Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 7th, 2026

The Regular Meeting of October 7th, 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/qm_GL2lcTpE. Video timestamps are included after each agenda item, in minutes.

PRESENT:
Ben Karp, Vice President
Mark Gernes, Secretary
Gabi Grogan, Manager

ABSENT:
Val Eisele, President
Stephanie Wang, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:
Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Patrick Williamson, Natural Resources Specialist
Eric Korte, Monitoring and Research Program Manager
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Cooper Klotzbach, PPG Technician
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist

Consultants:
Tori Kelm, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering

Visitors:
Conner Deur, MSA Professional Services
Michael Miller, Visitor

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Vice President Karp 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:12)

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

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:22)
A. Approval of Board Meeting Minuets October 7, 2026
B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
C. Regulatory Program
    i. 26-29 Landfall Drainage Outlet, Landfall
D. Stewardship Grant Program
    i. 26-45 CS Maplewood Nature Center Pond Planting
    ii. 26-47 CS Richardson

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

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (2:43)

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (3:16)

A. Applications - see consent agenda

B. Permit Reinspection Charge Proposal

Nicole provided information on the request for board action to increase the reinspection charge for non-compliant sites to $290 from the current $155.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to implement an increase in the permit inspection fee to $290 for applicable inspections going forward.

Motion approved.

C. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the Regulatory monthly memorandum for October.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (10:48)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the Stewardship Grant Program budget status report.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements Bid Award (17:55)

Brandon Barnes provided details of the bids received for the RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements. Brandon explained the process and work done prior to the bid opening which included a mandatory pre-bid meeting for this project.

Manager Gernes requested information on the engineers' estimate.

Brandon Barnes provided details of the engineers' estimate and discussed how the bids received compared to that estimate.

Manager Gernes asked for more information on the project timeline.

Paige Ahlborg stated that once the bid was officially awarded there would be a better idea of the scheduling and timeline.

Tina Carstens stated she received a question from Manager Wang. Manager Wang had asked if information on annual operations costs was available. Tina stated that the estimate for operating the heating element would be around $2,000 a year. Tina noted there would also be annual inspections and a potential of replacing anti-freeze every five to seven years.

Brandon Barnes stated that the anti-freeze replacement was not anticipated to be a substantial cost due to the small scale of the system.

Manager Grogan asked if the system would be maintained by the company completing the installation.

Tina Carstens stated that the HVAC company the District currently uses would also be used for the maintenance of the heating system.

Vice President Karp stated that he felt the low bid was reasonable.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded, to Accept the bids and award the RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements project to Asphalt Specialties, Co. direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award, prepare the agreements, and review the required submittals.

Motion approved.

B. Fund Transfer – Resolution 26-02 (28:29)

Tina Carstens provided details of the Fund Transfer – Resolution 26-02. Tina stated that the Board had recommended funds be transferred from the Flood Risk Reduction fund and directed to the Kohlman Lake alum treatment, Wakefield Lake aeration and general fund reserves during 2026 budgeting discussions.

Vice President Karp stated that the funds transfer made sense.

Manager Gernes asked if there would be any future flood risk reduction projects that would be affected by the funds transfer.

Tina Carstens stated that there were not any anticipated projects that would be affected by the funds transfer.

Manager Gernes asked how long it would take to replace the funds transferred from the flood risk reduction fund.

Tina Carstens stated there are many factors that would play into replacing the funds which would make that hard to estimate. Tina Carstens stated that prior Boards had been aggressive about adding money to the fund and she was unsure if it needed to be kept at that level.

Vice President Karp stated that if a large-scale project came up in the future that it could be included in future budgeting discussions to make sure the funds were available for the project.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Gernes seconded, to approve resolution 26-02.

Motion approved.

C. Watershed Excellence Awards Approval (34:04)

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, and Manager Grogan seconded, to recommend and approve the proposed Watershed Excellence Award winners.

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (36:16)

Tori Kelm discussed the work the attorney's office completed in October. Tori stated this included contract review and an insurance claim.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (39:28)

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization (39:46)

Brandon Barnes provided information on the RWMWD Creek Walk assessment and project prioritization. Brandon noted that the top four were listed to help in planning prioritization for next year. Brandon provided more information on the priority areas.

Vice President Karp stated that he encouraged continued collaboration with partners for sites like Battle Creek.

Manager Gernes asked for more information on the project related to McKnight Pond, which Battle Creek goes through. Manager Gernes wondered if there would be an advantage to include repairs to Battle Creek reaches at the same time as the pond repairs.

Brandon Barnes provided more information on the project being scoped for McKnight Pond. Brandon stated that this project may need to be completed more quickly than the creek projects due to it being needed maintenance. Brandon stated there had been coordination between the team working on the McKnight Pond project and those working on the creek assessments. Brandon noted that a different scope of work was needed for McKnight Pond than what was needed for Battle Creek. Brandon discussed more modeling and a feasibility study being done for creek stabilization projects.

Eric Korte noted that creek walks for the southern portion of the District would be taking place in 2027.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (56:52)

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 (1:01:22)

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. Wakefield Pond Spent Lime Study
M. Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment

Project Operations

N. 2026 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring
O. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast Integration

Capital Improvements

P. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects
Q. Double Driveway and Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
R. Ames Lake Improvements

S. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
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
Z. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (1:07:39)

Tina Carstens noted that the District had won a shoreline restoration award for the Lake Phalen restoration.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Motion approved.