



APPROVED

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, May 6, 2024

Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota
and

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

1 The Board convened the workshop at 9:00 a.m.

2 Attendance: Board members Mike Bradley, John Waller, Marcie Weinandt, Steve Wagamon, Jess
3 Robertson

4 Absent:

5 Staff: Communications & Outreach Manager Kendra Sommerfield, Regulatory Manager Patrick Hughes,
6 Office Manager Theresa Stasica

7 Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering, Inc.

8 Visitors:

9 **Manager Wagamon “Property Ponds” Statement**

10 Manager Wagamon explained that his ponds were created when he built his house. At that time, he
11 contacted the state and the watershed district to find out if he needed anything to conduct this work. The
12 state and watershed district told him he did not. In 2015, he contacted the district and started working on
13 the regulatory process to dig one existing pond deeper and fill in another existing pond with the spoils.
14 Because of personal issues the project was not completed. Manager Wagamon wants to complete the
15 project now. He has been told by the watershed district and state that he needs to demonstrate
16 compliance with the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and apply for a RCWD permit. The Board replied to
17 Manager Wagamon that if he desires Board review of the project, he should apply for a Watershed
18 District permit and a MN Wetland Conservation District Joint Application to start the project as soon as
19 possible.

20

21 **2025 Budget Planning Schedule**

22 Administrator Tomczik reviewed the schedule with the Board. The schedule included the public hearing for
23 the proposed 2025 Budget at the first meeting in August. The Board agreed by consensus to the schedule.
24 Administrator Tomczik replied he would bring the revised 2024 calendar item to Wednesday’s Board
25 meeting for consideration.

26

27 **Communications & Outreach Program Annual Review & Forecast**

28 Communications & Outreach Manager Sommerfeld gave a presentation on her past year activities and
29 accomplishments. She reviewed her 2024 plan and recommendations to increase the Communications &
30 Outreach budget to cover additional contract services and improve outreach materials. The Board

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BOARD OF
MANAGERS

Jess Robertson
Anoka County

Steven P. Wagamon
Anoka County

Michael J. Bradley
Ramsey County

Marcie Weinandt
Ramsey County

John J. Waller
Washington County

31 commended Ms. Sommerfeld on her program activities/accomplishments including the increase in social
32 media presence and legislative materials and communications.

33

34 **RCWD Employee Benefits**

35 Administrator Tomczik reviewed the packet memo with the Board that compared the District's employee
36 benefits to 14 metro area watershed districts. The Board discussed the comparison and asked questions.
37 Administrator Tomczik also informed the Board that this year each employee was given a summary
38 document of their District paid benefits. The Board stated this information answered their questions and
39 thanked staff for their efforts.

40

41 **2024 Rule Revision and Regulatory Program Update**

42 Regulatory Manager Hughes gave an update to the Board on the 2024 rule revision process and planned
43 updates to the regulatory program. The presentation highlighted the early public comment period for rule
44 items ending on May 15th and that staff, engineer, and legal have begun working on the draft rule language.
45 Regulatory Manager Hughes also reiterated the importance of open permit administration and the need to
46 realize site compliance and close out permits. Staff are investigating the established enforcement
47 procedures and the surety schedule for any needed changes along with the rule revision. Staff plan to come
48 back to the June Workshop with draft rule language for consideration.

49

50 Manager Robertson left the meeting just after 11:00 a.m. due to a prior engagement.

51

52 **Administrator Updates**

53 Administrator Tomczik updated the Board status of the 4 posted open positions, working on job
54 announcement for additional Technical Field Assistant for the PDS/Facilities program and posting of the
55 Project Support position after hiring Program Manager. Currently, the City of Circle Pines response letter
56 re: ACD 53/62 invoice has not been received.

57

58 The workshop was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

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