



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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**June 3, 2026**  
**Board Meeting**  
V. Action Item  
Approved

**Regular Board Meeting** of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, May 20, 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  
Rachel Funke  
Nate Zwonitzer  
Elizabeth Hosch

**Public Attendees**

**Other Attendees**

Bradley Cousins, Ramsey County Attorney

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.

**Motion 26-089:** *Approve the Agenda of May 20, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 24-031, Trout Creek Dredging – Approval Extension (Stephan)

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) completed an initial scope of work to dredge sediment and sand out from Trout Brook where it passes through culverts underneath Water Works Road to restore conveyance capacity for stormwater and water treatment processes that discharge into Trout Brook and to reduce potential flooding risks. An amendment to the application was approved on 5/31/2025 to increase the scope of work to dredge the stone lined section of the stream channel north of the culverts. SPRWS informed CRWD that this additional work and re-cleaning of the culverts is expected to be completed in fall of 2026, following delays related to available staffing, and has requested additional approval time (beyond the 1-year

approval time) to begin work again. No changes to the plan have been proposed, nor are there any Rule changes to incorporate.

**Motion 26-090:** *Approve extension with no conditions.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

B) 26-012, Highland Bridge Block 5 (Martinkosky)

The applicant proposes to construct a four-story senior living building located on Block 5 at Highland Bridge, at the northwest corner of Bohland Ave and Woodlawn Ave in Saint Paul.

**Motion 26-091:** *Approve with 3 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of \$6,300 surety.*
2. *Provide roof drain and/or downspout information to document the building drains to Stub #1 and Stub #2 as shown in the drainage area map.*
3. *Revise SWPPP Narrative to provide contact information for a Stormwater Manager and SWPPP Contact when available.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

C) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

There were no other permit updates.

D) Rules Update Process (Hosch)

Division Manager Hosch, reminded the Board that CRWD Rule revisions have happened most recently in 2019 and 2023. The purpose of updating CRWD Rules is for ongoing improvements, routine edits, and regular adjustments to the cost cap and Stormwater Impact fund amounts. Staff will continue to engage the established Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for discussion of current challenges and improvements in the intervening time between formal Rule updates.

Staff have collected a list of Rule revision topics over the past 2+ years since the last update, as well as review of the 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan and other CRWD planning efforts. CRWD collaborates with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) to provide consistent watershed regulation across our two jurisdictions.

Manager Texer thanked staff for including evaluation of sites less than 1 acre. Manager Collins indicated he was happy to see chloride reduction was being considered in the Rules. Manager Collins also mentioned he didn't think utility variances were a very significant issue. Manager Mazanec inquired about cooperation with other Districts in developing and amending CRWD Rules. Division Manager Hosch indicated CRWD is collaborating and developing consistent Rules across the metro area has always been a goal but it is challenging to implement with

differences in land use, size, and density. The Board thanked staff for the review of the Rules Update process.

IV. Special Reports – None

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of May 6, 2026, Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

Manager Collins suggested minor changes that were provided to staff prior to the meeting.

**Motion 26-092:** *Approve the May 6, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

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

**Motion 26-093:** *Approve remaining partial April 2026 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

**Motion 26-094:** *Approve April 2026 expenditures and accounts receivable as presented in the enclosed financial statement.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

C) Approve Cooperative Agreement with City of Saint Paul for McMurray Fields Project (Zwonitzer)

Final engineering for stormwater and park improvements at McMurray Fields in Saint Paul is underway with project bidding anticipated in the coming weeks. The project is a partnership between the City of Saint Paul, which owns the land, and CRWD, which is responsible for managing design and construction. Construction is anticipated to begin after Labor Day this year with project completion in the summer of 2027. To define roles and responsibilities for the project, a cooperative agreement between CRWD and the City has been developed.

The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between CRWD and the City of Saint Paul establishes a collaborative framework for the design, construction, and management of the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements Project at Como Regional Park. The project integrates significant stormwater infrastructure intended to improve water quality and reuse stormwater for irrigation as well as major park upgrades, including an artificial turf field, expanded parking, new restroom and plaza, and supporting amenities. CRWD serves as the lead entity for design and construction administration, particularly for stormwater components, while the City retains

final design authority and control over park elements and land use. The agreement is effective through September 30, 2027, unless extended or terminated earlier.

Financially and operationally, the JPA clearly separates responsibilities based on project components while allowing for efficient management as a single project. CRWD funds and maintains the stormwater systems, while the City funds and maintains park improvements. Construction and design costs are allocated accordingly, with shared or overlapping elements apportioned by the project engineer and negotiated between parties. Ownership reflects this split: the City retains land and park assets, while CRWD owns stormwater infrastructure and will have long-term maintenance responsibilities for those components. The JPA is not all-encompassing, and it identifies future development of easements for long-term access as well as a detailed operations and maintenance agreement.

The JPA has been reviewed and deemed acceptable by CRWD's attorney and City attorneys and is currently being routed through the City's approval process. The agreement is anticipated to be finalized prior to acceptance of a bid for construction. Staff recommend approval of the McMurray Fields JPA.

Manager Collins asked how the current economic and political issues in the world may impact the costs for this project. Division Manager Zwonitzer indicated staff do have a concern that material prices and lead times may impact the project and that it why bidding is being moved as early as possible.

**Motion 26-095:** *Approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements Project, and authorize the Board President and Administrator to execute the agreement pending review and approval by the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

D) Authorize Bidding for McMurray Fields Project (Zwonitzer)

CRWD, in partnership with the City of Saint Paul, seeks authorization to solicit bids for construction of the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements project. Final design is nearing completion and includes regional stormwater management infrastructure as well as significant park enhancements at Como Regional Park. The project is designed to provide substantial water quality benefits, currently estimated at up to 85 pounds of TP per year. These benefits will be achieved through stormwater capture, treatment, infiltration, and reuse through irrigation. The project will also improve recreational amenities, including a new artificial turf field. Expanded parking, a new restroom and plaza, and other supporting amenities are included as alternates if City funding allows. Consistent with the Joint Powers Agreement, CRWD will lead the bidding process and construction administration, in coordination with City requirements and oversight.

The 90% Opinion of Probable Cost and Civil Plans estimate construction costs of approximately \$8.5 million for the base bid, with total costs up to approximately \$10.5 million if alternates are included. These costs are based on the 90% designs and do not include contingency or construction administration, which could add around 15% to the construction cost. In addition to previously levied funds, CRWD has secured grants from BWSR (\$950k) and MPCA (\$2M) to fund the water quality components of the project.

Project cost responsibility is allocated by project component, with CRWD funding stormwater infrastructure and the City funding park improvements, and shared costs apportioned as needed. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with CRWD and City procurement requirements, including prevailing wage, equity contracting programs, and a Project Labor Agreement. Project specifications and contract documents will be reviewed and approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office prior to bidding. Bidding could begin as soon as May 27th with an anticipated four-week bidding period.

Project Manager Zwonitzer reviewed the costs for the project with the Board and indicated the District has the funding to complete the project. The Managers thanked staff for their work on the project.

**Motion 26-096:** *Approve plans for the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements Project, and authorize solicitation of bids pending review and approval of the contract documents by the Ramsey County Attorney.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

E) Accept the Phalen Watershed Modeling Report (Funke)

In 2023, CRWD began development of detailed water quality and water quantity models for the Phalen Creek watershed in partnership with the City of Saint Paul. The model development approach closely followed what was done for the Trout Brook Interceptor Modeling project. Previous modeling in the Phalen Creek Watershed was project-specific, and a subwatershed-wide model had not been developed. These models will help CRWD and its partners identify storm sewer capacity issues, areas of localized flooding, and water quality improvement opportunities.

Development of the water quantity (XPSWMM) and water quality (P8) models have been completed and reviewed by Saint Paul Public Works staff. These models will be shared with partners and developers upon request. The models will be used during permit review; to identify and prioritize flood areas within Phalen watershed; to support water quality and flood mitigation project siting and design; to analyze watershed wide pollutant build-up, wash off, loadings, removal, and effective yield; and to update CRWD's District boundary to more accurately align with hydrology. The total cost of this project was \$184,000 and \$81,280 was funded by the City of Saint Paul.

Water Resources Project Manager Rachel Funke presented high-level findings to the Board.

Manager Collins noted how dense the development is and difficulty in getting space to store water, so the District may need to look at upsizing pipes. Project Manager Funke indicated that it would be hard to find areas to store water and the key issue to determine is that upsizing pipes does not cause downstream flooding issues.

Manager Sullivan Janzen noted that the large amount of time and effort to model all the rain gardens precluded them from being in the model. She asked what would it take to model them to be able to document their cumulative impact. Staff discussed the scale of the BMPs that are typically included in this type of modeling effort and noted that for more detailed work on smaller scale, they would be included.

**Motion 26-097:** *Accept the Phalen Watershed Modeling Final Report.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

F) Approve 2026 MN Watersheds Resolution (Eleria)

MN Watersheds is seeking potential watershed resolutions from its members for its 2027 MN Watersheds Legislative Platform. MN Watersheds provided a request for resolutions (RFR) packet. It includes an outline of the steps and timeline for the resolution recommendation and approval process, resolution form, list of existing MN Watersheds Resolutions, and the 2026 Legislative Platform. The deadline for watershed district boards to submit proposed resolutions is June 2, 2026.

Due to the application of the MN Plumbing Code to the stormwater reuse component of our McMurray Project and potential implications of proposed code changes, CRWD staff recommend a resolution to MN Watersheds that supports legislation explicitly allowing stormwater as an alternative water source for outdoor uses including irrigation.

Staff reviewed the draft resolution with the Board and asked for feedback.

The Manager's voiced appreciation for the background provided and noted after the resolution is accepted it would be important to provide an action plan.

Manager Sanders requested clarification on the distinction between rainwater and stormwater.

**Motion 26-098:** *Approve the 2026 MN Watersheds Resolution that supports legislation allowing stormwater as an alternative water source for outdoor uses.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

G) Authorize Vehicle Purchase (Fossum)

Deputy Administrator Fossum, indicated staff are requesting authorization to purchase 3 vehicles for District use. Based on age and recall issues, staff have determined that the F150 truck and the Focus sedan need to be replaced. Additionally, the Facility Management Division has identified a need for an additional vehicle to complete regular inspection and maintenance work. Staff are working through the state cooperative purchasing program to secure quotations for three vehicles. Quotes, at this point range, between approximately \$36,000 and \$62,000 depending on which vehicles would be purchased. Staff are considering other types of vehicles and additional quotes. Staff are concerned about prices increasing on vehicles later this year and would like to complete the purchase of 3 vehicles in the next few weeks and are seeking Board authorization to complete the purchases.

**Motion 26-099:** *Authorize Administrator to purchase up to 3 vehicles not to exceed \$150,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business - None

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Manager Sullivan Janzen indicated that at the last CAC meeting the summer tour timeline was discussed. The summer tour will be in September this year. Tentatively set for September 9<sup>th</sup>.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria reminded the Board that there will be a We are Water Open House and Ice Cream Social, on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm.

Administrator Eleria reported that the Sidewalk Poetry workshop occurred a week and a half ago. It was a great event with 20 people, many of whom were new faces. She mentioned it was a very engaging and wonderful partnership with Public Art St. Paul. Manager Sullivan Janzen pointed out that We are Water was used to have poets consider what water meant to others.

VIII. Next Meetings

A) Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – Board Workshop and Regular Meeting

B) Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting (In Person) – Manger Sullivan Janzen will attend

IX. Adjournment

**Motion 26-100:** *Adjournment of the May 20, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 7:28 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders  
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Fossum