



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
June 3rd, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of June 3rd, 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/c1P5ja1OdMQ>. Video timestamps are included after each agenda item, in minutes.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist
Patrick Williamson, Natural Resources Specialist
Carina Trevino, Engagement Intern
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring Technician
Cooper Klotzbach, Inspector Intern

Consultants:

Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering
Marcy Bean, Barr Engineering
Jessica Olson, Barr Engineering

Visitors:

Michael Miller, Visitor
Mark Kronbeck, Alliant Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:31)

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

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:49)

- A. Approval of Special Board Workshop Minuets May 6, 2026
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-12 16 Bailey West – Outlots B, C, D3, Woodbury
 - ii. 26-17 The Heights Apartments A1, St. Paul
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 26-22 CS Shoreview Snail Lake Median Plantings

- ii. 26-23 CS Westbrook Phase
 - iii. 26-25 CS Rasmussen
- E. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment Project – Change Order No. 1

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

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (3:12)

No comments.

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (3:25)

A. Applications - see consent agenda

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the monthly regulatory memorandum. Nicole discussed creating a pilot partnership for BMP maintenance with a local school district.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (9:46)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci reviewed the budget status report.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. RWMWD MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (13:47)

Nicole Maras explained that, under the District’s MS4 permit, the MPCA requires notice of the District’s minimum control measure activities. Nicole provided detailed information in the 2025 summary.

B. District Office Exterior Improvements Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid (19:12)

Tina Carstens provided updated information on the District Office exterior improvements following discussions at the May 2026 Board meeting.

Manager Wang asked for more information regarding the annual maintenance and heating expenses.

Manager Karp asked for a line item for the heated portions of the parking lot to help track the cost benefits.

Marcy Bean noted that items can be pulled out and itemized as the final bid documents are being created.

Manager Grogan stated that she would like more information on the durability of the heated pavement drainage system.

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Grogan 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.

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (33:22)

Tori Kelm discussed the work the attorney’s office completed throughout May, including regular contract reviews.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (33:54)

President Eisele complimented 2026 WaterFest, stating that it was a great, well-done event.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. History of Wetland and Buffer Management in RWMWD Memo (40:02)

Tina Carstens provided background information on the District’s wetland and buffer management throughout the years. Tina discussed urban wetland buffers, reviewing what conditions buffers are typically in during permitting and project implementation. Tina noted that a wetland buffer impact may not always result in worse conditions, and in certain situations, it could provide a net positive. Tina explained that the District is looking to the future for wetland assessments, as well as for potential regulatory changes regarding temporary impacts and buffer widths.

Nicole Maras provided information on what staff review when looking at variance requests. Nicole explained that when there is a disturbance to a wetland buffer, restoration requirements apply, noting that the rules can be used to require the establishment of native seed in buffers that may not be in good condition.

B. Creek Walk Data and Prioritization Framework Presentation – Jessica Olson, Barr (1:03:45)

Jessica Olson provided information on creek walks, noting that the District reviews six different creeks annually. Jessica stated that standardized evaluations are used to prioritize restoration projects. Jessica reviewed the data that is collected, which included bank height, angle, erosion length, vegetation type and density, existing geomorphic process and existing stabilization. Jessica provided information on the scoring system and how the scoring is used to create a priority list for the District. Jessica reviewed the next steps after final prioritization which included mapping, identifying stream reaches for stabilization projects and developing feasibility level designs for the highest priority reaches.

C. 2026 Battle Creek Dam Outlet Inspection Memo and Scope Summary (1:26:40)

Brandon Barnes provided history on Battle Creek Dam, noting that it was the District’s first project. Brandon explained that the Dam is classified as class 1, high hazard dam by the MNDNR. Brandon provided information on why it is classified as such. Brandon gave an overview of the inspection and emergency response plan for Battle Creek Dam. Brandon explained that because of the classification the dam is also inspected by MNDNR, noting that it was last inspected in the summer of 2025 and reviewed the inspection report. Brandon noted that defects had been found within the outlet pipe that required repair. Brandon provided details of the repair work and the timeline for that work.

11. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT (1:44:41)

- A. Meetings Attended
- B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates
- C. Staff Anniversaries
- D. Board Action Log
- E. Minnesota Watershed Updates

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (1:49:21)

Project Feasibility Studies

- A. Landfall Best Management Practices
- B. Five Star Estate 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

Monitoring Water Quality/Project Monitoring

- I. Special-Project BMP Monitoring
- J. Water Quality Data Management

Watershed Management Plan Update

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

Lake Studies and TMDL Reports

L. 2026 Grant Applications

Project Operations

M. 2026 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring

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

O. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast Integration

P. Beltline and Battle Creek Gopher State One Call Utility Locates

Capital Improvements

Q. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects

R. Double Driveway and Fish Creek Tributary Improvements

S. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration

T. Ames Lake Improvements

U. Kohlman Creek Flood Risk Reduction Projects

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. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements

Program Updates

AA. Natural Resources Program

BB. Communications and Engagement Program

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:00:02)

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.