



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

The Regular Meeting of March 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/L_g_e-xQB24. 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
Patrick Williamson, Natural Resources Specialist
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring Technician

Consultants:

Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering

Visitors:

Unnamed Zoom Attendee, Visitor

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:15)

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. Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers Oath of Office (0:56)

Tori Kelm administered the oath of office.

The Managers affirmed the oath of office.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (2:47)

- A. Approval of Board Workshop Minutes February 4, 2026
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes February 4, 2026
- C. Treasurer’s Report and Bill List
- D. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-07 Sunrise Park Parking Addition, White Bear Lake
- E. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 26-06 Cs Gallery 96 Bicycle Tunnel Mural
 - ii. 26-07 CS Southwind HOA Phase 2

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Karp 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 (7:47)

No comments.

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (8:02)

- A. Applications – see consent agenda
- B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum
Nicole Maras provided details of the monthly regulatory memorandum. Nicole noted that inspections were ramping up after the recent snow melt.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (11:25)

- A. Applications – see consent agenda
- B. Budget Status Update
Ashlee Ricci reviewed the budget status report. Ashlee provided updates on the community partner grant which would be launching in early March with applications due April 15th. Ashlee gave a quick summary of the Get Gritty campaign.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Board of Managers Annual Meeting (21:00)
President Eisele asked for a motion to suspend the regular Board meeting and open the annual meeting.

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

- i. Board Governance Manual

Tina Carstens reviewed the Board of Governance manual, noting there were no major changes to the manual.

- ii. Election of Officers

President Eisele was selected to remain President.

Manager Karp was selected to remain Vice President

Manager Gernes was selected to remain Secretary

Manager Wang was selected to remain Treasurer

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the elected officials as stated. A roll call was performed.

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Gernes – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

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

Tina Carstens provided details of the Citizen Advisory Committee membership, Board liaison and 2026 work plan.

Manager Grogan and Manager Karp were selected as the Board liaisons to the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the CAC membership, select a board liaison to the committee, and approve the 2026 work plan suggestions.

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Gernes – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

iv. Consulting Staff Selection

Tina Carstens discussed the process of selecting the consulting staff and reviewed the proposals received, noting the only proposals received were from the District's current consultants.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to appoint the board their choices for Barr Engineering as Engineer, Galowitz & Olson as Attorney, and Red Path as Accountant for next year. A roll call was performed.

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Gernes – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

v. Official Designations

Tina Carstens provided details of the official designations for bank of deposit and official newspaper. Tina noted the current bank of deposit was US Bank and the official newspaper was St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Gernes seconded approve the 4M Fund with LMC: US Bank as our Official Bank of Deposit and the St. Paul Pioneer Press as our Official Newspaper for 2026. A roll call was performed.

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

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded to close the annual board meeting and reopen the regular board meeting. A roll call was performed.

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

B. Gustavus Adolphus Targeted Retrofit Project Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid (48:24)
Erin Anderzon Wenz provided details of the 2026 targeted retrofit project planned at Gustavus Adolphus. Erin reviewed the memo and discussed the water quality benefits and the cost per pound of phosphorus removal for the project.

Motion: Manager Karp 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 advertise the project for bid. A roll call was performed.

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

C. Thirty Twenty Estates Targeted Retrofit Project Approval to Solicit Quotes (1:04:05)
Paige Ahlberg reviewed details of the Thirty Twenty Estates targeted retrofit project plan.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to approve the preliminary design, estimated costs, and proposed project schedule, and direct staff to finalize the design and bidding documents and solicit quotes. A roll call was performed.

Manager Karp – Aye
Manager Gernes – Aye
Manager Wang – Aye
Manager Grogan – Aye
President Eisele – Aye

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:12:51)

Tori Kelm provided information on the work the attorney's office completed throughout the month of March which consisted of document review.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:13:11)

Paige Ahlberg provided information on the 2026 Minnesota Watersheds legislative day. Paige stated discussions included permit timelines, chloride, as well as updates from MNDNR, BWSR, and MPCA.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. 2026 Project Story Map Update and Overview (1:17:33)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided an overview of the project story map. Erin discussed what information is included on story map and how it can be utilized.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (1:41:12)

A. Meetings Attended

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

C. Staff Anniversaries

D. Board Action Log

E. Payroll Issues

G. Minnesota Watershed Updates

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:43:56)

Project Feasibility Studies

A. Chloride Management

B. Tanners Lake, Battle Creek Lake, and Battle Creek Resiliency Feasibility Study

C. RWMWD Stormwater Model Updates

D. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks

E. Battle Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study

F. Street Sweeping

Monitoring Water Quality/Project Monitoring

G. Water Quality Monitoring

H. Annual Water Quality Report Assistance

I. Special-Project BMP Monitoring

Watershed Management Plan Update

J. Watershed Management Plan Update, Phase 3: Draft Plan Development

Lake Studies and TMDL Reports

K. 2026 Grant Applications

L. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reporting Assistance

Project Operations

M. 2026 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring

N. Beltline and Battle Creek Gopher State One Call Utility Locations

Capital Improvements

O. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects

P. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Q. Wakefield Lake Aeration

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

R. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification

S. 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repairs

T. 2026 Vegetation Maintenance Program

- U. RWMWD Office Parking-Lot Retrofit
Program Updates
- V. Natural Resources Program
- W. Communications and Engagement Program
- X. Community Advisory Committee

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (1:52:53)

President Eisele discussed the next Watershed Management Plan workshop.

14. ADJOURN

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

Motion carried unanimously.