



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
September 9th, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of September 9th, 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/vNN-UY6xiC0>. Video timestamps 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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring and Research Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Michael Miller, Visitor
Cooper Klotzbach, Inspection Intern
Carina Trevino, Engagement Intern
Keira Gupta, Monitoring and Research Intern
Lauren Hazenson, Communications and Engagement Program Manager

Consultants:

Tracey Galowitz, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Tyler Olsen, Barr Engineering
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Visitors:

John Rausch, Cushman & Wakefield
Melissa Burns, Ninety Four Exchange

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Commented [TC1]: I thought Val actually got there in time and started the meeting last month?

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:12)

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

Commented [EF2R1]: He did, I forgot to update that part. Thanks!

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:25)

- A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-26 Roseville Dale-Owasso Drainage Improvements, Roseville
 - ii. 26-27 MnDOT Hwy 61 & I-694 Interchange, Vadnais Heights
- D. Stewardship Grant Program

- i. 26-38 CS Freshwater Society Expanding Pathways
- ii. 26-41 CS Hoffmann
- iii. 26-42 CS O'Donahue
- iv. 26-43 CS Mhanga
- v. 26-44 CS Sandin

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

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (07:45)

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (08:27)

A. Applications

i. 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale

Nicole Maras provided information on permit application 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale. Nicole stated that the applicant was looking to complete mass grading and redevelopment of the site which would include construction of two industrial buildings and a roadway. Nicole explained that there was a variance request for wetland and wetland buffer impacts. Nicole stated that they would be meeting the no net loss policy as well as exceeding the 2 to 1 replacement ratio through WCA.

Melissa Burns provided additional information on the project site and design plan.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve permit application 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale with special provisions, variance requests (Rule E), and WCA application #26-07.

A roll call was performed.

President Eisele – Aye

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

Manager Gernes – Nay

Motion approved.

Manager Gernes acknowledged that the site was challenging for what was being planned and wasn't sure those wetland design plans would be achievable.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the Regulatory monthly memorandum for August. Nicole discussed an increase in the permit processing fees, noting that they have not changed since 2011.

The Board supported increasing the permit processing fees.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (1:00:57)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the Stewardship Grant Program budget status report. Ashlee stated that she expected more applications in the coming month from people getting ready for Spring.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy Approval and Public Hearing (1:04:14)

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to close the meeting and open the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

President Eisele closed the public hearing and reopened the September Board meeting.

Tina Carstens reviewed the 2027 preliminary budget. Tina provided details on the 2027 levy needs.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve the draft budget for purposes of the preliminary levy and approve Resolution 26-01.

Motion approved.

B. Watershed Management Plan Update – Submittal for 60-day Formal Review (1:23:45)

Tina Carstens provided an overview of the formal review process of the Watershed Management Plan update.

Greg Williamson gave further explanations of the review process and how to add comments when reviewing the document.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, and Manager Grogan seconded, to authorize staff to submit the draft plan to the plan review authorities for a formal review period of 60 days, consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Subd. 7.

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:37:06)

Tracey Galowitz discussed the work the attorney's office completed in August. Tracey stated the work done included agreement review, advising staff on data privacy, and an enforcement action notice.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:38:46)

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. Chloride Reduction Strategy Update (1:39:20)

Tyler Olsen gave an overview of the Chloride Reduction Strategy development, modeling methodology, and next steps.

B. New Technology Topic: Landscape Soil Regeneration Methodology (1:54:52)

C. Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment Research Scope Summary (1:58:21)

Erin Anderson Wenz discussed the information found through the Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment research.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (2:01:02)

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 (2:04:02)

Background: Savage Lake Outlet

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

Research Projects

- L. New Technology and Trending Topics Mini Case Studies
- M. Wakefield Pond Spent Lime Study

Project Operations

- 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. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- S. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration
- T. Ames Lake Improvements
- U. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
- V. Wakefield Lake Aeration

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

- W. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- X. McKnight Basin Outlet and Repairs
- Y. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements

Program Updates

- Z. Natural Resources Program
- AA. Communications and Engagement Program

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:16:49)

The Board discussed the RWMWD office improvements and authorization to rebid.

14. ADJOURN

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

Motion approved.