



Capitol Region Watershed District

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February 4, 2026
Board Meeting
V. Action Item
Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:05 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order of Board Meeting (*Vice President Mary Texer*)

A) Attendance

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins (late with notice)
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Lydia Treichel
Nate Zwonitzer
Rachel Funke
Luke Martinkosky
Chris Kucek
Lucas Roessler-Caram
Eoghan O'Neill
Britta Belden
Matt Lundberg

Public Attendees

Mike Trojan (CAC Member)

Other Attendees

Bradley Cousins, Ramsey County
Attorney
Ryan Fucci (HDR)
Chris Gice (HDR)

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

Administrator Eleria noted an updated memo for item V. D) Award Bid for Pooled BMP Pond Maintenance Project.

Motion 26-012: *Approve the Agenda of January 21, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 25-043, Highland Bridge Block 11 (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes construction of a six-story mixed-use building on Block 11 at the Highland Bridge development. The building consists of approximately 176 residential apartment units and 2,000 square feet of retail space.

Motion 26-013: *Approve with 2 conditions:*

1. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*
2. *The internal building sump receiving water from the foundation draitile is discharged to storm sewer. Acknowledge that the next update to the XPSWMM model will account for the rate and volume of the discharge.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) 25-050, 2025 Pooled BMP Stormwater Pond Maintenance (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes maintenance and dredging of stormwater ponds in two historical wetlands (Arlington Business Park Pond and Arlington-Arkwright), as well as two other stormwater basins (Atwater-Western and Beacon Bluff).

Motion 26-014: *Approve request for variance from the requirements of Wetland Recommendation: Management Rule E that the de minimis size is zero and that permanently impacted wetlands shall be replaced through creation, restoration, or expansion of existing wetlands of the same type at a minimum 2:1 ratio within the District's boundaries and allow for 87 square feet of wetland impacts without replacement.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-015: *Approve with 2 conditions:*

1. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*
2. *Provide erosion and sediment control quantities.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) 25-049, Phalen Payne Lead Water Service Line Replacement (Stephan)

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) proposed to replace lead water service lines for up to 319 properties in the project location as described in the permit report. This is a voluntary program, meaning property owners can choose if they want the private side of the service line replaced. Expected property owner participation is 95%, with calculations for this permit assuming 100% participation.

Motion 26-016: *Approve variance from volume retention and water quality requirements of Stormwater Rule C for street and sidewalk impervious area in the amount of 3,714 ft³.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-017: *Approve with one condition:*

1. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) 25-052, Frogtown Lead Water Service Line Replacement (Stephan)

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) proposed to replace lead water service lines for up to 479 properties in the project location as described in the permit report. This is a voluntary program, meaning property owners can choose if they want the private side of the service line replaced. Expected property owner participation is 95%, with calculations for this permit assuming 100% participation. Water Resources Regulatory Specialist Luke Martinkosky clarified there will be no impact to the wetlands surrounding the area.

Motion 26-018: *Approve variance from volume retention and water quality requirements of Stormwater Rule C for street and sidewalk impervious area in the amount of 4,352 ft³.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-019: *Approve with one condition:*

1. *Provide a copy of the site-specific stormwater construction NPDES permit.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

E) 25-053, North End Lead Water Service Line Replacement (Stephan)

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) proposed to replace lead water service lines for up to 442 properties in the project location as described in the permit report. This is a voluntary program, meaning property owners can choose if they want the private side of the service line replaced. Expected property owner participation is 95%, with calculations for this permit assuming 100% participation.

Motion 26-020: *Approve variance from volume retention and water quality requirements of Stormwater Rule C for street and sidewalk impervious area in the amount of 4,512 ft³.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-021: *Approve with 2 conditions:*

1. *Provide a copy of the site-specific stormwater construction NPDES permit.*
2. *Revise SWPPP to indicate “Yes” in “Flows to Impaired Water Within 1-Mile” column. Project is within 1 mile and flows to Como Lake which has approved TMDL for nutrients.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

F) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

There were no other permit updates at this time.

IV. Special Reports – None.

V. Action Items

A) Approve Comments on Ford Area C Feasibility Study (Fossum)

Ford Area C is located west of Mississippi Boulevard immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River. For many years, Ford used this parcel to dump waste products from their manufacturing processes. Later both the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of St. Paul added construction debris above and around the waste Ford placed there. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been working with Ford for several years to investigate the content and magnitude of the material that is located at Area C. CRWD has been involved in evaluating the investigation and requested additional monitoring to fully characterize the magnitude and extent of contaminant migration at the site and evaluation of suggested clean up alternatives in the Ford Area C Feasibility Study.

The Managers reviewed the revised Focused Feasibility Study and discussed concerns at the Board Workshop on January 7, 2026. The CRWD Community Advisory Committee reviewed the Study and provided comments at their January 14, 2026, meeting. In addition, some CRWD staff and Board managers attended the MPCA's community meeting regarding Area C on Thursday, January 15th. Staff attempted to incorporate concerns and comments from the Board and CAC into CRWD's draft comment letter that Deputy Administrator Fossum reviewed with the Board. The draft comment letter to the MPCA detailed remaining concerns with the Ford Area C Feasibility Study which include slope stability, the ability to withstand a 500-year event, stormwater management and financial assurances.

Questions from the Board included whether Alternative 4 was a strong enough fix, and if a surety is standard for this type of work. Deputy Administrator Fossum responded that Alternative 4 could work if it is stable and long term, but CRWD suggests Alternative 6 if not. Fossum also stated that the MPCA indicated a surety is not common in this type of program. Entities that placed material at the site are jointly and severally liable for it. This would mean the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Saint Paul would be financially responsible if Ford were to go out of business. Fossum also mentioned that Area C is no longer a Superfund site and is now in the voluntary investigation and cleanup program, so the MPCA is limited in what it can do in that program.

Motion 26-022: *Approve comment letter to MPCA for the revised Focused Feasibility Study for Area C, Ford Site.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Approve Minutes of January 7, 2026, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting (Dalit)

Motion 26-023: *Approve the January 7, 2026 Workshop and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Approve Accounts Payable and Receivable for December 2025 (Dalit)

Motion 26-024: *Approve remaining partial December 2025 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-025: *Approve December 2025 expenditures and accounts receivable as presented in the enclosed financial statement.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-026: *Authorize the Administrator to complete two wire transfers to Ehler's Bond Trust Services for debt service payments in the amounts of \$546,225.00 and \$297,937.50.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Award Bid for Pooled BMP Pond Maintenance Project (Kucek)

CRWD's Facility Management Division is working with the City of Saint Paul Public Works Sewer Division to conduct sediment removal and restoration at five stormwater basins as part of the Pooled BMP Maintenance program. Bidding for the project began on December 18, 2025, and bids were opened at 2:00 PM, Thursday, January 15, 2026. CRWD's engineering firm for this project, HDR, reviewed the bids for completeness and responsiveness to the bid requirements. Facility Operations Specialist Chris Kucek reviewed the bids with the Board. Kucek also reviewed the project timeline with the Board, noting that a substantial amount of the excavation work should be completed by end of April and full restoration should be complete by mid-June. President Collins asked what the reason was for the vastly different bid amounts. HDR Project Manager Chris Gice answered that larger contractors who do excavation work often tend to be priced lower because they have more resources and ability to mobilize.

Motion 26-027: *Order construction of the Sediment Removal and Restoration of Five Stormwater Ponds Project.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-028: *Authorize the Board President and the Administrator to execute a Notice of Award and an Agreement with Veit & Company, Inc. subject to the review and approval of the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-029: *Authorize the Administrator to execute change orders in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

E) Approve 2026 Ramsey Conservation Division Service Agreement (Lundberg)

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department – Soil and Water Conservation Division (SWCD) has provided varying levels of technical assistance to CRWD for over twenty years. In previous years, the SWCD has provided support for the District’s grant programs, monitoring surveys, shoreline inventories, and invasive species and weed management. A professional services agreement is developed and executed on an annual basis that defines the anticipated technical assistance requested from SWCD. A typical annual contract amount is on average \$130,000.

CRWD staff reviewed the anticipated technical assistance needs for 2026 with Ramsey County SWCD staff. Projects and Grants Specialist Matt Lundberg then discussed this with the Board. Technical assistance includes support for the Stewardship Grant Program, boulevard rain garden design/construction oversight, MN Water Steward support, Como Lake Turion Study, aquatic vegetation survey and transplanting, native mussel surveys, and invasive weed management. The total cost for SWCD technical assistance is estimated to be \$141,665. Funding for these technical services has been accounted for under “contracted services” throughout the various CRWD program and project budgets.

Motion 26-030: *Approve the 2026 Professional Service Agreement with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department – Soil and Water Conservation Division for an amount not to exceed \$141,665 and authorize the Administrator to execute the agreement subject to the review and approval by the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Gottfried’s Pit Subwatershed Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Study (Funke)

Flooding in the Gottfried's Pit Subwatershed is influenced by topography, development, and the stormwater infrastructure of Roseville, Falcon Heights, and St. Paul; as well as Gottfried's Pit, which is owned by Ramsey County. Gottfried's Pit consists of a 500,000 cubic foot stormwater pond and system that pumps water south via a force main under Larpenteur Avenue and Huron Street right-of-way. Flooding in the Gottfried's Pit area is a persistent issue and was even noted in CRWD's establishment petition in 1998. In 2010, CRWD led a lift station capacity increase project which helped mitigate some flooding, but further exploration is needed to determine if additional flood protection can be achieved in the face of a changing climate and more frequent, intense storms.

Staff intend to hire a consultant to complete a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate flood mitigation alternatives throughout the entire Gottfried's Pit Subwatershed. This is one of activities assigned an Important priority in CRWD's 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan (305I). CRWD will be the project lead and partners will include Ramsey County and the cities of Roseville, Falcon Heights, and St. Paul.

Water Resources Project Manager Rachel Funke explained to the Board that cost estimates and concept plans will be developed for multiple mitigation options, and a final preferred alternative will be selected for further evaluation. Funke also discussed the complexity of the project objectives. The anticipated cost for this project is up to \$200,000 and funds will come from the 305-26435 project code. Staff have also applied for an MPCA Planning Grant for Stormwater Resilience for this project and will be notified in March if selected. Staff will return to the Board for approval of the recommended consultant at the conclusion of the RFP process. The feasibility study is planned to begin in spring 2026 and be completed by spring 2027.

President Collins asked about the lift station project from 2010 and what impact it has currently. Funke confirmed that the lift station did help reduce flooding in the area, but there is still more that can be done. Deputy Administrator Fossum explained that simply increasing the pumping would not be feasible as it would just be moving the problem downstream.

B) Como Lake Access Paths Update (O'Neill)

Since Como Lake's shoreline was restored in the early 2000s, footpaths have been established where people frequently access the shoreline for fishing, birdwatching, or other activities. Most of these paths are used relatively infrequently and are characterized by a narrow band of matted down vegetation with small patches of bare soil. However, some paths are used more regularly and have greater potential for erosion and vegetation damage. In December 2024, CRWD surveyed the informal access paths and observed 36 locations that required attention. In August 2025, CRWD in partnership with the City of Saint Paul—Department of Parks and Recreation, selected Barr Engineering to develop and design plans to stabilize, formalize, or restore the 36 access paths identified by CRWD and oversee the construction of the project plans. The project will formalize select informal access paths, create durable lakeshore access points for fishing, remove unused trails, and address areas of erosion. This project is in alignment with shoreline maintenance and improvement goals identified in the Como Lake Management Plan (2019) and the Como Lakeshore Management Plan (2022).

Water Resource Technician Eoghan O'Neill reviewed with the Board, the budget, timeline, and design of the selected paths that will be formalized. To date, Barr has developed a 90% design draft plan set and specifications with probable cost estimates. Barr has also developed a Request for Quotes (RFQ) outlining project requirements, including the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction timeline that will be distributed to qualified contractors on 1/22/26, with quotes due on 2/18/26. The current project cost estimate, including construction contingency, is \$130,000. Barr will assist with reviewing contractor bids and overseeing construction to verify that construction is proceeding as described in the plan set. Construction is expected to be completed by 6/30/2026.

C) Highland Ravine 3 Repair Update (Roessler-Caram)

Due to the topography and land use in the Highland Park Neighborhood, rapid runoff causes erosion and transports sediment via eroding ravines. In 2014, CRWD completed the Highland Ravine stabilization project which included stabilizing several ravines in the area. Ravine 3 included rock check dams, slope grading, and native vegetation, and an outlet structure was added in 2016. Inspections in 2023 revealed widespread failure of the rock dams, worsened by a major storm that clogged the outlet and increased infrastructure risk. In 2024, CRWD solicited quotes for repairs, but costs came in about 50% higher than expected. This led to a broader watershed evaluation to identify underlying causes of erosion.

Water Resource Technician Lucas Roessler-Caram explained to the Board that a thorough analysis of Ravine 3 and the contributing drainage area helped CRWD better understand the causes and direct impacts of the worsening erosion. Working with Stantec Engineering, staff have determined next steps to improve long-term stability and ecological health of Highland Ravine 3. To address these challenges, CRWD plans to implement a three-phase approach including tree removal, ravine repairs and improvements, and a long-term vegetation management plan. Roessler-Caram reviewed each of these phases of construction with the Board.

Over the coming months, staff will be sending 3 requests for quotes to complete the work necessary for Ravine 3. Additionally, staff are coordinating with the property owner in the area of Ravine 3A to secure an easement for long-term management of water conveyance infrastructure to be installed on their property. Approval of the easement and each phase of construction will be brought to the Board for approval at future meetings. Funding for implementation of this work will come from fund 422-26836 Highland Ravine Repair Project which has a 2026 budget of \$225,000 and fund 222-26305 District-Owned Facility Management which has a 2026 budget of \$207,904.

President Collins asked about the property owner that CRWD will sign an easement with regarding tree removal. Roessler-Caram responded that CRWD has met onsite with them, and showed them the damage that was occurring, and the owner is open to discussion. Manager Texer questioned if the cost of easement was included in the total budget for the project, of which Planning, Projects, and Grants Division Manager Nate Zwonitzer responded that CRWD does not anticipate needing to pay for it. CRWD will be taking on the operations and maintenance costs, which will be a relief to the owner. Manager Mazanec asked about the threat

of mosquitoes with standing water in the ravine. Since there will be movement of the water, CRWD staff is not concerned about this issue.

D) McMurray Field Project Update (Zwonitzer)

Planning, Projects, and Grants Division Manager Nate Zwonitzer gave an update to the Board on the ongoing McMurray Field Project, which will be a CRWD-owned BMP. Zwonitzer detailed some design changes and an updated budget, in addition to reviewing the upcoming timeline that will begin to move quickly in the spring. Layout of the area will now include artificial turf for a multisport field, as well as a bathroom and storage building that will both be winterized in the fall. With the ability to host tournaments and larger events, additional parking has been added to the plans as well. The pumphouse will operate year-round to account for the increase in snow melt events throughout the winter. Due to these changes in the amount of irrigation areas, the stormwater design has also shifted. This includes an evaluation of pump sizing, one surface infiltration area is to be removed, and a rain garden is planned to be added. Updated plans also include an infiltration area being placed below the artificial turf field.

The next major milestone for this project is 60% plans by the end of January, which will then be submitted to CRWD divisions for review. Bidding is planned to occur in late April, with construction beginning in the fall of 2026 and is estimated to be completed by spring of 2027.

President Collins asked about if we could receive money from federal infrastructure funds. Zwonitzer said it was unlikely to expect those funds, as the timing would be challenging. Manager Sanders wanted to ensure the pump house would be accessible by truck and include a roof that opens. Zwonitzer confirmed the plans do involve a hatched roof and the building will be accessible.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Board Managers Collins and Mazanec were at the legislative committee for Minnesota Watersheds, where chloride was a big issue. President Collins voiced that he would like CRWD to work with the City of Saint Paul to get chloride reduction strategies as part of site plan review. Collins suggested a meeting or presentation where cities and governments can be educated about it, like how the cities of Hopkins and Eden Prairie have done it. Administrator Eleria responded that it is on CRWD's radar from a regulatory standpoint, finding solutions both in CRWD Rules and in ordinances and zoning codes with city partners. CRWD is updating the Rules this year which can create a good opportunity to bring this forward. Manager Mazanec supported working towards a regulatory approach versus limited liability. This is in part because a regulatory approach should include an educational component, like a Smart Salting class and it is easier to expand in future years.

Manager Sullivan Janzen asked if CRWD was having conversations about how the current events in Minnesota might impact the annual awards in early February. Sullivan Janzen expressed a real concern for safety and shared how other organizations are responding, like postponing

events or making them virtual. President Collins recommended postponing the awards ceremony. Administrator Eleria said that this topic is being discussed with Division Managers as well as with the coordinators and people from the community. CRWD will take the managers' feedback into consideration for the ceremony.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria recognized CRWD staff for all their work on the projects they presented at the meeting. In light of what is going on in the state of Minnesota, staff continue to show up and do the work, proving they are resilient and adaptable. Eleria also mentioned that CRWD staff have guidance in terms of current events, and thanked Ramsey County Attorney Cousins for his help in creating the guidelines.

Administrator Eleria also shared good news that Water Resource Technician Eoghan O'Neill will be moving from the Monitoring division to the Facility Management team as their new Stormwater Facilities Operations Technician.

C) Next Meetings

- a. Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting
- ~~b. Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – Watershed Steward Awards Ceremony~~
 - i. This event is being postponed until March 25, 2026
- c. Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting (virtual)
 - i. Manager Sullivan Janzen is attending

D) Adjournment

Motion 26-031: *Adjournment of the January 21, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 8:08 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Treichel