



APPROVED

**RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP**

Monday, December 9, 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, Steve Wagamon, Jess Robertson, Marcie  
3 Weinandt

4 Absent:

5 Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Drainage & Facilities Manager Tom Schmidt, Outreach & Grant  
6 Technician Molly Nelson, Program Support Technician Emmet Hurley, Office Manager Theresa Stasica

7 Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness -Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), Attorney John Kolb-  
8 Rinke Noonan

9 Visitors: David & Noreen Rybak, Chris Stowe, Catherine Decker

10 Administrator Tomczik requested moving the “Notice of Claim” item to the beginning of the agenda due  
11 to visitors present for the item. The Board agreed by consensus.

12

13 **Notice of Claim to Rice Creek Watershed District – Rybak**

14 Attorney Kolb stated the District has received a Notice of Claim from David and Noreen Rybak stating the  
15 District’s failure to adequately maintain the RCWD surface water ACD 10-22-32 ditch system on a routine  
16 basis, has led to the flooding of their property that occurred on or about 10/24/2024. The notice claims  
17 the failure has resulted in damage to the property but has yet to be explicitly defined. Attorney Kolb  
18 provided next steps in the process.

19 Staff updated the Board on completed and planned maintenance on the drainage system in this area. Staff  
20 recently met with the DNR to discuss the planned maintenance and are awaiting the DNR’s findings.

21 Mr. Rybak stated he recently brought to the office a survey he conducted on his property of the ditch system  
22 for the Districts review. District Engineer Otterness stated the information was reviewed with HEI’s survey  
23 and the difference in elevations indicate that their survey datum may be different. They are checking with  
24 the consultant to see what datum they used to conduct the survey. Mr. Rybak stated the lack of ditch  
25 maintenance is restricting the flow of water, not the culvert placements.

26 Managers Waller and Wagamon stated they observed the ditch with several landowners and noticed areas  
27 throughout the system that appeared to need maintenance. The Board by consensus directed staff and  
28 engineer to prioritize inspection of the full system and identify where maintenance is needed.

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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

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30 **2025 Water Quality Grant Review**

31 Outreach & Grant Technician Molly Nelson provided an annual review of the program, proposed program  
32 changes, and Anoka, Ramsey and Washington Conservation District technical services contracts. The Board  
33 discussed the information presented and will consider these items at their meeting on Wednesday.

34

35 **RCWD Cybersecurity Overview**

36 Program Support Technician Hurley provided a presentation to the Board on security measures the district  
37 is currently using and additional items he has put in place. The Board reviewed the information presented  
38 and asked questions.

39 **Administrator Updates**

- 40 • District Wide Modeling-ACD 10-22-32. Administrator Tomczik requested approval to move ahead with  
41 including this system in the annual modeling update. The Board removed it from the task order at an  
42 earlier board meeting. After discussion, the Board by consensus agreed to including the area in the  
43 2024 modeling update.
- 44 • EMWREP 2025 services agreement fee will be \$6,000.
- 45 • RCD1 Drainage System Records public hearing will be scheduled for January 22, 2025, 6 p.m. Mounds  
46 View Council Chambers
- 47 • District Attorney Transition Update. Administrator Tomczik stated Rinke Noonan working on potential  
48 proposal & retainer for the Board to consider at a future meeting. Attorney Kolb asked the Board if a  
49 2025 quarter one transition with Smith Partners is acceptable. The Board agreed by consensus.  
50 Administrator Tomczik stated 2025 Smith Partners' invoices will be on the accounts payable register.

51

52 The workshop was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.