



Capitol Region Watershed District

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**October 1, 2025
Board Meeting**

V. Action Item
A) Approve Minutes of
September 17, 2025, Regular
Board Meeting
(Treichel)

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

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

A) Oath of Office

Vice President Mary Texer and Board Manager Shawn Mazanec were reappointed and sworn in. Oath of Offices were also performed for President Joe Collins and Board Managers Rick Sanders and Hawona Sullivan Janzen.

B) Attendance

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Lydia Treichel
Terrence Chastan-Davis
Rachel Funke
Nate Zwonitzer

Public Attendees

Adam Aalgaard

Other Attendees

Bradley Cousins, Ramsey County
Attorney

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

Action Item V. D) Authorize Administrator to Secure PFML Insurance Plan was added to the agenda.

Motion 25-216: *Approve the Agenda of September 17, 2025 Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 25-029, Nova Classical Academy Improvements & Expansion Project (Chastan-Davis)

The applicant proposes the construction of a two-story building for Nova Classical Academy, a K-12 public charter school. This building will connect to the existing school via a skyway over

Mercer Way and includes a storm shelter, bus parking, and other related improvements. Permanent stormwater management consists of two surface filtration basins.

Motion 25-217: *Approve request for variance from the requirement of Stormwater Rule C to achieve 90% total suspended solids removal from the runoff generated on an annual basis.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 25-218: *Approve with 4 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of \$5,400 surety.*
2. *Receipt of documentation of maintenance agreement recorded with Ramsey County, which must include attachments A (scaled site plan) and B (site specific maintenance plan).*
3. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*
4. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

IV. Special Reports – None.

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of September 3, 2025, Workshop & Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

The Board provided an edit for the September 3, 2025, meeting minutes on Action Item V. C). The Board approved the minutes as amended and Staff will update the minutes accordingly.

Motion 25-219: *Approve the amended September 3, 2025 Workshop & Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Approve Accounts Payable and Receivable for August 2025 (Dalit)

Motion 25-220: *Approve remaining partial August 2025 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 25-221: *Approve August 2025 expenditures and accounts receivable as presented in the enclosed financial statement.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Adopt Climate Resiliency Framework (Funke)

Staff worked with Barr Engineering to develop a Climate Resiliency Framework (CRF) that provides guidance to CRWD on how we prepare for a changing climate. The CRF focuses on ensuring climate resilient water resources, stormwater infrastructure, natural resources, and communities. Staff made edits to the CRF based on comments made on September 3, 2025, at the Board Workshop and Water Resource Project Manager Rachel Funke presented the updated document for the Board to adopt. Updates included the addition of equity language and reference to the DEI Plan, as well as including more from external climate plans such as St. Paul and Roseville. Funke then discussed implementation and next steps which include continuing flood mitigation work and evaluating program and project design standards.

Motion 25-222: *Adopt CRWD's Climate Resiliency Framework.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Authorize Administrator to Secure Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Plan

In recent months, CRWD staff have been working to understand the new State PFML law and compare it to CRWD's existing PFML policy. Recently with NFP, CRWD's new insurance broker, evaluation and discussion has focused on a State insurance plan versus private insurance plan including premium rates, administrative effort, and other factors. The State premium rate is 0.88%. To date, one premium rate quote has been received from a private insurer that is just below the State rate. Staff is still awaiting a quote from one more private insurer.

Administrator Eleria presented an overview of the State PFML law, compared the advantages of state and private insurance options, and highlighted additional PFML policy-related questions that will be discussed at a future Board meeting. Ultimately, CRWD's new insurance broker encourages going with a private plan as benefits can be coordinated, customizations are available, and there is a strong possibility for faster claim adjudication. Board Managers had questions regarding what CRWD is providing currently, the definition of eligibility, if we can go back to the State plan after being on private. CRWD staff will seek Board approval of other 2026 employee insurance benefits at a future meeting, in addition to providing answers to questions that were brought up during the current meeting.

Motion 25-223: *Authorize Administrator to secure Paid Family and Medical Leave insurance plan that has a premium rate less than or equal to the State premium rate.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) River Learning Center Design Update (Zwonitzer)

Planning, Projects, and Grants Division Manager Nate Zwonitzer gave an update on the River Learning Center. He discussed funding, site overview, design plans, and stormwater management throughout the site. While there is currently no funding for construction, design plans are advancing rapidly, and renderings were presented to the Board. Zwonitzer explained that the River Learning Center is intended to provide year-round education, recreation, and a connection to the Mississippi River. Design plans include ADA pathways, ensure protection of elder trees that are over 200 years old, and hold spaces for art and education exhibits. Stormwater management will be spread throughout the site as CRWD has to keep in mind bedrock, historic dumping, and its proximity to the river floodplain. The Board was excited the plans are coming together and had no additional questions or comments.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

President Collins and other managers expressed their enjoyment of the CRWD Summer Tour that took place last Wednesday, September 10th and expressed gratitude to the staff for making it possible.

Vice President Mary Texer said that she attended the Shadow Puppets Art & Water Workshop on Saturday and had fun watching all the participants.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria said that it has been a busy month with events, but it has been nice to get out into the watershed to see our resources and showcase the work we have been doing. Eleria also mentioned that CRWD will be accepting an award at the Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference on Monday September 29th in Chicago.

C) Next Meetings

- a. Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. – Board Workshop and Regular Meeting
- b. Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting – Manager Sullivan Janzen will attend

D) Adjournment

Motion 25-224: *Adjournment of September 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting at 7:12 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Treichel