



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street
Saint Paul, MN 55104
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March 4, 2026
Board Meeting
V. Action Item
Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

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

A) Attendance

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Lydia Treichel
Luke Martinkosky

Public Attendees

Mike Trojan, CAC Member

Other Attendees

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

Motion 26-032: *Approve the Agenda of February 18, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 25-047, Jackson Street (CSAH 55) Reconstruction (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes reconstruction of Jackson Street (CSAH 55) between East Wheelock Parkway and Maryland Avenue East to improve pedestrian mobility and safety in the Jackson Street corridor, replace an existing bridge over the BNSF railroad, improve traffic operations and modernize the existing storm sewer system, including construction of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide water quality improvements. The onsite infiltration proposed meets the requirements of a non-linear project, and excess infiltration volume will be banked. President Collins suggested CRWD keep the Saint Paul Port Authority aware of any construction or delays that may occur.

Motion 26-033: *Approve with 3 conditions:*

1. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*

2. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*
3. *Revise pretreatment design to include skimming (i.e. snout, hood, etc.).*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

There were no other permit updates at this time.

IV. Special Reports – None

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of February 4, 2026, Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

Motion 26-034: *Approve the February 4, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Approve Accounts Payable and Receivable for January 2026 (Dalit)

Motion 26-035: *Approve remaining partial January 2026 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-036: *Approve January 2026 expenditures and accounts receivable as presented in the enclosed financial statement.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Accept LMCIT Liability Coverage (Dalit)

The Administrative Division is in the process of renewing the District's annual property/casualty insurance with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT). Property/casualty includes coverage for property losses, bond, comprehensive municipal liability, auto, cyber-related claims, liquor liability, and more. The renewal application includes a Liability Coverage Waiver form, in which the Board must decide whether to waive the statutory liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased.

Historically, the Board has decided to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statute § 466.04. As noted in the enclosed Liability Coverage Waiver Form, if the District does not waive the statutory tort limits, an individual claimant could recover no more

than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether the District purchases the optional LMCIT excess liability coverage. Liability coverage is more expensive if the District waives the limits; the cost difference is 3.5% of liability premium for members that choose to waive. Waiving the limits would not give the District better protection; the benefit is only to the party who is making a liability claim against the LMCIT member.

Staff recommend that the District continue to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. The Board asked why an entity would waive the monetary limits, and Administrator Eleria said she would bring the question to CRWD's insurance broker.

Motion 26-037: *Approve the LMCIT liability coverage and do not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MN Statute § 466.04.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Approve Kmart Site Redevelopment Water Resource Feasibility Study Scope of Work and Budget (Martinkosky)

The TBI hydraulic and hydrologic (H & H) model (completed by Barr in 2024) identified potential flooding during the 10-, 100-, and 500-year storm events on the former Kmart site at 235 and 245 Maryland Avenue East in Saint Paul. The District's 2025 Wetland Management Plan (also completed by Barr) identified the site as a priority to explore for potential wetland restoration/creation. This site contains an easement for the District's Trout Brook Interceptor (TBI) and has appeared in multiple recent District studies. The former Kmart closed in 2019 and in 2024 the Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA) acquired the site with intent of redevelopment. In 2025, the District completed a preliminary evaluation to summarize the existing water-resources related conditions, H & H model findings, and native plant communities at the site. The evaluation included a high-level analysis of future conditions and regulatory requirements. It also developed a conceptual figure outlining the potential for flood reduction, wetland restoration/creation, and stormwater treatment. The preliminary evaluation report was shared with SPPA in 2025 to advance the partnership with CRWD for water resource opportunities during the site redevelopment.

In December 2025, SPPA published a solicitation for a joint venture partner or land developer at the site. A final decision has not been made but is expected to be announced soon. SPPA and their development partner intend to begin site planning in the first quarter of 2026. To provide a timely water resources feasibility study, staff requested a proposal from Barr Engineering as a continuation of the projects they have completed at the site to date. SPPA reviewed the scope of work and provided feedback regarding the schedule. Due to the short schedule for this project, staff recommend that the Board authorize the Administrator to approve amendments up to \$25,000. This amount is consistent with the amount already authorized to the Administrator for all contracts under \$50,000.

Manager Mazanec asked a question about the potential for wetland mitigation and wetland banking. Water Resources Regulatory Specialist Luke Martinkosky responded that there is potential for wetlands to be created on this site, especially because the SPPA did recently fill in some acres of wetlands and are therefore obligated to create an equal amount of wetland to pay down that negative balance. President Collins inquired about exploring a maximum amount of wetland that would be compatible with their goals and the need for flood storage within the surrounding area. Ideally, the goal would be for a singular larger wetland, but CRWD would be open to multiple smaller wetlands as well. Additionally, the Kmart site would be considered a regional flood area if a 100-year flood were to occur. With the site being low and surrounded by impervious surface, stormwater would accumulate at the site.

Motion 26-038: *Approve the scope of work and budget for engineering services for the Kmart site Redevelopment Water Resources Feasibility Study project for an amount not to exceed \$69,448.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-039: *Authorize the Administrator to execute a Consultant Services Agreement and amendments not to exceed \$25,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business – None.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Manager Mazanec reminded staff and the Board that he will not attend the next Board meeting on Wednesday, March 4th due to travel.

Manager Sanders mentioned getting calls regarding a situation that occurred around Lake McCarron's late last week. The City of Saint Paul and CRWD got involved after a contractor was spreading unclean sand on the ice of the lake to create a sand blanket on the homeowner's shoreline. Regulatory staff conducted a site visit and have been coordinating with the homeowner. The homeowner took the issue very seriously and the contractor has removed all of the dirty sand and will be replacing it with washed sand.

Board Managers and staff discussed the Legislative Day that will be held on March 4th. The priorities of Minnesota Watersheds for the year are not entirely applicable to CRWD, but Administrator Eleria still plans to send out a letter requesting meetings with legislators that day, especially those new to their positions. President Collins recommended to show up and show our

support even though the priorities do not strongly align with the mission of CRWD. Inviting legislators onsite or for a walk around Como could be good options for engagement.

Manager Sullivan Janzen shared information about an event happening tomorrow evening for Black History Month that is hosted by Springboard for the Arts and Ramsey County Parks. Local African American photographer Wordsworth Lucy Gleany (SP?) interviewed seven people about their feelings around the outdoors and took their picture where they felt most comfortable outside. At the event tomorrow, these portraits will be digitally unveiled, and a panel discussion will be held. Manager Sullivan Janzen has been invited to be one of the participants. Longterm, the Ramsey County Parks department will design a traveling installation in addition to hosting community events surrounding the exhibit.

B) Administrator's Update

Deputy Administrator Fossum told the Board about the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Minnesota Chapter Awards Banquet that took place on Friday, February 6th. CRWD won the Grand Award for Highland Bridge Project, as well as winning the People's Choice award with over 300 votes. Achievement of the Grand Award means the Highland Bridge Project will be in the running for the National ACEC Awards Program in May. Fossum recounted that it was nice to celebrate the project with everyone who was involved.

Administrator Eleria shared that CRWD has ordered flowers to be delivered to Ann WhiteEagle's husband to share our condolences at her passing. Eleria has sent condolences to Ann's coworkers at Ramsey County, as well. There is no information about a funeral service yet.

Planning, Projects, and Grants staff submitted abstracts to two national conferences and will be presenting their work this spring. The Center for Watershed Protection conference is in April, and the National Climate Adaptation conference is in September (?).

Administrator Eleria saw Ramsey County Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey at the Capitol Commons kickoff event a few weeks ago. Eleria invited him to attend CRWD's Watershed Stewardship Awards in March, to which he accepted. Commissioner McMurtrey will also be giving the opening remarks at this event.

The following portion of the meeting will be closed to evaluate the performance of the District Administrator pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(a).

C) Annual Performance Review of District Administrator

Managers discussed among themselves from 6:35 p.m. until 7:02 p.m. when they invited Administrator Eleria back into the room.

VIII. Next Meetings

A) Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – Board Workshop and Regular Meeting

- B) Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting
 - i. Manager Sullivan Janzen is attending.

IX. Adjournment

Motion 26-040: *Adjournment of the February 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 7:15 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders

Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Treichel