



Special Board Workshop Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

5:00 PM

The special Board workshop will be held at the district office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN 55117.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the watershed management plan update, including a review of the draft goal statements in relation to the prioritized issue statements.

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Discuss Draft Issue and Goal Statements (*memo attached*)
3. Adjourn



RAMSEY-WASHINGTON
METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

5:00 PM

**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Office
2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN**

The Board will meet with District staff to discuss draft goal statements for the Watershed Management Plan update.

To access the **Board workshop** via webcast, please use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84396268244>

The meeting room will open at 4:50 pm with the meeting starting at 5:00 pm. To connect to audio you may choose to use your computer audio options or you may use your mobile device to call. The phone access number is **(312) 626-6799**. The Meeting ID is **843 9626 8244**. The meeting password is **187486**.

Memorandum

To: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers
From: Greg Williams and Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering Co.
Tina Carstens and Paige Ahlborg, RWMWD
Subject: 2027 Watershed Management Plan Update – Draft Issue Statements and Goals
Date: March 26, 2025
Project: 23621496.00-400-100

The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) is updating its 2027 Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The Board of Managers (Managers) has established a working prioritization of high-level issues (i.e., “Level 1 issues”) and has included sub-issues (i.e., “Level 2 issues”) in the Plan. Following the identification of priority issues, Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) and RWMWD staff developed draft goals for each level 1 and level 2 issue. This memorandum and the attached table present the draft goals for Manager consideration, as well as associated issue statements and potential RWMWD programs/projects (briefly) applicable to each goal.

1 Issue Statements

The attached table presents draft issue statements for each level 2 issue (or level 1 issue if there are no level 2 issues within the level 1 issue category). The issue statements are not a required Plan element, but are included to briefly summarize why the topic is important and a priority to RWMWD. The issue statements will be supplemented in the final draft plan by additional narratives, tables, figures, and linked references, as applicable.

2 Goals and Goal Measurability

The attached table presents one or more goals applicable to each level 2 issue. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) emphasizes goal measurability, resulting in a greater number of more specific, quantifiable goals relative to goals included in the 2017 Plan (e.g., “achieve healthy ecosystems). We propose including broad, high-level goal statements for each level 1 issue similar to the 2017 Plan. This will show the evolution of the RWMWD’s priorities and goals and connect the new Plan to the 2017 Plan. Draft high-level goals for each level 1 issue area are presented in text preceding the attached table.

Level 2 goals (or subgoals) in the attached table vary by type and degree of measurability (in some cases, depending on what information is already known). Goals related to well-studied water quality issues have discrete, numeric targets (e.g., achieve state water quality standards; reduce phosphorus loading by X lbs per year). In some cases, we have included placeholders for quantities to be determined from a more thorough analysis of technical data.

For goals with more qualitative outcomes (e.g., goals seeking to understand, minimize, promote, etc.), the tools or methods planned to achieve the goal (e.g., studies, regulations) are included in the goal language to add a degree of quantification. This is consistent with recent guidance by the BWSR.

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3 Potential Actions

The attached table also includes potential projects, programs, or actions RWMWD may perform in pursuit of each goal. Potential actions are included in this iteration of the table to provide additional context to the goals. Developing a detailed implementation schedule of RWMWD actions will be a focus later in the plan development.

The activities in this column include those *most relevant* to achieving the specific goal and do not include all possible actions. For example, “monitoring” is identified as the most relevant action for goals related to water quality standards because assessment of monitoring data is how RWMWD will determine if those goals are met. However, we recognize that multiple RWMWD activities impact the water quality observed through monitoring.

4 Feedback and Next Steps

This memo and the attached table are provided primarily to obtain the manager's feedback on the draft goals (rather than issue statements or potential actions). Questions to consider in your review:

- Do the goals sufficiently address all priority issues?
- Are there additional measurable goals you would like to see?
- Are there goals included in this iteration that should be cut?

Following manager feedback, Barr and/or RWMWD staff will revise the draft goals and convene the plan Technical Advisory Committee (plan TAC) to get their input on the measurable goals. The plan TAC includes RWMWD cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, adjacent watershed management organizations, the Metropolitan Council, and State Plan review agencies.

To better align with the format of the 2017 Plan, a high-level goal is included for each level 1 issue area (see *red text below*). The language of the high-level goals is intended to mirror the 2017 Plan . Goal measurability is incorporated into the subgoal/objective language (and the measurable outcomes related to those subgoals/objectives):

1. Surface water quality – *Achieve quality surface water*
2. Flooding and water quantity – *Manage risk of flooding*
3. Ecosystem health – *Achieve healthy ecosystems*
4. Groundwater – *Promote sustainable groundwater*
5. Communications and engagement – *Inform, engage, and empower communities*
6. Regulation – *Minimize impacts of development*
7. Operations and maintenance – *Maintain watershed improvements*
8. Organizational efficacy – *Manage ourselves to the best outcomes*

Issue Area: Subissue	Goal ID#	Draft Issue Statement	Draft Subgoal/Objective	Actions Related to Goal (not exhaustive)
Surface Water Quality: Pollutant Loading	1	Excess nutrients, sediment, bacteria, and other pollutants in our waters degrade water quality, affecting recreation and aquatic life.	Limit phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutant loading to surface waters through appropriate standards for development and redevelopment projects and education for residents, developers, and other partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Meet with developers and project proposers for technical assistance - Meet with MS4s to share best practices - Education and outreach to stakeholders - Permitted-project inspection/enforcement
Surface Water Quality: Pollutant Loading	2	<i>See above.</i>	Support pollutant reduction projects funded through RWMWD’s partner cost-share program and/or in coordination with partners, prioritizing projects with quantifiable pollutant reductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement cost-share (e.g. stewardship grant) - Support partner-led projects with technical assistance or funding
Surface Water Quality: Chlorides	3	High chloride loading from winter deicers and other sources negatively impacts the quality of lakes, wetlands, streams, and groundwater.	Understand chloride conditions, trends, and sources within the watershed through study and continued monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor waterbodies and key stormwater locations - Chloride source identification/ prioritization study
Surface Water Quality: Chlorides	4	<i>See above.</i>	Support chloride reduction and reduce the use of chloride deicers through the actions outlined in the District’s Chloride Reduction Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement actions identified in chloride reduction strategy - Update and implement rules
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	5	Some lakes and streams within the RWMWD do not meet or are at risk of not meeting state water quality standards; some are listed as impaired for aquatic life and recreational use due to pollutants such as nutrients, chloride, bacteria, and other factors.	Maintain or improve water quality in non-impaired RWMWD-managed lakes relative to current 2026 conditions (<i>see Table X - TBD</i>), as evidenced by statistically significant improving trends or absence of degrading trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor waterbodies - Assess trends - <i>Less directly: rules, education, projects, etc.</i>

Issue Area: Subissue	Goal ID#	Draft Issue Statement	Draft Subgoal/Objective	Actions Related to Goal (not exhaustive)
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	6	See above.	Make measurable progress towards achieving state eutrophication standards in nutrient-impaired waterbodies and waterbodies not meeting those standards (see Table Y - TBD), as evidenced by statistically significant improving trends or average water quality values meeting standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor waterbodies - Assess trends - <i>Less directly: rules, education, projects, etc.</i>
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	7	See above.	Identify and implement strategies to reduce stressors contributing to impairments not presently addressed in TMDLs, WRAPS, or similar studies. (see Impaired Waters table).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform studies and ID actions (e.g., stream stressor ID studies) - Actions/strategies included in studies
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	8	See above.	Reduce internal loading of total phosphorus to Wakefield Lake by XX lbs/year .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal load reduction projects <p><i>Note: watershed reduction target has already been met; other programs (e.g., education, regulation) limit/reduce sediment loading but are not proposed to be linked to a numeric reduction.</i></p>
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	9	See above.	Reduce internal loading of total phosphorus to Bennett Lake by XX lbs/year .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watershed load reduction projects - Internal load reduction projects
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	10	See above.	Reduce total suspended sediment loading to Battle Creek by XXX tons/year .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streambank improvement projects <p><i>Note: other programs (e.g., education, regulation) limit/reduce sediment loading but may not be directly linked to numeric reductions.</i></p>
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	11	See above.	Reduce bacterial loading to Fish Creek and Battle Creek through education, septic inspection and replacement support, and streambank improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education focused on bacteria - Septic/SSTS replacement support - Streambank stabilization - Buffer enhancement
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	12	See above.	Identify and implement strategies to reduce stressors contributing to impairments not presently addressed in TMDLs, WRAPS, or similar studies. (see Impaired Waters table).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform studies to identify actions (e.g., stressor ID-type study for IBI impairments) - Actions/strategies included in studies
Surface Water Quality: Impaired and Threatened Waters	13	See above.	Maintain total phosphorus loading to the Mississippi River of 0.35 lb./acre/year or less (as defined in the Lake Pepin TMDL).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor stormwater and stream discharges - <i>Less directly: rules, education, projects, etc.</i>
Surface Water Quality: Excessive Erosion	14	Excessive erosion and sedimentation from development, redevelopment, and extreme precipitation degrade water quality, stormwater infrastructure, aquatic habitats, and floodplain functions.	Understand watershed conditions relative to excessive erosion, including locations, drivers, and impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoreline assessment(s) - Monitor streambank conditions - Inspect infrastructure - Watershed study

Issue Area: Subissue	Goal ID#	Draft Issue Statement	Draft Subgoal/Objective	Actions Related to Goal (not exhaustive)
Surface Water Quality: Excessive Erosion	15	See above.	Improve streambank stability through buffers and/or restoration of at least X,XXX feet over 10 years .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoreline restoration projects - Implementation of buffer Rules - Education and outreach re: buffers
Flood Risk and Water Quantity	16	Extreme precipitation, climate trends, and human development increase flood risk and associated impacts on the natural and built environments, affecting ecology, water quality, public health and safety, the economy, and recreation.	Maintain floodplain storage and reduce flood risk to resources and infrastructure through the consistent application of appropriate standards for development, redevelopment, and improvement projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Rules update to consider climate resiliency
Flood Risk and Water Quantity	17	See above.	Understand and share current and future flood risk to resources, communities, and infrastructure through a resilience study and continued modeling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood risk resilience study - Watershed-wide modeling update(s)
Flood Risk and Water Quantity	18	See above.	Reduce regional and intercommunity flooding through District and partner projects identified through the WARP or similar tools, reducing the number of structures in the floodplain by XX over 10 years .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess opportunities via WARP tool (or similar) - Flood risk reduction projects led by District or partners
Flood Risk and Water Quantity	19	See above.	Build community resilience to future precipitation and flooding trends through development and implementation of resilience strategies across all RWMWD program areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete climate resilience strategy/study
Ecosystem Health: Wetlands	20	The function, values, and quantity of wetlands in the watershed are threatened by development and redevelopment activities and a changing climate.	Achieve no net loss of the function, values, and quantity of wetlands through administration of the Wetland Conservation Act and consistent application of performance standards for development and redevelopment activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Administer WCA
Ecosystem Health: Wetlands	21	See above.	Increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands through at least 2 wetland projects implemented over 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetland enhancement projects (or wetland enhancement components of other District/partner projects)
Ecosystem Health: Invasive Species	22	Invasive species negatively impact ecological health, degrade the quality of aquatic and terrestrial environments, and are exacerbated by a changing climate.	Minimize the negative impact of invasive species on native ecosystems through education, technical and/or financial support of partner activities, and management actions performed in coordination with RWMWD-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and outreach program - Technical assistance - Permitting assistance - Integrated pest management
Ecosystem Health: Invasive Species	23	See above.	Reduce or manage carp in District-managed lakes to achieve density below 100 kg/hectare (90 lbs/acre).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform/support carp management actions
Ecosystem Health: Shoreline Integrity	24	Degraded shorelines and riparian (i.e., near-shore) areas allow excess pollutant loading to water resources, contribute to water quality and biological impairments, and result in decreased ecological functions.	Understand shoreline conditions, pollutant loading hot-spots, and opportunities for improvements through a watershed shoreline study/inventory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete a shoreline assessment study - Inspect and maintain restoration projects

Issue Area: Subissue	Goal ID#	Draft Issue Statement	Draft Subgoal/Objective	Actions Related to Goal (not exhaustive)
Ecosystem Health: Shoreline Integrity	25	<i>See above.</i>	Promote the protection and restoration of shoreline areas through education, targeted outreach, and cost-share project support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and outreach program - Cost share for shoreline improvements
Ecosystem Health: Uplands	26	Degradation or loss of natural upland areas due to development pressure or lack of protections reduces wildlife, wildlife habitat and impacts ecosystem health.	Improve the ecological health of high-value upland areas (including those with significant or rare features and/or near RWMWD-managed waterbodies) in cooperation with partners, targeting 2 projects over 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory/evaluation of upland areas - Upland enhancement projects (or upland enhancement components of other District/partner projects)
Groundwater: Groundwater Surface Water Interaction	27	Complex groundwater-surface water interactions challenge the District's ability to preserve, restore, and enhance surface water and groundwater resources.	Minimize risks to groundwater and surface water through consideration of groundwater-surface water interactions in District Rules, project review, and design and implementation of RWMWD projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Process/policy update(s)
Groundwater: Groundwater Quality	28	Groundwater quality may be threatened by infiltration of stormwater and associated pollutants, impacting public health as a source of drinking water.	Promote the protection of groundwater quality and public health through regular coordination and cooperation with groundwater management authorities and outreach to watershed residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and comment on GW planning efforts of partners - Meet annually with counties and MDH - Education and outreach program
Groundwater: Groundwater Sustainability	29	The sustainable use and ecological functions (e.g., stream baseflow) of groundwater are threatened by consumptive use, loss of recharge, and climate trends.	Promote the conservation and recharge of groundwater quality through regulation promoting responsible infiltration and reducing barriers to reuse, education, and support of conservation projects through cost-share.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Review and update Rules, as needed - Education and outreach program - Cost-share projects for water conservation
Communications and Engagement	30	Limited knowledge about the watershed, its resources, and programs may diminish opportunities for those seeking to engage in watershed preservation, restoration, and enhancement.	Increase the visibility of, and strengthen relationships with, the District among watershed residents and community members, particularly among communities with limited prior interaction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and outreach program - Develop standalone education and outreach plan
Communications and Engagement	31	<i>See above.</i>	Promote increased community capacity for watershed stewardship practices and behaviors through education, outreach, cost-share, and partner programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and outreach program - Develop standalone education and outreach plan
Regulation	32	Appropriate stormwater regulations are necessary to limit negative environmental consequences from human activity while balancing community development and redevelopment needs.	Limit negative impacts to water quality, flood risk, and health of the natural and built environment through the consistent application of thoughtful performance standards for development and redevelopment activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Review and update Rules as needed
Regulation	33	<i>See above.</i>	Promote climate resiliency through the incorporation of climate-relevant practices, requirements, and considerations into the District Rules and project review process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Rules - Review and update Rules as needed, in particular with consideration for climate resiliency - Updates to project design/review process

Issue Area: Subissue	Goal ID#	Draft Issue Statement	Draft Subgoal/Objective	Actions Related to Goal (not exhaustive)
Operations and Maintenance	34	Aging infrastructure and expanding District and partner programs result in increased operations and maintenance needs that stress available resources.	Understand the condition and performance of District-owned and District-permitted stormwater management infrastructure and improvements through regular inspection and monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection program - Monitoring program
Operations and Maintenance	35	<i>See above.</i>	Maintain the intended performance of District-owned and operated stormwater management infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection program - Maintenance actions - Update pond prioritization study (including RWMWD-owned/maintained ponds) - MS4 reporting
Operations and Maintenance	36	<i>See above.</i>	Maintain the performance and integrity of District-implemented natural resource improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection program - Maintenance actions
Operations and Maintenance	37	<i>See above.</i>	Support the continued performance of partner-owned infrastructure through District-led maintenance programs (e.g., Public Entity Cost-Share).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update pond prioritization study - Implement PECS program - Evaluate and expand programs for partner BMP maintenance
Organizational Efficacy	38	Understanding the costs and benefits of District projects and programs on watershed resources and communities is necessary to make good decisions that best leverage District and partner resources.	Promote efficiency in the delivery of District services through regular evaluation of operations, programs, and projects (including costs and benefits).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual reporting and biennial progress assessment - Cost/benefit database, prioritization tools - Innovation/research projects
Organizational Efficacy	38	<i>See above.</i>	Maintain, strengthen, and expand partnerships to promote the achievement of shared goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and outreach program - Regular public works forum meetings - Develop standalone education and outreach plan - Annual coordination with state/regional partners
Organizational Efficacy	38	<i>See above.</i>	Meet applicable reporting requirements related to MS4 permit implementation, annual reporting, and financial transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MS4 reporting - Annual report to BWSR - Annual audit
Organizational Efficacy	39	<i>See above.</i>	Leverage emerging technologies and methods to promote the effectiveness and efficiency of District operations, projects, and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in relevant research groups and organizations (e.g., MN stormwater research council) - Implement innovation/research projects