



Capitol Region Watershed District

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

April 15, 2026
Board Meeting
V. Action Item
Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, April 1, 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
Rachel Funke (*virtual*)
Elizabeth Hosch

Public Attendees

Graham Zuehlke (*virtual*)
Max P Vondrasek (*virtual*)
2 anonymous attendees (*virtual*)

Other Attendees

President Collins asked if there were Board members for the motions and seconds necessary to introduce the agenda items identified by CRWD staff for this meeting. Managers Mazanec and Sanders volunteered.

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

There were two updates to the meeting. Item III. C) had an updated Board memo including an additional condition for approval. Item V. D) also had an updated Board memo and documents for approving a consultant.

Motion 26-063: *Approve the Agenda of April 1, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 26-007, Como Lake Shoreline Access Paths (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes to restore shoreline stability by formalizing and improving public access and to enhance ecological function through targeted repairs, revegetation, and installation of low-maintenance landscape features. The project area encompasses 25 sites around the lake, and interacts with CRWD's floodplain rules, wetland rules, and requires erosion and sediment control. Nine access paths will be stabilized with specific restoration and access improvement, and the others will be revegetated. While stormwater management is not required, this project

does propose wetland and floodplain fill and impact, which are compensated for in the project plans. Regulatory Division Manager Elizabeth Hosch reviewed how Wetland Management Regulation works and explained updates to CRWD's rules that will allow for wetland replacement outside of the District.

Manager Texer asked about how CRWD will make sure the revegetation stays in place. Staff responded that there will be fencing up in the short term to stop people from walking on the new vegetation. In addition, the type of vegetation, such as shrubs, are intended to keep people off long-term. Ultimately, some paths may reemerge but the nine paths chosen for permanent access paths were the most popular and will hopefully encourage traffic to decrease on the other paths.

Motion 26-064: *Approve variance from the minimum buffer of 25 feet of permanent, un-manicured vegetative ground cover requirement of Rule E.3(b).*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-065: *Approve with 1 condition:*

1. *Provide the City of Saint Paul's Notice of Decision for the Wetland Replacement plan.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) 26-008, 2026 Shepard Road – Duct Install (Chastan-Davis)

Xcel Energy proposes installation of a buried electric transmission line duct along Shepard Road between Smith Street and Eagle Parkway in Saint Paul, including trenching and site restoration. This is a resubmittal of a project under a new permit number.

Motion 26-066: *Approve with 1 condition:*

1. *Receipt of \$2,000 surety.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) 26-009, 2026 Excel Montreal Line North (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes installation of a natural gas pipeline involving saw cutting, excavation trenching, directional drilling, backfill, and site restoration. This project will require a floodplain fill that is being balanced in the plans and therefore meets CRWD's rules for stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, floodplain, and wetlands.

Motion 26-067: *Approve with 4 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of \$1,300 surety.*
2. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID.*

3. *Revise Erosion Control Plan to address items a.-g. identified in Permit Report R1b.*
4. *Provide Stormwater Impact Fund (SIF) contribution of \$27,500.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

In November 2025, the Board authorized the Administrator to take action on permits for United Village to try and keep pace with development. Hosch updated the Board of an application approved by Administrator Eleria on March 25th, 2026, with 6 conditions. The new development is Bailey Park and will be just east of the loon sculpture. President Collins asked if there is any water reuse on the site. Hosch responded that water reuse will be the primary tie in to the District reuse system, as the park will be using stormwater, but not collecting any as it is not a building.

IV. Special Reports – None

V. Action Items

- A) Approve Minutes of March 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

Motion 26-068: *Approve the March 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

- B) Approve Partial Accounts Payable and Receivable for March 2026 (Dalit)

Motion 26-069: *Approve a partial March 2026 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-070: *Authorize the Administrator to issue electronic payments for March US Bank and Menards credit card payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

- C) Approve Contribution to MN Stormwater Research Council (Fossum)

Funding for stormwater research has been included in CRWD's Budget and Workplan in each year from 2014–2026. Multiple small-scale research projects have been funded and completed by District staff as well as through partnerships with local research institutions. Since 2017, CRWD has contributed to the MN Stormwater Research Council to jointly fund applied

stormwater research.

Recently CRWD has approved an annual \$35,000 contribution to the MN Stormwater Research Council. This money along with funding from other organizations and leveraged state funds has totaled several million dollars and has funded dozens of research projects. This level of effort would not be possible without the collective approach being implemented.

Staff are requesting approval of a 2-year contribution of \$70,000 to the MN Stormwater Research Council for the next round of research projects, as a contribution was not made in 2025. President Collins acknowledged that this contribution and research supports CRWD's 10-year goals.

Motion 26-071: *Approve MN Stormwater Research Council Contribution in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Approve Consultant for Gottfried's Pit Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study (Funke)

Flooding in the Gottfried's Pit Subwatershed, especially at the Larpenteur and Fernwood intersection, is frequent and can be severe. Past extreme rain events have created dangerous conditions, property damage, and costly disruptions. CRWD has been involved in previous efforts to reduce flooding related to Gottfried's Pit, including a pump enhancement project in 2010. Though some improvements have been achieved, flooding still occurs during storms as frequent as a 2-year event.

CRWD plans to conduct a comprehensive flood mitigation feasibility study within the Gottfried's Pit Subwatershed. The study will identify the scale of project needed to provide meaningful benefit, and will evaluate multiple flood mitigation solutions within the watershed. Planning-level designs and cost estimates will be developed, and a recommended alternative will be shared. The project will include cooperation with partners from Ramsey County, Falcon Heights, Roseville, and St. Paul. Staff issued a request for proposals to three consulting firms from CRWD's approved professional services pool, and received proposals from Barr Engineering, SRF, and HR Green. Water Resource Project Manager Rachel Funke discussed the proposals with the Board. Barr Engineering's proposal scored highest among the review team with CRWD staff, in addition to having recent relevant experience in the District. CRWD and Barr Engineering have worked together for other flood mitigation projects and Barr's proposal was the lowest of the three received. Staff propose Barr Engineering as the consultant for the Gottfried's Pit Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study.

Motion 26-072: *Approve Barr Engineering as the consultant to complete the Gottfried's Pit Subwatershed Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study, and authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement for \$170,945 and amendments up to \$20,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) We Are Water Update (Schwantes)

Administrator Eleria updated the Board on the We Are Water exhibit CRWD is hosting beginning in late April. The Communications and Engagement team sent out emails requesting assistance and support for the four events that CRWD is hosting. Administrator Eleria asked the Board to please consider signing up for one of two shifts and thanked those who had signed up already. The Board voiced their appreciation for the application used to sign up, as it conveniently added their shifts to their calendars.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Manager Sullivan Janzen forwarded an email to CRWD staff about the City of Saint Paul's Salt Storage Ordinance Planning Commission. They are hosting a meeting on May 1st, 2026.

Board managers thanked CRWD staff for the wonderful awards ceremony. Manager Sullivan Janzen recommended advertising the Community Advisory Committee at next year's award ceremony to try and bring in more people from the community to participate.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria thanked the Board for their spot-on remarks at the annual awards ceremony and credited staff for planning an incredible event.

CRWD's newest employee started on Monday. Ava Schimnowski is the new Regulatory Stormwater Technician and will help with site inspections and follow up with contractors. Next week, a former seasonal staff member, Amy Arbetman, will be starting full-time with the Monitoring Division as a Water Resources Technician.

VIII. Next Meetings

A) Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting – Vice President Texer will attend

B) Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Motion 26-073: *Adjournment of the April 1, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:38 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Treichel