



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Saint Paul, MN 55104
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July 15, 2026
Board Meeting
V. Action Item
Approved

Board Workshop of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, July 1, 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
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Meilina Dalit

Public Attendees

President Collins asked if there were Board members for the motions and seconds. Managers Mazanec and Sanders volunteered.

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

Motion 26-125: *Approve the Workshop Agenda of July 1, 2026.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Draft Preliminary 2027 Budget (Eleria/Fossum)

Deputy Administrator Fossum outlined the 2027 work plan and budget development schedule. At the July 15th Board Meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the preliminary 2027 budget and levy for public comment and set a public hearing date.

Staff have developed a first draft of the full 2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy. Mr. Fossum discussed the budget development approach for 2027 and walked through highlights of the draft 2027 preliminary administration, programs, projects, CIP, and debt levy budgets. The draft 2027 Preliminary Budget includes a draft Operations Budget of \$8,172,242, which is nearly the same as 2026. The draft 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget is \$7,604,650, which is a 2% decrease from 2026. The draft 2027 Debt Service budget is \$950,000, which is the same as 2026. In total the draft 2027 Preliminary Budget is \$16,726,892, which is a 1% decrease from 2026.

In terms of the levy, the draft 2027 Preliminary Total Levy would be \$10,165,045, which is flat (equal to) compared to 2026. The draft Preliminary Operations, CIP, and Debt levy all remain flat as well compared to 2026.

Regarding the McMurray Project, Manager Texer asked what happens to any excess funds if the project revenue exceeds the project cost. Mr. Fossum responded any excess revenue would be classified as unencumbered capital fund balance that could be allocated to another capital improvement project.

Manager Collins asked about CRWD's debt repayment. Administrator Eleria explained that CRWD currently has two outstanding bonds. The first, issued in 2018 to fund the building, has an outstanding balance of approximately \$6 million. Although it is callable next year, it has a very low interest rate—lower than the returns CRWD is currently earning on investments. As a result, it is more financially advantageous to continue investing those funds rather than paying off the bond early. The second bond is a smaller refinancing of the 2013 bond and becomes callable in 2028. While its interest rate is higher than the 2018 bond, it is still relatively low, so it is recommended to hold off on paying it down at this time. CRWD's financial advisor monitors both bonds, along with CRWD's CD investments, to ensure CRWD is making the most effective financial decisions. If interest rates shift significantly, staff may need to reevaluate the strategy.

Manager Mazanec asked about the status of the sale and redevelopment of Luther Seminary. Administrator Eleria shared that Luther Seminary currently has a purchase agreement in place and the purchaser has until September to finalize the sale to a private developer. Staff are in discussions with the developer because a portion of the property includes Breck Woods. Under the City of Lauderdale's ordinance, if the developer wants higher density in that portion located within Lauderdale, they will be required to establish conservation easements for Breck Woods. CRWD may have some involvement in that process.

IV. Adjourn Board Workshop

Motion 26-126: *Adjournment of July 1, 2026, Board Workshop at 5:38 P.M.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Managers

Mary Texer
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Mazanec
Joe Collins
Rick Sanders

Staff Present

Anna Eleria
Bob Fossum
Meilina Dalit
Terrence Chastan-Davis
Nate Zwonitzer
Lindsay Schwantes
Luke Martinkosky

Public Attendees

Mike Trojan, CAC Member

Other Attendees

J.P. Hochhalter, Ramsey County Attorney

President Collins asked if there were Board members for the motions and seconds. Managers Mazanec and Sanders volunteered.

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

Motion 26-127: *Approve the Agenda of July 1, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 21-016, Xcel County Road B Phase 3 Closure (Stephan)

This permit was issued for a gas line replacement on County Road B between Lexington Ave and Rice Street in Roseville. A variance from permanent stormwater treatment was approved. Work is complete and the site is stable. No inspection charges were incurred, so the full \$3,600 surety is available to return.

Motion 26-128: *Approve \$3,600 surety return and Certificate of Completion for permit 21-016, Xcel County Road B Phase 3.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) 24-013, MnDOT Pond Maintenance Group A Closure (Martinkosky)

This permit was issued for maintenance of a storm pond, including clearing, grubbing, and dredging to remove accumulated sediment near the intersection of Roselawn Ave. and I-35E in

Maplewood. Work is complete and the site is stable. No surety was collected for this public project.

Motion 26-129: *Approve Certificate of Completion for permit 24-013, MnDOT Pond Maintenance Group A.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) 25-028, Groveland Rec Center Park Improvements (Chastan-Davis)

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation proposes improvements at Groveland Recreation Center Park. Site improvements include new ADA compliant sidewalk, site grading, tennis court mill and overlay, playground improvements, and regrading of the ball field area. Stormwater management consists of an underground infiltration system, two rain gardens, and impervious disconnection.

Motion 26-130: *Approve with 4 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 the Civil Plans to address the following:*
 - a. *Add the following note to the topsoil preparation/soil amendment note on sheet Go.03 “Decompaction/scarification shall occur prior to the installation of the irrigation system”.*
 - b. *Show the existing storm sewer between the underground system outlet and the connection to the existing storm sewer mainline in Prior Ave S. on Sheet C4.01. CRWD understands that this will be 15” PVC connection at an elevation of 921.0’; however, this should be shown on the utility plan.*
 - c. *Provide a Detail and/or construction specification for the “modified subbase” for the engineered wood fiber section of the playground. CRWD understands that this section will consist of rock without compaction of the subgrade to retain the infiltration capacity of the in-situ soils. If the modification includes compaction such that the infiltration capacity of the soil is reduced, this area would not be considered effective pervious, and the site would no longer meet 90% impervious area capture.*
 - d. *Revise Sheet C4.01 to provide an access riser/manhole at the system inlet to facilitate future maintenance of the underground infiltration system. Possible options include moving the system inlet to Row 2 (counting from north to south), installing an additional access riser to Row 1, etc.*
 - e. *Revise Erosion Control Plan to include the following:*
 - i. *Provide specific perimeter control BMPs for the proposed rain gardens.*
 - f. *Provide a detailed cross section for proposed rain gardens that includes the following notes:*

- i. *Excavation of infiltration areas shall be completed using a backhoe with a toothed bucket. Where possible, excavation shall be done from the sides and outside the footprint of the infiltration area to avoid soil compaction.*
 - ii. *Native soils in infiltration areas shall be de-compacted to a minimum depth of 18 inches below the subgrade.*
 - iii. *Surface infiltration systems shall not be excavated to final grade until the contributing drainage area has been constructed and fully stabilized.*
 - g. *Provide the following install notes for the proposed rain gardens:*
 - i. *Notify CRWD (651-644-8888) at least 24 hours before the construction of permanent stormwater treatment systems.*
 - ii. *Infiltration perimeter control and erosion control practices shall remain in place until the final completion of the project or vegetation has been established (whichever is later).*
 - iii. *Installation of infiltration practices shall be done during periods of dry weather and completed before a rainfall event. Placement of engineered soils shall be on dry native soil only.*
 - iv. *The bottom excavation surface of infiltration areas shall be level without dips or swales.*
 - v. *During construction, stormwater must be routed around infiltration areas until all construction activity has ceased and tributary surfaces are cleaned of sediment. It is required that impervious area construction is completed and pervious areas established with dense and healthy vegetation prior to introduction of stormwater into infiltration/filtration practices.*
 - h. *Revise the landscaping plan on sheet L1.02 to address the following:*
 - i. *Provide confirmation that the proposed trees will not impact the proposed infrastructure (CB 6 & CB 5) within the east and west rain gardens.*
 - ii. *from within the rain garden boundaries. CRWD discourages planting trees within the rain gardens due to the risk of prolonged water inundation that could impact tree health and impacts to infrastructure from root intrusion.*
 - iii. *Specify potted plants or plugs to vegetate infiltration areas (rain gardens). Basin seeding should be avoided.*
 - iv. *Specify deep rooted, salt tolerant, native plants according to Plants for Stormwater Design (Shaw and Schmidt, 2003) for the infiltration areas (rain gardens).*
 - 4. *Revise the site-specific O&M plan to include the following:*
 - a. *List additional equipment and tools to access the structures and perform system maintenance (i.e., rake, shovel, crowbar, pick axe, etc.).*
 - b. *List the required personal protective equipment (PPE) to perform maintenance activities safely.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) 26-013, King of Kings Lutheran Church Phase 1 (Hosch)

The applicant proposes a three-phase building addition with a combined disturbance of all three phases estimated to be 1.5 acres. Phase 1 of the project will include a 7,050 square foot building expansion, associated grading and infrastructure, and a dedicated infiltration basin. This permit application addresses Phase 1 only and additional permitting will be needed for future phases.

Motion 26-131: *Approve with 3 conditions:*

1. *Receipt of \$2,200 surety (submit after Board approval).*
2. *Receipt of documentation of maintenance agreement recorded with Ramsey County, which must include attachments A (scaled site plan) and B (site specific maintenance plan) (Record after Board approval).*
3. *Provide approved plans signed by a professional engineer per the Minnesota Board of AE/SLAGID.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

E) United Village Approval Authorization Extension (Hosch)

Allianz Field and Phase 1 of the Snelling Midway (United Village) redevelopment were constructed between 2016 and 2019 under CRWD permit #16-025 and included a Comprehensive Stormwater Masterplan featuring a rainwater capture and reuse system to meet CRWD requirements. While development of surrounding parcels slowed due to changes in economic and social conditions after the stadium's completion, construction has now begun on Phase 2 infrastructure and lots. Development plans and priorities have evolved, with ongoing coordination between CRWD and the City of Saint Paul to balance water quality and community development goals. On November 19, 2025, the Board authorized the Administrator to approve and amend United Village permits through June 1, 2026, which has been successfully used twice to maintain project progress while ensuring compliance with CRWD rules. Staff are requesting an extension of this authorization through December 31, 2026, to allow timely permit decisions when project schedules do not align with the Board meeting calendar.

Motion 26-132: *Authorize extended Administrator authority to approve and/or amend United Village permits (23-016, 24-009, 24-010, 24-011, 25-032, and 23-025) when timing does not allow Board approval, effective until December 31, 2026.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

F) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

There were no updates at this time.

IV. Special Reports - None

V. Action Items

- A) Approve Minutes of June 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting (Treichel)

Motion 26-133: *Approve the June 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

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

Motion 26-134: *Approve a partial June 2026 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-135: *Authorize the Administrator to issue electronic payments for June US Bank and Menards credit card payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Award Contract for McMurray Stormwater Project (Zwonitzer)

In May, CRWD's Board of Managers authorized bidding for construction of the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements Project, estimated to be \$8.5-\$10.5 million depending on selected project alternates. CRWD received bids from four contractors.

CRWD's consultant, Houston Engineering (HEI), reviewed bids for responsiveness to the bidding instructions and responsibility. Mr. Zwonitzer reviewed the bid results with the Board and concluded that HEI, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, and CRWD support awarding the contract to Dimke Excavating, Inc. Work is anticipated to begin after Labor Day. Substantial completion of stormwater components is expected by April 30, 2027, with full project completion by July 31, 2027.

Motion 26-136: *Order construction of the McMurray Fields Stormwater and Park Improvements Project, authorize the Board President and the Administrator to execute a Notice of Award and an Agreement with Dimke Excavating, Inc., subject to the review and approval of the Ramsey County Attorney, and authorize the Administrator to execute change orders in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Approve Water Resources Regulatory Specialist – Temporary, Part-Time Position (Hosch)

Luke Martinkosky joined CRWD in July 2019 as a BMP Inspector and was promoted to Water

Resources Regulatory Specialist in December 2022. The work he has completed in the Water Resources Regulatory Specialist position over the last several years has been very valuable to the District.

Mr. Martinkosky has requested a reduction in his current full-time position to 15 hours per week. A new position description to meet this request outlines a focus on wetland related work, including permit reviews, wetland delineations, Wetland Management Plan policy development and implementation, and associated projects. With this shift, CRWD retains Mr. Martinkosky wetland expertise and direct experience with ongoing work during the remainder of the year and during a period of transition. Staff recommend approval of this reassignment as requested.

Motion 26-137: *Approve Water Resources Regulatory Specialist-Temporary, Part-time position.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Watershed Learning Center Activation Update (Schwantes)

The 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan Implementation list and 2024 Communications and Engagement Division program review include goals for activating our building as a Watershed Learning Center. To further these goals, staff pursued participating in the traveling exhibit, We Are Water MN.

Staff found the hosting of We Are Water MN a fantastic exercise in exploring ways to activate our Watershed Learning Center. The District saw many new people engage through our public events that resulted in opportunities to share more in depth about our work through presentations and demonstrations. CRWD successfully increased the diversity of audiences with nearly 80% of the organizations we worked with during hosting representing these perspectives. Staff also learned that drop-in visits didn't generate as many attendees as our group hosting or public events. Staff reviewed and highlighted findings that will be considered as CRWD further program our Watershed Learning Center.

Manager Collins expressed positive feedback about the ice cream social event and encouraged incorporating similar celebrations into future activities or events at CRWD. Manager Sullivan Janzen added that the ice cream social serves as a strong example for other organizations of a successful community event that ties in supporting a local business and local artist.

B) Capitol Area Stormwater Planning Updates (Zwonitzer)

Adopted in 2024 by CRWD and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, the Capitol Area Stormwater Management Study was completed to assess existing stormwater conveyance and management, identify water-related concerns and opportunities, develop design guidelines and concepts, estimate environmental, social, and financial benefits, and engage stakeholders.

Mr. Zwonitzer provided updates on projects in the Capitol Area including the Rice Street Corridor, former Sears Site, and Mobility Hub.

Manager Sullivan Janzen asked how previous discussions of flood mitigation and Rice Street construction differ from this current update. Mr. Zwonitzer responded that staff were previously looking at opportunities strictly in the project corridor, which are limited due to utilities (excavation would put historic buildings at risk). It was too challenging to address at the time, and staff decided to wait for other opportunities to arise.

Manager Sullivan Janzen commented she had learned about the history of the Sears Site through working with the Rondo Community Land Trust on other community engagement projects. She expressed she is excited about the prospect of rewriting some of that history through the redevelopment of the Sears Site.

C) Stormwater Reuse and MN Plumbing Code (Eleria)

The MN Plumbing Board is proposing changes to Chapter 15 of the MN Plumbing Code that would eliminate stormwater as an alternate source of water and prohibit it for outdoor, non-potable uses, such as irrigation. Since late April when CRWD was first made aware of the proposed changes, CRWD and MN Watersheds have been working closely to raise awareness of this issue to the watershed community, State agencies, cities, and many others and better understand the implications of these changes to the widely accepted practice of stormwater reuse in MN.

The MN Plumbing Board convened a special meeting on June 23rd to receive feedback from stakeholders on the proposed changes before they take action to begin formal rulemaking. Nearly 60 people attended the special meeting in person with many more attending online. Thirty people testified in person or online with all but two opposing the proposed changes to the plumbing code. Groups opposed to the changes include MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Department of Health, League of MN Cities, MN Cities Stormwater Coalition, CRWD, cities, counties, watershed organizations, engineering, landscape, irrigation, public works, housing and other professional organizations, and non-profits. CRWD staff and Manager Collins testified at the meeting.

Due to the resounding support for stormwater reuse and opposition to the proposed Chapter 15 changes, the Plumbing Board has approved actions to pause their rulemaking process for Chapter 15 and reconstitute its ad hoc committee for Chapter 15 to allow for more discussion with various stakeholders and consider potential modifications to the proposed code.

Manager Collins commended Administrator Eleria for responding quickly to the proposed changes and working closely with Jan Voit at Minnesota Watersheds. Administrator Eleria acknowledged the involvement of other staff on this issue including Bob Fossum, Forrest Kelley, and Nate Zwonitzer.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

Manager Collins commended staff for their work on the We Are Water exhibit, as well as Administrator Eleria and Deputy Administrator Fossum on their efforts related to the plumbing code.

Manager Mazanec shared that Brad Kramer was not reappointed to the Board of Managers at Shell Rock River Watershed District, and thus no longer serves as the Board Chair of MN Watersheds Board of Directors. Andrew Weber of Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District was appointed to fill his place in the interim. The next caucus will be held in December.

B) Administrator's Update

Lake McCarrons beach is closed due to elevated E.coli levels. Testing will be done again next week to see if levels have gone down.

New signage and kiosks at Como Lake have been installed except for one sign. Staff have already received good feedback and will likely have a celebration for those activities.

Bob Fossum and Britta Belden met with Saint Paul Councilmember HwaJeong Kim, who wanted to better understand water quality in Como Lake as well as causes and solutions of fish kills.

CRWD will co-host along with a nonprofit partner a screening of a documentary on the Mississippi River on August 20th. More details will be sent out soon.

Administrator Eleria called for a round of applause for Lindsay Schwantes and the Communications and Engagement team for all their hard work on the We Are Water exhibit.

Staff are hosting a tour of Highland Bridge on the morning of July 10th for the Ramsey County League of Local Governments. Managers Mazanec and Collins are planning on attending.

VIII. Next Meetings

A) Wednesday, July 8, 2026 - 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting (Manager Sullivan Janzen will attend)

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

IX. Adjournment

Motion 26-138: *Adjournment of July 1, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 7:20 P.M.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Meilina Dalit