battle Creek is impaired TSS. Brandon provided details of the Battle Creek subwatershed feasibility study and explained how the study would help make sure BMPs are installed in the correct places to address the impairment.

D. Five Star Estates Feasibility Study Project Work Plan (1:31:22)

Brandon Barnes provided details of the Five Star Estates feasibility study.

**11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:38:05)**

A. Meetings Attended

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

C. Staff Anniversaries

D. Board Action Log

E. Payroll Issues

F. Minnesota Erosion Control Association(MECA) Award

G. Minnesota Watershed Updates

**12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:47:27)**

*Project Feasibility Studies*

A. Manufactured Homes Resilience Evaluation

B. Chloride Management

C. Street Sweeping

D. Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study: Roseville Central Park

E. Stormwater Model Updates

F. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks

*Watershed Management Plan Update*

G. Watershed Management Plan Update: Phase 1 – Stakeholder Engagement

H. Watershed Management Plan Update: Phase 2 – Complex Pre-Work

*Research Projects*

I. New Technology Mini Case Studies

*Project Operations*

J. Lake-Level Station Operation and Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation

K. Gopher State One Call Utility Locations for Beltline and Battle Creek

*Capital Improvements*

L. Targeted Retrofit Projects 2026

M. Kohlman Creek Improvements

N. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment

- O. Wakefield Lake Oxygen Saturation Technology System  
*CIP Project Repair and Maintenance*
- P. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- Q. 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repairs
- R. 2026 Vegetation Maintenance Program
- S. RWMWD Office Parking-Lot Retrofit  
*Program Updates*
- T. Natural Resources Program
- U. Communications and Outreach Program

**13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (1:55:32)**

President Eisele request the Board write down ideas for the Watershed Management Plan update mission statement and core principles that can be sent to staff.

**14. ADJOURN**

Motion: Manager moved, Manager seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.