



Capitol Region Watershed District

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January 21, 2026

Board Meeting

V. Action Item

Approved

Board Workshop of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

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

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen (absent w/ notice)
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Meilina Dalit
Forrest Kelley

Public Attendees

Mary Lilly, CAC Member
Dan Krivit
Mike Harley

Other Attendees

J.P. Hochhalter, Ramsey County
Attorney
Dan Fetter, Barr Engineering

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

Motion 26-001: *Approve the Workshop Agenda of January 7, 2026.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Ford Site Area C, Feasibility Study (Fossum)

Deputy Administrator Fossum provided a review of the project site. Ford Area C is located west of Mississippi Blvd. 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. At the July 10, 2024, Board meeting, the Managers approved a comment letter on the initial Ford Area C Feasibility Study.

In November, the MPCA released a revised version of the Ford Area C Feasibility Study for public comment. The Feasibility Study, prepared by Ford Motor Co., recommends Alternative 3, which includes targeted removal of waste and slope stabilization. The MPCA's proposed plan for

Area C is Alternative 4. Alternative 4 is more extensive than Alternative 3 and includes removal of all reasonably accessible waste and slope stabilization. The comment period ends on February 3, 2026. Staff from CRWD and Barr Engineering have reviewed the revised Feasibility Study in relation to CRWD's initial comments in 2024 and have noted improvements.

Deputy Administrator Bob Fossum and Dan Fetter of Barr Engineering discussed what issues are addressed in the study and what concerns remain. No formal action was requested of the Board at the workshop. Staff will prepare a draft comment letter, noting concerns and improvements to Alternative 4, to be approved by the Board at the next Board meeting.

Manager Collins expressed concerns and a desire to understand how the area will be impacted by flooding, in particular, in a 500-year rain event. Manager Texer asked if Ford maintains liability for any disasters. Mr. Fetter responded that Ford is the responsible party that the final clean up option will be enforced upon. The Superfund program, a federal program, is a way to identify who is responsible for cleanup of contaminated sites. Manager Sanders asked what happens if monitoring of the site uncovers an issue and whether there is a treatment that can be done at this time. Mr. Fetter responded that monitoring would be done more frequently, and sampling would provide more information if the contamination is migrating, potentially leading to the need to control or treat the source, or treat the contaminated water that is moving off the source. Monitoring data so far shows the waste is not very mobile.

Manager Mazanec expressed concerns about long-term assurances and asked whether a scenario in which Ford spins off its liability to a new company could happen. Mr. Fetter responded a more common concern is a company going bankrupt, leading to no responsible party of a Superfund site. Mr. Fossum noted CRWD could address issues of long-term assurances in their comment letter. Manager Mazanec also asked whether the potential removal of the dam is a concern as that may increase flooding. Mr. Fossum said it is definitely of concern. Manager Collins agreed with the concerns about long-term assurances and potential ramifications of the removal of the dam.

Manager Mazanec asked if there is any benefit in stating in the comment letter that CRWD's preferred option is to remove all hazardous waste at Ford Area C and if that is not possible, then Alternative 4 is the next best option. Mr. Fossum responded that full removal has many impacts to the river and neighborhood. Looking at risk assessments and the data collected, it may be difficult to require full removal of the waste.

Manager Collins invited attendees to provide public comment. Public attendee Dan Krivit shared he lives close to Ford Area C. Mr. Krivit expressed a desire for the comment letter to push for a financial assurance standard that is used in the closed landfill program. He strongly advocated that CRWD recommend pursuing Alternative 6, exploring cost-sharing scenarios of Alternative 6, and looking into land value and end use. He commended CRWD for their work and involvement in this issue.

Manager Collins thanked Mr. Krivit for his comments and for attending the meeting.

III. Adjourn Board Workshop

Motion 26-002: *Adjournment of January 7, 2026, Board Workshop at 5:57 P.M.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:06 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

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

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen (absent w/ notice)
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Meilina Dalit
Elizabeth Hosch
Acadia Stephan

Public Attendees

Mary Lilly, CAC Member
Mike Trojan, CAC Member
Nick Carmichael, CAC Member

Other Attendees

J.P. Hochhalter, Ramsey County
Attorney

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

Administrator Eleria noted there was an updated memo for III. Permit Application and Program Update, C) 25-042, MnDOT 280 (SP 6242-83). She proposed removing item VI. Unfinished Business, B) Hybrid Meeting Technology Update as staff are still working on finalizing the technology for hybrid meetings.

Motion 26-003: *Approve the Agenda of January 7, 2026, Meeting, as amended.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 20-023, 2383 University Ave - Closure (Stephan)

This permit was issued for demolition of an existing building and parking lot and construction of a multi-level apartment complex near the intersection of Raymond Avenue and University Avenue in Saint Paul. Stormwater treatment is provided by an underground Contech StormFilter filtration system. Work is complete, the site is stable, and the stormwater treatment practice has been confirmed functional. \$6,200 of surety was collected for this project. There was one surety deduction of \$120 due to an inspection charge. \$6,080 of the surety is available for return.

Motion 26-004: *Approve \$6,080 surety return and Certificate of Completion for permit #20-023, 2383 University Ave.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) 24-034, St. Paul OMF Storage Barn (Stephan)

Metro Transit proposes to construct a storage facility for light rail vehicles and an associated parking lot on the property on the east corner of 4th Street East and Willius Street in Saint Paul. This facility will be connected by rail to the existing OMF Light Rail facility which is located on the corner of Broadway Street and Prince Street, next to CHS Field. There will be three tracks crossing Willius Street to accommodate the movement of the trains.

Motion 26-005: *Approve with 4 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of documentation of maintenance agreement recorded with Ramsey County, being sure to include attachments A (scaled site plan) and B (site specific maintenance plan).*
2. *Provide a copy of the site-specific stormwater construction NPDES permit.*
3. *Include a note on the grading plans and Detail 2 on Sheet 40 stating, "Submit field measured infiltration rates within the footprint of Infiltration Basin (BMP 1) to CRWD prior to installation of infiltration system. After the subsoil is decompacted, infiltration rates shall be measured at the bottom of the excavation at the interface with the native soils (708.2'). For design purposes, field measured rates shall be divided by two as a safety factor. Adjustments to the basin may be necessary if the average design infiltration rate does not exceed 0.4 in/hr".*
4. *Provide a construction contingency plan that illustrates feasibility in case onsite infiltration tests during construction are below the minimum required rate for a 48-hour drawdown (0.4 in/hr). This contingency plan must address volume, rate control, and drawdown requirements.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) 25-042, MnDOT 280 (SP 6242-83) (Hosch)

MnDOT proposes major concrete pavement repair with diamond grinding, bituminous mill and overlay, guardrail, drainage and rehabilitation of 8 bridges on Hwy 280 between I-94 and Hwy 36.

Motion 26-006: *Approve with 3 conditions:*

1. *Provide a copy of the NPDES permit.*
2. *Provide a BMP in each drainage area of the project to remove gross pollutants per Rule C.3.d.2.ii. Gross pollutant removal BMP(s) will need to be identified and included in Civil Plans prior to construction. Gross pollutant removal is required by CRWD Rules and can be achieved by installing pretreatment-style devices such as a hydrodynamic separator, grit chamber, deep sump with snout, sump with SAFL baffle and snout, The Preserver, etc.*
3. *Revise the "Water Related Permits" table in the SWPPP (Page 1) to include Watershed District permit reference. Currently listed as N/A; however, permits are required from CRWD and RCWD.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

No updates.

IV. Special Reports – None.

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of December 17, 2025, Annual and Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

Manager Texer noted a couple of corrections.

Motion 26-007: *Approve the December 17, 2025, Annual and Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Approve Partial Accounts Payable and Receivable for December 2025 (Dalit)

Motion 26-008: *Approve a partial December 2025 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-009: *Authorize the Administrator to issue electronic payments for December US Bank and Menards credit card payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Approve Regulatory Stormwater Field Technician Position (Hosch)

One outcome of CRWD’s 2025 Permit Program Review was to “allocate additional resources towards maintenance activities to protect ongoing stormwater investments in line with District-wide priorities.” This was specifically identified as “hire additional inspection staff” to provide inspection and permit closure work so that current staff can continue to develop the Permitted Sites Maintenance Program and increase inspection and maintenance capacity. This staff expansion aligns with the District priorities of increased stormwater best management practice function through improved operation and maintenance of regulatory stormwater practices, while maintaining the robust review of new permit applications and active construction inspection presence.

The draft position description for a Stormwater Field Technician was reviewed and endorsed by the Board Personnel Committee, and upon review and approval by the full Board, staff intend to

initiate an internal hiring process prior to advertising externally. Funding has been allocated for this technician level position in the 2026 budget.

Motion 26-010: *Approve the Regulatory Stormwater Field Technician Position and authorize staff to advertise and fill the position.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) 2025 Contracts and Agreement Update (Dalit)

The Board of Managers accepted CRWD's Procurement and Contracting Guidelines last March. The guidelines outline policies pertaining to staff level approval of contracts based on estimated contract amounts. The guidelines authorize the Administrator to approve contracts between \$5,000 and \$49,999 and authorize the Division Managers and the Office Manager to approve contracts less than \$5,000. When the Board accepted the new guidelines in March, they requested that staff provide the Board with a list every six months of contracts and agreements that have been approved by staff, so that they are aware of agreements that did not require Board approval.

Last summer, staff presented the list of contracts and agreements approved by staff from January – June 2025. Staff shared a list of contracts and agreements approved by staff from July – December 2025. This list does not include CRWD grant agreements such as Stewardship Grants or Partner Grants.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Managers Collins suggested eliminating printouts of permit site plans in printed Board packets. The Board can view them better electronically. Manager Texer noted that CRWD's former attorney Jim Mogen is now part of the City Council of Falcon Heights. Administrator Eleria mentioned that the City Council of Falcon Heights hosted a workshop at CRWD's office that day.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria shared that the MPCA is hosting a public meeting for Ford Area C on January 15th at the Highland Community Center. She and Mr. Fossum will attend solely as observers. A large turnout is expected for this public meeting. If Board Managers plan to attend on behalf of CRWD, they should attend solely to listen and observe.

Administrator Eleria serves on the MN Watersheds Events and Education Committee. During a recent meeting, the Committee discussed survey results on the annual conference. For the most part, feedback was positive. There are still accessibility concerns regarding the venue not having one site or building for the conference. It is challenging to find a venue that is centrally located

and large enough to accommodate the conference. MN Watersheds staff wish to stay with Grand View Lodge for the conference in 2026.

The MN Watersheds Legislative event is March 3rd and 4th.

The Highland Bridge Project is receiving the Grand Award from the MN chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

VIII. Next Meetings

- A) Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting (virtual) – Manager Collins will attend.
- B) Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – Metro MN Watersheds Meeting (virtual)
- C) Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Motion 26-011: *Adjournment of January 7, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:35 P.M.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Meilina Dalit