



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 644-8888 • capitolregionwd.org

**April 16, 2025
Board Meeting**

V. Action Item
A) Approve Minutes of
April 2, 2025, Regular Meeting
(Krivichi)

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. A) Call to Order of Board Meeting (*President Joe Collins*)

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Bob Fossum
Rachele Krivichi
Nate Zwonitzer
Chris Kucek
Rachel Funke
Jessica Bromelkamp
Maricella Xiong
Alexandra Morrison
Eoghan O'Neill
Britta Belden
Forrest Kelley

Public Attendees

Sarah Peters
Walter Eshenaur
Richard Weil
Katherine Cloherty

Other Attendees

Bradley Cousins, Ramsey
County Attorney

B) Review, Amendments, and Approval of the Agenda.

Motion 25-072: *Approve the Agenda of April 2, 2025.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

(Permit Process: 1) Staff Review/Recommendation, 2) Applicant Response, 3) Public Comment, and 4) Board Discussion and Action.)

IV. Special Reports – Microplastics Monitoring Report (O'Neill)

The definition of microplastics is generally agreed to be plastic particles smaller than 5 millimeters (mm) in diameter. Microplastics are sourced from manufactured products, the breakdown of larger plastic materials, car tires, and synthetic fibers and textiles. This topic has

gained significant attention from scientists, policymakers, and the public as a distinct and pressing environmental concern because of the human health risks and their harm to aquatic life. CRWD identified the need to investigate the prevalence, extent, and impact of contaminants of emerging concern (including microplastics) in District water bodies in its 2020-2030 Watershed Management Plan (Water Quality Goal 11).

From 2020-2023, CRWD collected water samples from precipitation, lakes, and stormwater at six locations to be analyzed for microplastics. The goal of the sampling was to: understand the prevalence of microplastics in District water resources; gain information on the types and size classes of microplastics found in samples; and determine how microplastics may affect District stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Managers Mazanec and Texer asked if there is anything the District can do to help manage microplastics, such as hiring companies to clean plastic out of lakes and ponds, and if this would have an immediate impact in the District. Mr. O'Neill said it would promote land stewardship and might have an impact downstream, but that the microplastics are coming from rainwater, so it might not have a significant difference. There are other methods already in place in the District to prevent plastic from getting in the water, for example, separator grates at Como Lake. Also, picking up plastic can help, so putting receptacles around the lakes would inspire residents to clean up. In addition, plastic comes from corporations who make it, so, talking to legislators is important, and perhaps advocating for stricter recycling for St. Paul.

There was additional discussion about the sources of the pollution. California is the only state that has a drinking water standard for microplastics, and Manager Sullivan Janzen asked if the District can access California data about the sources of plastic pollution. Deputy Administrator Fossum noted that their data does tell us that plastic is falling from the air (in rainwater), therefore microplastic pollution is less of a watershed management problem but a pollutant management problem.

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of March 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting (Krivichi)

Motion 25-073: *Approve the March 19, 2025, Minutes, Regular Board Meeting*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Partial Accounts Payable/Receivable for March 2025 (Dalit)

Motion 25-074: *Approve a partial March 2025 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments. Authorize the Administrator to issue electronic payments for March US Bank and Menards credit card payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Accept the Trout Brook Flood Area Mitigation Screening Report (Funke)

In 2023, CRWD completed hydraulic, hydrologic, and water quality modeling of the Trout Brook subwatershed, which includes the Como and McCarrons subwatersheds. Over 30 flood areas were identified and 20 were prioritized as part of this modeling effort, which is detailed in the Trout Brook Storm Sewer Interceptor Detailed Water Quantity and Water Quality Modeling report. The report recommends that CRWD evaluate and select flood areas for individual flood mitigation and water quality improvement studies. Flood areas 6, 18, and 34 were prioritized 5th, 8th, and 12th, respectively, within the modeling report. Additionally, street reconstruction is planned by the City or County in 2025-2026 in all three of these flood areas.

President Collins asked if it is possible to do water storage underground at Como Elementary site. Ms. Funke responded that because of elevations it would have been difficult to get water to that area. President Collins also asked if there is another way to dig storm water ponds deeper to hold more water, such as in a pond near Trout Brook going south. Mr. Eshenaur responded that at this point it is not an option because the surface level is already high during floods, but perhaps a system could be used to lower the pond water level before it rains.

Motion 25-075: *Accept the Trout Brook Flood Area Mitigation Screening Report.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Approve 2025 Annual BMP Maintenance Contracts (Kucek)

CRWD contracts with maintenance service providers to maintain best management practices (BMPs) owned and/or operated by the District. Maintenance tasks vary by project, but generally include vegetation management, trash removal, and sediment removal. There are also multiple underground BMPs which require hydrovac maintenance to remove sediment and debris. Since 2023, staff have included a 15% contingency fund in these annual maintenance contracts to cover additional work beyond the contract scope that is occasionally needed without requiring a contract amendment. The costs shown here include that contingency.

Motion 25-076:
Authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement with Goliath Hydrovac for the 2025 Hydrovac services in an amount not to exceed \$97,503 and authorize the Administrator to approve extension of the services agreement for up to two more years upon written agreement of both parties.

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 25-077:
Authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement with Great River Greening for the 2025 Natural Areas maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$69,066 and authorize the

Administrator to approve extension of the Natural Areas Maintenance Services Agreement for up to two more years upon written agreement of both parties.

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 25-078:

Authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement with Metro Bloom Design and Build for 2025 Landscaped Areas and BMPs maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$49,953, and authorize the Administrator to approve extension of the landscaped areas and BMPs maintenance services agreement for up to two more years upon written agreement of both parties.

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business –

A) Watershed Artist in Residence and Early Career Artist (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp introduced Sarah Peters, the new Artist in Residence at the District. Peters talked about her work including bookmaking and the Floating Library. Ms. Xiong, who is the new Early Career Artist, also talked about her artwork including paper making and workshops.

There will be an Art + Water Workshop and Seed Paper Party on Saturday, May 10th, from 10am-2pm at the District office.

B) Snelling-Midway Rainwater Harvesting and Reuse System Update (Kelley)

The Board approved a contract for Irrigation Specialist Professional Services with Water in Motion for assistance with reviewing the Snelling-Midway Rainwater Capture and Reuse System existing conditions and capacity and to make recommendations on how future redevelopment sites will connect to the reuse system and use rainwater to irrigate green spaces throughout the development.

President Collins said it is acceptable to spend more on this project in order to get it right, even if it takes multiple tries. Then, when the District has bigger developments in the future it can sell water quality as a reduction to flood control. There have been debates about who the spending should fall on since some of it is privately owned and some is public owned.

C) Stewardship Grant Program Update (Morrison)

Ms. Morrison gave an overview of Stewardship Grants from 2023-2024 including notable projects such as at Friends School, Loeb Lake/Marydale Park, Terra Firma, and a look at anticipated projects for 2025.

Manager Manazec asked about unmaintained rain gardens after people sell their houses and move. Ms. Morrison said they do not always know who to contact when people move, but they leave a postcard or door hanger to contact us for more information if they are interested.

Manager Collins mentioned in the future the District could talk to the Parks Department about public lands in the focused areas and give them extra money as a way to manage water quality and water storage and to see if planting more trees in the District is even feasible. This is an area for further investigation.

Manager Sanders asked about “no-mow” lawns and if homeowners can get in trouble with the City for having them. Ms. Morrison said the District’s program allows some sedge mixes that are qualified as low-mow or no-mow, but it’s up to the homeowner to make sure they are complying with city ordinances. Signs help to inform the community members what the garden is.

D) Como Lake Aquatic Plant Management Update (Belden)

There will be a date coming shortly for a contract for curly leaf treatment at Como Lake, which is year two of a five-year period. The contract is forthcoming. The Monitoring Department will also be working this spring on a treatment for all aquatic plant management. This plan will be made based on last year’s plant data. There is a chance that curly leaf treatment will coincide with milfoil growth, but this is unclear right now. The department will keep monitoring and adapt from there. Last year was year one of five consecutive years. They saw reductions of invasive plants and did not observe any reductions of aquatic plants.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers’ Updates

There was an article in the paper about how earth’s soil is drying up that Manager Texer wanted to bring forward. Managers Mazanec and Sullivan Janzen attended the special meeting up in Saint Cloud and heard about changes of resolutions and legislative priorities. Reviewing these resolutions should be on the next board meeting agenda.

B) Administrator’s Update

None.

VIII. Next Meetings

- A) Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 5:30 PM – CAC Meeting. Manager Sullivan Janzen will be attending.
- B) Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Metro MN Watersheds Meeting. There will be a speaker from League of Women Voters.
- C) Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Motion 25-079: *Adjournment of April 2, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at 8:01 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Rachele Krivichi