



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
April 1, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of April 1, 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/75xSFkacz_w. Video timestamps are included after each agenda item, in minutes.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Stephanie Wang, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Kyle Kubitz, Monitoring Technician
Cooper Klotzbach, Inspector Intern

Consultants:

Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering
Michael McKinney, 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 Gernes moved, Manager Karp seconded to approve the agenda.

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:30)

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes March 4, 2026
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-08 St. John's Hospital Expansion, Maplewood
 - ii. 26-11 Oakdale 2026 SIP, Oakdale
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 26-09 CS Maplewood Nature Center Signage
 - ii. 26-10 CS Oakdale 2026 Street Sweeping
- E. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2026 – Change Order No. 1

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

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (4:44)

No comments.

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (05:05)

A. Applications

i. 26-09 MnDOT Hwy 61 – Carver Ave to I-94, St. Paul

Nicole Maras provided information on permit application 26-09 MnDOT Hwy 61 – Carver Ave to I-94, St. Paul. Nicole stated that there was a wetland buffer variance request. Nicole noted that various locations along the existing highway did not meet buffer requirements. Nicole explained that there would be no permanent changes to the existing buffers, but there would be temporary disturbances in those areas, as well as in some wetland areas. Nicole stated that a no-loss decision was received from WCA.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve permit application 26-09 MnDOT Hwy 61 – Carver Ave to I-94, St. Paul, with special provisions and variance request.

Motion approved.

ii. 26-10 Battle Creek Dog Park Trails, Maplewood

Nicole Maras provided details of permit application 26-10 for the Battle Creek Dog Park Trails in Maplewood. Nicole explained that existing compacted dirt trails do not meet buffer requirements. Nicole stated that the buffer variance would apply to the trail areas as well as some of the planned restoration.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve permit application 26-10 Battle Creek Dog Park Trails, Maplewood with special provisions and variance request. A roll call was performed.

President Eisele – Aye
Manager Karp - Abstained
Manager Grogan - Aye
Manager Gernes - Aye

Motion approved.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the monthly regulatory memorandum. Nicole stated there were a couple of notable updates, including escalated enforcement at the site for permit 25-11, Helmo Station Development.

Kendra Kloth provided details for the site conditions and escalated enforcement for permit 25-11 Helmo Station Development.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (45:41)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci reviewed the budget status report. Ashlee noted that the community partner grants went live with an application deadline of April 15th. Ashlee provided information on the status of the street-sweeping program and application deadlines.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2026-2028 BMP Maintenance Program Selection of Contractors (47:27)

Tina Carstens provided an overview of the 2026-2028 BMP Maintenance Program contractor selection.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan seconded to award the 2026-2028 BMP Maintenance contract to Rock Leaf Water Environmental, Davey Resource Group, and Natural Shore Technologies for the projects specified and direct staff to prepare the necessary documents and work with the selected contractors.

Motion approved.

B. Gustavus Adolphus Targeted Retrofit Project Bid Award (53:54)

Paige Ahlborg reviewed the Gustavus Adolphus targeted retrofit project. Paige provided details of the bids received.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Gernes seconded to accept the bids and award the 2026 Targeted Retrofit – Gustavus Adolphus project to McLafferty Contracting Group, LLC, and direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award, prepare the agreements, and review the required submittals.

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (57:26)

Tori Kelm discussed the work the attorney’s office completed throughout the month of March, which consisted of document review and work on the escalated enforcement for permit 25-11 Helmo Station Development.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (57:56)

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. Project Cost-Benefit Analysis Update (59:14)

Tina Carstens provided an overview of the project cost-benefit analysis update.

B. 2025 Enhanced Street Sweeping Program Update (1:06:45)

Ashlee Ricci reviewed the summary of the 2025 Enhance Street Sweeping program update. Ashlee discussed grant dollars used, cities involved in the program, and future plans for the program.

11. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT (1:19:28)

A. Meetings Attended

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

C. Staff Anniversaries

D. Board Action Log

E. Payroll Issues

G. Ramsey County League of Local Governments

G. Minnesota Watershed Updates

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:25:00)

Project Feasibility Studies

A. Landfall Best Management Practices (BMP) Study

B. Five-Star Estates Feasibility Study

C. Chloride Reduction Strategy

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

E. RWMWD Stormwater Model Updates

F. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks

G. Wetland Restoration Planning

- H. Battle Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study
- I. Street Sweeping
- Monitoring Water Quality/Project Monitoring*
- J. Annual Water Quality Report Assistance
- K. Special-Project BMP Monitoring
- L. Water Quality Data Management
- Watershed Management Plan Update*
- M. Watershed Management Plan Update, Phase 3: Draft Plan Development
- Lake Studies and TMDL Reports*
- N. 2026 Grant Applications
- O. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reporting Assistance
- Project Operations*
- P. Lake-Level Station Operation Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation
- Q. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast Integration
- R. Beltline and Battle Creek Gopher State One Call Utility Locates
- Capital Improvements*
- S. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects
- T. Ames Lake Improvements
- U. Lake Wabasso Outlet Replacement
- V. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
- W. Wakefield Lake Aeration
- CIP Project Repair and Maintenance*
- X. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- Y. 2026 CIP Maintenance and Repairs
- Z. 2026 Vegetation Maintenance Program
- Program Updates*
- AA. Natural Resources Program
- BB. Communications and Engagement Program
- CC. Community Advisory Committee

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (1:40:15)

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.