

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

**Mounds View City Hall Council Chambers** 2401 County Road 10, Mounds View, Minnesota

Meeting also conducted by alternative means (teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote locations

1	Minutes						
2	CALL TO ORDER						
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres. Steve Wagamon called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 9:00 a.m.						
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5	<b>ROLL CALL</b>						
6	Present:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres. Steve Wagamon (video-conference), Secretary Jess Robertson, and					
7		Treasurer Marcie Weinandt					
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9	Absent:	President Michael Bradley and 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres. John Waller (with prior notice)					
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11	Staff Present:	District Administrator Nick Tomczik, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes,					
12		Watershed Technician/Inspector Will Roach, Communications and Outreach					
13		Manager Kendra Sommerfeld (video-conference), Outreach & Grant Technician					
14		Molly Nelson, Lake & Stream Manager Matt Kocian, Drainage and Facilities					
15		Manager Tom Schmidt, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley (video-					
16		conference), Project Technician Sara Belden, Office Manager Theresa Stasica					
17	Cara lianta	District Facility of Chair Ottomark for the start Facility of the (UEI) District					
18	Consultants:	District Engineer Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); District					
19 20		Attorney John Kolb from Rinke Noonan (video-conference)					
21	Visitors:	Administrator Nyle Zikmund, Don Peterson, and Emma Macki-City of Mounds					
22	VISILOIS.	View; Administrator/City Engineer Mark Statz-City of Centerville; Dale Reed-					
23		White Bear Township, Rebecca Keller and Teresa O'Connell-RCWD CAC Members					
24		White Bear Township, Rebecca Keller and Teresa o conficil New B cae Members					
25	PRESIDENT P	PRO TEM					
26	Manager Wagamon informed the Board he is unable to attend the meeting in-person and has a						
	manager tragamen another the board he is anable to attend the meeting in person and has a						

doctor's note to that affect. He requested a Manager present at the City of Mounds View Council Chambers chair the meeting in his place.

Motion by Manager Wagamon, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to appoint Manager 29 30 Weinandt to serve as President Pro-Tem for today's meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

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# **SETTING OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the agenda as 33 presented. Motion carried 3-0. 34

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# READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL

37 Minutes of the January 22, 2025, Board of Managers Regular Meeting; January 22, 2025, Ramsey County Ditch 1 Drainage System Correction Public Hearing. 38 Motion by *Manager* 39 Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0. 40

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# CONSENT AGENDA

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests an opportunity for discussion:

# **Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action**

47 48 49 50	<b>No.</b> 25-002	<b>Applicant</b> City of Lino Lakes	<b>Location</b> Lino Lakes	Plan Type Street & Utility Plan Wetland Alteration Floodplain Alteration	Recommendation CAPROC 6 items
51 52	25-003	Centennial Public Schools (ISD #12)	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 3 items
53 54 55 56 57	25-005	City of New Brighton	New Brighton	Final Site Drainage Plan Land Development Street & Utility Plan Public/Private Drainage Sys Floodplain Alteration	CAPROC 4 items

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It was moved by Manager Robertson and seconded by Manager Wagamon to approve the consent agenda as outlined in the above Table of Contents in accordance with RCWD District Engineer's Findings and Recommendations, dated January 14, 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

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# PUBLIC HEARING: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GRANT REQUESTS FROM CITIES OF CENTERVILLE, MOUNDS VIEW, NEW BRIGHTON, AND WHITE BEAR

**TOWNSHIP** 65

> President Pro-Tem Weinandt recessed the regular Board meeting and opened the public hearing on the Rice Creek Watershed District's proposed selection of projects for funding through the District's Stormwater Management Grant Program.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt stated the purpose of this hearing was to receive comments from the public on the projects that the Board is considering for cost-share assistance in the Cities of Centerville, Mounds View, New Brighton, and White Bear Township. Before the watershed

district can provide funds for the capital work of these applicants, State law required that the Board of managers hold a public hearing, receive public comments and make a judgment that each selected project is a sound and cost-effective project to help fulfill our water resource goals.

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President Pro-Tem turned the meeting over to Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach.

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Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach reviewed the 2025 Stormwater Management Grant Program goals and guidelines. He noted the District received five applications from four different applicants for funding through its 2025 Stormwater Management Grant program.

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Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach provided a presentation and answered questions regarding the five applications:

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# <u>City of Centerville – Centerville City Hall Stormwater Reuse</u>

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This project proposes to install a water reuse system at Centerville City Hall and would use water from an existing stormwater pond that discharges to Clearwater Creek and Peltier Lake, which are both nutrient impaired waters. He noted that the estimated total project cost was \$50,000 and the request is for \$25,000. The water quality benefit would be expected to remove 0.2 lbs. of total phosphorus in the system.

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# City of Mounds View – Silver View Pond Improvement Project

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This project proposes to improve both water quality and stormwater management with several new features that include a forebay with an iron-enhanced filtration bench, infiltration/biofiltration stormwater basis, pretreatment via SAFL baffles, and improvements to existing stormwater ponds along County Road H2. The total estimated project cost was \$475,000 and the request is for \$100,000. The projected water quality benefit would be removal of 18 lbs. of total phosphorus and 8,600 of

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# City of New Brighton – CP25-1 2025 Street Rehabilitation

total suspended solids.

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This project proposes to replace three existing catch basins with sump catch basins and SAFL baffles located upstream of discharge to the Long Lake sedimentation basin in Rice Creek. The total estimated project cost was \$57,222 and the request is for \$28,611. The projected water quality benefit would be removal of 38-56% of total suspended solids.

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# White Bear Township - Bellaire Beach Underground Stormwater Storage

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This project proposes construction of an underground stormwater chamber beneath the existing parking lot of Bellaire Park to prevent overtopping of existing stormwater basin within the park during storm events to reduce surface discharge and eliminate erosion and improve water quality to White Bear Lake. The total estimated project cost was \$474,000 and the request is for \$237,000, which exceeded the \$100,000 maximum cap. He noted that staff had informed the City that the maximum grant amount that could be given for this type of project would be \$100,000 and the applicant had acknowledged that they understood that and told staff that they would

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be willing to accept a lower grant amount than they had requested. The projected water quality benefit would be reduced erosion from stormwater runoff to White Bear Lake and also a flood control benefit of preventing overtopping of existing stormwater basin and associated erosion.

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# White Bear Township – Silver Fox Area SAFL Baffles

This project proposes to install sump manholes with SAFL baffles long Jenni Lane, Suzanne Circle, and Buffalo Street in the Silver Fox neighborhood. stormwater facilities in these areas outlet to a wetland to the east and are conveyed to Bald Eagle Lake via a ditch. The total estimated project cost was \$146,500 and the request is for \$73,250. The projected water quality benefit would be total suspended solid removal from captured stormwater.

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Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach explained that each application had been reviewed by District staff, the District Engineer, as well as the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and scored and ranked according to a weighted average. He stated that Mounds View received a score of 90; New Brighton received a score of 81.8; White Bear Township/Bellaire received a score of 81.3; Centerville received a score of 74.8; and White Bear Township/Silver Fox SAFL received a score of 71.2.

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Manager Wagamon asked if the Board would consider approval of these requests at their next meeting and not at today's Public Hearing.

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Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach confirmed that was correct.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked about the White Bear Township request for the Silver Fox area and noted that she thought that the District was looking at doing some work on the ditch mentioned.

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District Engineer Otterness explained that the ditch that goes between White Bear Lake and Bald Eagle Lake is RCD-11 and noted that the District had constructed an iron-enhanced sand filter in line with that ditch, but that was west of where the SAFL baffles would be located and would not engage that area.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt invited anyone who would like to offer comments about the proposed projects to do so at this time.

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Mark Statz, City Administrator/City Engineer for the City of Centerville, thanked the Board for considering their grant application and explained that he was here to advocate for their project. He explained that their project would be at City Hall which they felt also provided a strong educational component and wasn't sure if that had entered into the scoring process. He stated that their project was located on Clear Water Creek and reminded the Board that they were looking at a project on Clear Water Creek in the coming years in connection with JD-3. He noted that they had just done a great project on Centerville Lake which they felt was a great project

and expressed his appreciation to the Board and stated that the next lake on their list was Peltier Lake which also connects to Clear Water Creek. He explained that they would love to get a jump start on helping the water quality of Peltier Lake, and felt that their proposed project would be a nice starting point. He noted that he had not seen anything about quantitative water quality impacts for some of the projects within the staff presentation and asked if they were available.

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President Pro-Temp Weinandt noted that the water quality impact information had been included in the meeting packets.

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171 172 Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach clarified that the two projects for White Bear Township did not have the water quality impacts quantified in their applications and noted that in looking through the submitted materials, there would be general reductions depending on the drainage areas, depth, insulations, and sizing of the system itself.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt noted that she had attended the CAC meeting when they considered these applications and did discuss the point brought up by Mr. Statz that this project was at City Hall and would be a great example to their residents.

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Nyle Zikmund, City Administrator – Mounds View, stated that the City of Mounds View started getting serious about 12 years ago regarding their stormwater and since then, had been systematically increasing their stormwater rates and over the last 3 years had made significant investments in forensic analysis of the entire system. He stated that this winter, they were dredging Arden Pond, and had hired a stormwater specialist and noted that both Arden Pond and Silver View Pond required significant investments. He explained that those investments would take a few years and noted that he felt Mounds View had the most rain gardens in the entire State that they have been able to keep maintained and gotten them cleaned out.

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Terri O'Connell, Connell-RCWD CAC Member, stated that she lived on main street in Lino Lakes and agreed that the proposed Centerville project would be in a great area to educate people. She noted that something had come up at the CAC that she had never thought before was related to fertilizing. She stated that their discussion was that they felt they should not fertilize the ground that they were going to use to the water because that would go back into the stormwater pond and would eventually end up in the creek and the lake. She asked if the District could consider something in the work plan so people would know not to fertilize the lawn because that would essentially defeat the purpose.

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Mr. Statz stated that he felt that an excellent point and explained that the City of Centerville did fertilize the lawn out front, but would be more than happy to cease doing that because stormwater has a built-in fertilizer with phosphorus. He reiterated that they would be happy to stop fertilizing, if they would be irrigating from their own pond, and felt that was an excellent suggestion.

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There being no additional comment, President Pro-Tem Weinandt closed the public hearing.

Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach stated that the next steps would be for the Board to consider action at their February 26, 2025.

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District Administrator Tomczik stated that Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach would be outlining the potential funding based on the grant and noted that staff would like any further direction from the Board.

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Watershed Technician/Inspector Roach briefly reviewed a summary of the projects, their costs, the requested grant funds, and the District's total stormwater grant budget of \$300,000. He noted that the requests exceeded the District's budgeted amount by \$163,861 and explained that District Project Manager Petry had provided a possible funding option in order to fund the projects, but also stay within budget. He stated that this proposal was to reduce the funding for the 2 lowest-ranked projects - Centerville and the White Bear Township SAFL projects and asked if the Board had any direction on whether they wanted to see any additional possible funding options.

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224 225 Manager Robertson stated that she felt that there was multiple responsibilities on behalf of the District and noted that promoting partnership was one of them and also to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. She stated that this was discussed at the work session earlier this week and she felt that working within the \$300,000 that was budgeted was appropriate and she felt the recommendation from the project manager clearly laid out how the District would partner with the communities but also stay within the budgeted amount available for these grants.

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229 230 Manager Wagamon stated that he agreed with everything Manager Robertson just said, but explained that he had not had a chance to dig into the grant applications. He noted that right now he was fairly comfortable with the proposed funding option presented, but would still like time to be able to dig into this more.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt stated that she felt the Board was in agreement about staying within the \$300,000 budget amount and suggested that the next step for staff may be to meet with those applicants to see if the projects could still move forward with the funding options put together by Project Manager Petry.

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District Attorney Kolb stated that he wanted to make it clear that this item was being continued to the February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board, at 9:00 a.m. at the Mounds View City offices at which time the Board would consider the remaining evidence and take final action regarding issuance of the grants.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt reconvened the regular Board meeting.

# **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no comment. 245

# ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

# **Annual Designation of Depository and Newspaper**

District Administrator Tomczik explained that the designation of the official depository and newspaper was an annual requirement. He noted that staff was recommending that the District continue on with their current depository and newspaper. He explained that when it was appropriate and would serve a public benefit, the District also publish notices in some of the smaller circulatory papers.

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Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to designate PMA Financial Network, LLC. administering the 4M Fund with US Bank as the financial institution as the official depository and St. Paul Pioneer Press the official newspaper of the Rice Creek Watershed District

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### Motion carried 3-0.

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#### 2. **Citizen Advisory Committee Member Appointment for Vacant Positions**

Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld stated that the District had received candidates for the 2 vacant spots on the CAC.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld to share some information about the two candidates.

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Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld shared information about the background and experience of Matt Lindholm and Kate Asleson.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if these 2 individuals were appointed to the CAC if that meant there would be a full slate.

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Communications and Outreach Manager Sommerfeld stated that it would not, because another Washington County representative on the CAC had just stepped down. noted that she would be updating the Board at a future meeting.

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Motion by Manager Wagamon, seconded by Manager Robertson, to appoint Kate Asleson and Matt Lindholm for membership on the Citizen Advisory Committee for 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

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#### 3. RCWD Mini Grants Program - North Metro Pollinator Pathway 2025-2026 Funding

Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson explained that staff was seeking Board approval for a professional services contract with the Anoka Conservation District to implement the North Metro Pollinator Pathway grant that was distributed through BWSR.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if staff expected this to be done in every county in the District.

Outreach & Grant Technician Nelson stated that right now it was only through Anoka County and noted that she had not heard anything from Ramsey or Washington Counties.

Manager Robertson asked if they needed to include the dollar amount of \$10,000 within the motion language.

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District Administrator Tomczik explained that this was to receive \$10,000, so when those dollars expire, the District would be done with this obligation, under the contract terms.

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to Authorize the District Administrator to enter the North Metro Pollinator Pathway 2025-2026 Contract for Professional Services between the Anoka Conservation District and the Rice Creek Watershed District. Motion carried 3-0.

#### 4. Ramsey County Lake Monitoring Services

Lake & Stream Manager Kocian explained that he was seeking Board approval for an agreement with Ramsey County for lake monitoring services in 2025. He noted that the District has a monitoring program in which the lake monitoring duties were split amongst different agencies. He stated that since 2016, the District has been reimbursing Ramsey County for doing the monitoring for lakes throughout Ramsey County. He referenced page 133 of the packet that outlined the costs, and page 134 of the packet, which showed the laboratory analysis costs. He explained that the laboratory analysis costs were not included in the motion language because the District paid those costs separately on a feefor-service basis. He noted that these costs were anticipated and were already included in the District budget numbers.

Motion by Manager Wagamon, seconded by Manager Robertson, to authorize the Administrator to enter into an agreement with Ramsey County for lake monitoring services in 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$28,532.84. Motion carried 3-0.

Manager Robertson suggested that the Board include time for discussion before a vote was taken and explained that she had wanted to commend Lake & Stream Manager Kocian for the work he does and noted that she felt he may have the coolest job in the District.

#### 5. **2025 Agreement for Carp Management Services**

Lake & Stream Manager Kocian explained that he was also looking for approval of a professional services agreement for carp management services in 2025. He reminded the Board that this was the program that was awarded the Program of the Year Award by Minnesota Watersheds in 2024. He noted that this contract would be with the Carp Solutions company which would provide the labor and the specialized services for portions of the program. He noted that as the carp population has declined, their costs had also declined which was their hope when this program began.

Manager Wagamon asked for an explanation of where the fish were going that they have been removing and explained that a member of the public had asked him this question, but felt that he was only able to give one-half of an answer to them.

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Lake & Stream Manager Kocian explained that Carp Solutions disposes of the fish in accordance with their DNR permit, and noted that what they do with them does not fall under the purview of their agreement with the District. He stated that Carp Solutions had previously done this work under a special permit from the DNR and explained that permits were required from the DNR in order to remove the fish from the lake . noted that in the past, Carp Solutions had operated under multiple different permits from the DNR and explained that they used to operate under a special fisheries management permit which required that they either incinerate or bury the fish. He noted that more recently, his understanding was that Carp Solutions acquired a certain type of commercial fishing license, so in the future, there may be other ways for them to dispose of the fish, but explained that there was not much of a commercial market for common carp.

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Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, to authorize the Administrator to enter into a professional services agreement with Carp Solutions, LLC for an amount not-to-exceed \$86,060.00. The Administrator is further authorized to approve contract amendments for additional work, not to exceed 20% of the contract cost (\$17,212).

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Manager Robertson stated that she felt that Lake and Stream Manager Kocian really got to do the cool stuff in his job. She stated that what she appreciated about what he did is that they can see, in real time, the impact that this makes, which she found fascinating. She explained that she really appreciated the work done by Lake and Stream Manager Kocian and felt this was an incredible program.

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### Motion carried 3-0.

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#### 6. Washington Judicial Ditch #2 Right of Way Maintenance

Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt stated he was seeking approval for a work order for Dunaway Construction for drainage system right-of-way maintenance on WJD-2. He noted that the Board had previously approved one of the sections at an earlier meeting and explained that the reason they had broken this up into multiple pieces was in order to provide for contractor flexibility and to be able to take advantage of weather conditions.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if this ditch eventually ran into Centerville Lake.

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Drainage and Facilities Manager Schmidt stated that it actually ran into Peltier Lake.

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Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve Washington Judicial Ditch #2 work order for Dunaway construction, as outlined, and directed by staff in District Drainage Department Repair Report #25-020, estimated at \$ 19,500. Motion carried 3-0.

# 7. 2025 Information Management – Houston Engineering Inc. Task Orders

District Administrator Tomczik explained that the Houston Engineering task orders before the Board were annual costs and had been budgeted for within the District. He noted that HEI Task Order 2025-002 was for \$20,000 to maintain the District's GIS viewers and DrainageDB software subscription and HEI Task Order 2025-003 was for \$22,000 for the MS4Front software subscription.

Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Wagamon, approval of HEI Task Order 2025 – 002 and HEI Task Order 2025 - 003 and authorize the District Administrator to sign.

President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if MS4Front was being used by other watershed districts and counties and mentioned Renville County, which she had heard was using it in order to monitor the impact of the Clean Water Funds.

District Engineer Otterness stated that this was originally developed for municipalities to be able to track their obligations as MS4s, but it had expanded beyond that. He explained that they do have a number of watershed districts that run their permitted programs through MS4Front and also, in recent years, have gotten a few clients that had purchased it in order to manage their tracking of distributions for Watershed Based Implementation Funds.

President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if MS4Front was being used to determine calculations of phosphorus and nitrogen.

District Engineer Otterness explained that the program itself did not calculate those quantities, but was a means of tracking that information.

Motion carried 3-0.

# 8. Check Register Dated February 12, 2025, in the Amount of \$181,474.86 Prepared by Redpath and Company

Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Robertson, to approve check register dated February 12, 2025, in the Amount of \$181,474.86 prepared by Redpath and Company. Motion carried 3-0.

President Pro-Tem Weinandt stated that she had received a letter from Redpath and Company letting the District know that the audit was being initiated and was in full swing and read aloud a portion of the letter related to fraud risks and the encouragement from

Redpath and Company to contact them if there was anything that the Board wanted to discuss related to that topic.

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# ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

# **District Engineer Updates and Timeline**

District Engineer Otterness noted that Houston Engineering had acquired another company within the metro area called HTPO, from Eden Prairie, and that this company has one small ongoing project in the District, which will be submitting a permit application to be reviewed by District staff. He reminded the Board that Houston Engineering did not take on any work within the District that had any intersection with the District permitting program in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

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President Pro-Tem Weinandt asked if there had been any Drainage Work Group meetings.

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District Engineer Otterness stated that they had not had any meetings recently and explained that they would not be meeting while the legislative session was happening so he would estimate that their next meeting would be sometime in June.

District Administrator Tomczik stated that they had held the public hearing for RCD-1 and

its continuance remained to be determined, and staff was proposing it come back before

that may be available for White Bear Lake because they were contemplating

augmentation of the surface water, the District having interest related to water quality

and aquatic invasive species (AIS). He stated that Minnesota Watersheds was moving

forward with potential changes to its resolution and legislative approach and have

tentatively set the date of March 21, 2025, for membership voting on resolutions. He

noted that the District has had its annual engagement on the MS4 permit with the

Pollution Control Agency and staff would likely be returning to the Board because the

MPCA would like the District to request to be removed from jurisdiction.

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#### 2. **Administrator Updates**

the Board on March 26, 2025 during their regular Board meeting and this date provided for proper noticing. He stated that the District was awarded a planning and design grant related to sewer overflow and stormwater reuse in the amount of \$71,000 and thanked Project Manager Petry and HEI who participated in the writing for the grant for updating 447 the models for the Moore Lake watershed and identify high priority projects for the area. 448 He noted that the Met Council had reached out to the District asking about the models 449

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#### 3. **Managers Update**

President Pro-Tem Weinandt noted that on February 19, 2025, the Minnesota Watersheds will hold their legislative meetings and will visit the capitol the following day.

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District Administrator Tomczik stated that he has continued his outreach related to the RCD-2,3,5 projects and at the moment does not yet have an author to sponsor the bill.

465 President Pro-Tem Weinandt noted that staff had put together a nice packet related to 466 the RCD-2, 3, and 5 projects and suggested that they have that available on February 19, 467 She stated that she planned to attend and asked if any of the other Board 468 members planned to attend. 469 470 Manager Robertson noted that she would not be able to attend on February 19, 2025, 471 because that was her day for the Met Council. 472 473 Manager Wagamon stated that it will depend on how he was feeling next week. 474 475 476 Manager Wagamon stated that he wanted to thank President Pro-Tem Weinandt for taking over the meeting today and doing an excellent job, under very short notice. 477 478

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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481 482 Motion by Manager Robertson, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.