Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
August 5th, 2026

The Regular Meeting of August 5th, 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/f3sK1npGN2U. Video timestamps are included after each agenda item, in minutes.

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:	**Consultants:**
Tina Carstens, Administrator	Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist	Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager	
Eric Korte, Monitoring and Research Program Manager	**Visitors:**
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator	Nikki Schlepp, LHB
Patrick Williamson, Natural Resources Specialist	Michael Miller, Visitor
Lauren Hazenson, Communications Program Manager	Rocky Waite, Visitor

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:11)

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

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:27)

A. Approval of Board Workshop Minutes July 1, 2026
B. Approval of Board Meeting Minuets July 1, 2026
C. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
D. Regulatory Program
  i. 26-22 Little Canada Senior Housing, Little Canada
  ii. 26-23 Conway Family Center, St. Paul
E. Stewardship Grant Program
  i. 26-31 CS MECA Urban Soil Health Workshop
  ii. 26-32 CS Mable
F. Gustavus Adolphus Targeted Retrofit – Change Order No. 1

Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (3:00 & 17:00)

Rocky Waite provided information regarding his concerns around lily pads and the water level of Savage Lake.

Vice President Karp stated that Managers would have a discussion about Rocky's concerns and would plan to have a discussion with Rocky once they've had a chance to review the history of work done on Savage Lake.

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (3:25)

A. Applications

i. 26-24 The Heights Public Amenities – Outlots F, A, B, St. Paul

Nicole Maras provided information on The Heights Public Amenities – Outlots F,A,B, St. Paul. Nicole noted that the buffer widths referenced in the application were related to permit application 23-17, The Heights Phase I, which was approved by the board in 2023. Nicole stated that the proposed impervious areas would be considered disconnected, but they would tie into the regional stormwater management plan or the small impervious areas not considered disconnected under the rule criteria. Nicole explained that activities and amenities would be within the wetland buffers, adding that the buffer areas had been disturbed by soil remediation work.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve permit application 26-24 The Heights Public Amenities – Outlots F, A, B, St. Paul with the special provisions and variance request.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the Regulatory monthly memorandum for July, noting it was a busy construction season.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (37:12)

A. Applications

i. 26-27 CS Berget-Trevis

Ashlee Ricci provided additional information on extra questions that arose at the July board meeting regarding the porous paver portion of Stewardship grant application 26-27 CS Berget-Trevis. Ashlee stated the application was reviewed for grant eligibility before it was brought to the Board. Ashlee provided more information on the proposed porous pavers and how they would capture stormwater runoff.

Manager Wang stated that she did not feel that this project meets the intentions of the Stewardship Grant program.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Vice President Karp seconded, to approve the porous paver portion of Stewardship Grant application 26-27 CS Berget-Trevis. A vote was taken.

2 - Aye
1 - Nay

Motion approved.

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the Stewardship Grant Program budget status report. Ashlee discussed ways to engage residents in shoreline restoration projects, as well as efforts to broaden awareness of chloride reduction projects.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. RWMWD Office Improvements Bid Rejection and Authorization for Rebid(52:39)

Erin Anderson Wenz provided details of the bids received for the RWMWD Office Improvements. Erin explained that the bids received were much higher than anticipated. Erin noted that both bidders would be using the same sub-contractor, and explained that this was not an array of competitive bids. For those reasons, the District would be able to reject the bids received and authorize the project for rebids.

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to reject the two bids received for the RWMWD Office Site Exterior Improvements based on Minnesota Statute 103D.811 and authorized staff to readvertise the project for bid.

Motion approved.

B. Fish Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Approval of Plans and Authorization to Advertise for Bid(1:05:35)
Erin Anderson Wenz explained that the project is ready to go out to bid, but the District has not yet executed a grant agreement. Erin noted that the grant that was approved for this project was taking a while to process. Erin stated that the request would be to put the project out for bid once the grant agreement was executed.

Tina Carstens noted that this project was a PFAS grant approval.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang 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 (1:17:25)
Tori Kelm discussed the work the attorney's office completed throughout July. Tori noted that work included contract review and administrative, procedural, and operational guidance.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:18:10)
The Board discussed ways to address the concerns around Savage Lake.

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS
A. 2027 Budget Planning (1:25:44)
Tina Carstens reviewed the 2027 budget planning and provided more details of the budgeting and planning process. Tina noted it may be wise to implement a small levy increase to stay on track with the District's needs.

The Board agreed prioritization will be important when planning the 2027 budget.

B. Communications and Outreach Plan (1:39:28)
Lauren Hazenson provided details of the Communications and Outreach plan. Lauren reviewed the goals of the Communications and Outreach plan, noting that those goals included fostering behavior change through community stewardship paths and keeping District communities informed. Lauren reviewed strategies for meeting those goals. Lauren noted that the plan is created in conjunction with the Watershed Management Plan. Lauren provided details on the plan timeline and potential to audit results at the 5-year mark.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (2:02:24)
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 (2:13:21)

Project Feasibility Studies

A. Landfall Best Management Practice Study
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 (Phase 2)

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. Lake-Level Station Operation Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation
N. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast Integration
O. Beltline and Battle Creek Gopher State One Call Utility Locates

Capital Improvements

P. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects
Q. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
R. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration
S. Ames Lake Improvements
T. Wakefield Lake Aeration

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

U. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
V. McKnight Basin Outlet and Repairs
W. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements

Program Updates

X. Natural Resources Program
Y. Communications and Engagement Program

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:21:36)

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Motion approved.