



Capitol Region Watershed District

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

August 5, 2026
Board Meeting
V. Action Item
Approved

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for
Wednesday, July 15, 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
Chris Kucek
Terrence Chastan-Davis
Rachel Funke
Forrest Kelley

Public Attendees

Richard Weil (CAC) (*virtual*)

Other Attendees

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

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

Administrator Eleria pointed out an updated memo for Item III. A) Project for Pride in Living.

Motion 26-139: *Approve the Agenda of July 15, 2026, Meeting.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment – None.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

A) 24-025, Project for Pride in Living 7th St. Apartment - Closure (Chastan-Davis)

This permit was issued for construction of a new multi-story residential building and parking lot between 7th St E and Minnehaha Ave in Saint Paul. Stormwater treatment is provided by an underground infiltration system. Work is complete, the site is stable, and the stormwater treatment practice has been confirmed functional. \$16,000 of surety was collected for this project. There were no surety deductions due to inspection charges. \$16,000 of the surety is available for return.

Motion 26-140: *Approve \$16,000 surety return and Certificate of Completion for permit #24-025, Project for Pride in Living 7th St. Apartment.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

B) Other Permit Updates (Hosch)

There were no other permit updates at this time.

IV. Special Reports

A) CRWD Trash Capture Strategies and Opportunities (Kucek)

CRWD's 2021 – 2030 Watershed Management Plan identifies trash as an important pollutant but does not list specific strategies for addressing it. In spring of 2025, the Facility Management Division began conducting trash clean ups at Gottfried's Pit, where trash accumulation had been noted, as a way of assessing the scale and rate of accumulation. Following this initial effort, CRWD hired Watershed Management Services, LLC, to develop a report outlining efforts by other organizations to address trash pollution and present options for the District's next steps on this issue.

The report outlines existing trash programs nationally, including those driven by trash regulations in California and around Chesapeake Bay, as well as efforts made by agencies at the county and local level. Almost all local governments included in the report, including CRWD, already support or conduct some programmatic actions that reduce trash pollution such as street sweeping, volunteer trash clean ups, and use of stormwater pre-treatment devices. The City of Minneapolis was highlighted for implementing and collecting data on floating trash capture booms and regular contractor trash clean ups on Lake Hiawatha beginning in 2023. Notably, in the first three years of data collection, manual shoreline clean ups removed significantly more trash than the trash boom. This dataset could serve as a useful benchmark for future CRWD work.

The report also identifies several opportunities to consider for expanding CRWD's trash management efforts. These include an expanded staff-led clean-up program, structural, open water trash capture devices installed at pipe ends, and catch basin inserts along major commercial corridors. A second recommendation is the development of an implementation plan to define site selection criteria, create a phased roll-out schedule and budget, and identify key monitoring data needed to track progress and share results.

Facility Operations Specialist Chris Kucek reviewed the potential sites for structural trash capture BMPs, such as lakes, wetlands, and stormwater ponds in the District. Next steps for this project include continuing staff trash clean-ups with weight data collections and evaluating sites for structural BMPs.

The Board shared suggestions on who to work with moving forward and what lakes in the District should be a priority. The Board also asked about the future budget for this project, and

what happens with the trash after it is collected by staff. There is a relatively small budget for Trash Management in 2027, but as data is collected, staff predicts the budget growing larger in the future. The trash collected by staff gets picked up by the City of Roseville but does not get sorted into recycling. Manager Sullivan Janzen suggested CRWD could conduct more research on why trash ends up in certain places and if there are other collaborative approaches that might help prevent trash from ending up there in the first place.

Motion 26-141: *Accept the CRWD Trash Capture Strategies and Opportunities report.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

V. Action Items

A) Approve Minutes of July 1, 2026, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting (Dalit)

Motion 26-142: *Approve the July 1, 2026, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

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

Motion 26-143: *Approve remaining partial June 2026 accounts payable and direct Board Treasurer and President to endorse and disperse checks for these payments.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-144: *Approve June 2026 expenditures and accounts receivable as presented in the enclosed financial statement.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

C) Approve Draft Preliminary 2027 budget for Public Review (Fossum)

Each year the Board of Managers must develop a work plan for the upcoming year and establish a budget and levy to implement the work plan. At the June 17th Board Meeting, staff reviewed the draft 2027 Work Plan and Prioritization. Based on the prioritization and review of the draft 2027 Work Plan, staff developed a first draft of the full 2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy and reviewed it with the Managers at the July 1st meeting. The Managers expressed support for the draft Preliminary Budget and Levy as presented.

The next step in the budgeting process is to approve a Preliminary Budget and Levy for Public Review. Staff recommended approval for public review of the Budget and Levy that was reviewed at the July 1st Board meeting, with some minor refinements that don't change the overall proposed budget or levy that was previously presented. Deputy Administrator Bob Fossum pointed out that a project was created for a Mississippi Dam Removal Study, and the River

Learning Center funding moved from Operations to Capital. Fossum also responded to a question from the previous Board meeting that the District is providing more money for Saint Paul Public Schools in 2027 than in 2026.

President Collins proposed the District discuss what kinds of services that we intend to purchase from the city or county and check in to see if they will still be offering those services in the future.

Motion 26-145: *Approve 2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy for Public Review and set public hearing date for August 19, 2026.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

D) Appoint Delegates for MN Watersheds Annual Resolutions and Petitions Meeting (Eleria)

On August 31, 2026, MN Watersheds will hold its annual meeting on resolutions and petitions. The purpose of the annual meeting is to consider and act upon proposed legislative platform updates and new resolutions.

Administrator Eleria discussed the proposed updates to the 2025 – 2026 Legislative Platform and the nine proposed resolutions, which includes CRWD’s resolution about stormwater reuse. Other resolutions include minimizing wake for boats, utilizing DNR land for flood storage, and including hazard mitigation for flood control. Eleria recommended the District support all nine resolutions.

The Board appointed Managers Mazanec and Texer as delegates and President Collins as the alternate for the MN Watersheds Resolutions and Petitions Meeting. The delegates will consider and vote upon the proposed legislative platform changes and proposed resolutions based on direction from the full Board, on August 31st.

Administrator Eleria also updated the Board on our resolution and the issues with the Minnesota Plumbing Board. John Hansen, an engineer at Barr Engineering and the staff engineer for Valley Branch Watershed District, has prepared a draft comment letter asking for clarification on the jurisdiction for stormwater infrastructure design. He would like a coalition of professional organizations to submit the letter to the Commissioners of the Department of Labor and Industry, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and other state agencies. The goal is to ultimately eliminate ambiguity on the jurisdiction of stormwater reuse. Eleria would like to incorporate some of Hansen’s language into CRWD’s MN Watersheds resolution.

Additionally, the coalition that has been formed in support of stormwater reuse has decided its first step is to request that the Plumbing Board not adopt Chapter 15. There is an ad hoc committee meeting for Chapter 15 that is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at 1:00 p.m. Jan Voigt from Minnesota Watersheds is recommending that as many people attend as possible, either in-person or virtually, and plan to testify verbally or in writing.

Motion 26-146: *Appoint two delegates (Managers Mazanec and Texer) and an alternate (President Collins) to the MN Watersheds 2026 Annual Meeting for Resolutions and Petitions.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Motion 26-147: *Authorize delegates to vote on the proposed Legislative Platform Updates and proposed Resolutions.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

E) Appoint Tammy Villegas to the Community Advisory Committee (Krivichi)

On July 9, 2026, CRWD received an application from Tammy Villegas to join the Community Advisory Committee.

Tammy lives in the North End neighborhood and the Trout Brook Subwatershed. She currently works as an Outreach Coordinator. She has experience with non-profit boards and takes minutes for organizations such as Immigrant Law Center and Minnesota Freedom Fund. She is passionate about the health of water and spends time teaching BIPoC communities about the importance of helping water systems. She is also a water walker.

Motion 26-148: *Appoint Tammy Villegas to the Community Advisory Committee.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Lexington Parkway Groundwater Feasibility Study Update (Funke)

Water Resource Project Manager Rachel Funke discussed the Lexington Parkway Groundwater Study and the overview of the study's findings. The reason for this study includes issues ranging from erosion and damage to private and public property as well as safety concerns and damage to public infrastructure. Ten springs were identified, with the worst impacts being seen in the Montcalm Court area. CRWD's role has been purely technical so far, while the consultant MSA conducted the feasibility study.

This project began with stakeholder engagement, moved to inventory and characterization of the springs, and will conclude with an Impact Mitigation Plan. MSA looked at six potential solutions, varying both in feasibility and CRWD's additional involvement. The solutions were ranked based on criteria including cost, complexity, benefits, and overall suitability. Complexity takes into account operations and maintenance, slope stability, ownership and responsibility, and coordination.

Due to cost and complexity, solutions like active dewatering and a gravity injection well have a low suitability. Individual lot interception would likely have low cost and complexity, but with a low benefit as well. Springwater collection system at the source arises as the most suitable option as it is more reliable and closer to the root cause. However, a compounding factor in this project is the private property and landowners. Other options include springwater interception at lot line and inserting heated pavement and boulevard improvements.

Manager Texer asked if CRWD is prepared to walk away if the overall choice is to do nothing. Funke responded that yes, CRWD is prepared to walk away if our involvement is no longer necessary and acknowledges the new territory we must adapt to.

Manager Sullivan Janzen asked how many homeowners have moved, if the groundwater issue needs to be disclosed to interested parties, and if there could be an easement in place for the chosen solution. Funke shared that homeowners have moved and that CRWD will research on what an easement situation could look like.

The next step for this project is to share the report with the city, county, and property owners before releasing it publicly. Funke will then share feedback from the stakeholders and give an update on next steps to the Board. Until an option is chosen, it is unclear to what extent CRWD will have in this project moving forward.

VII. General Information

A) Board of Managers' Updates

President Collins shared he will be attending the Aug 19th Board meeting virtually and asked if Vice President Texer is able to run the meeting.

Managers Mazanec and Collins attended the Highland Bridge Tour with Ramsey County League of Local Governments and had a great time.

Manager Texer shared a news article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune about how Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is removing invasive trees to improve native habitat and biodiversity.

Manager Sullivan Janzen advertised a free community event that is taking place on Sunday, July 19th from 1-4 p.m. Artfest on LaFond will have free food and artmaking and its goal is to spread joy within the community.

B) Administrator's Update

Administrator Eleria mentioned that Lake McCarron's beach is now open. Eleria also shared she will be on vacation from August 28th until September 11th. Deputy Administrator Bob Fossum will be in charge.

Eleria also shared dates of upcoming events including an Art & Water Workshop on Thursday, July 23rd from 5-7 p.m., a screening of the documentary We Are The River on August 20th at 5:30 p.m. as well as the CAC Summer Tour and Como Lake signage events happening in September.

VIII. Next Meetings

- A) Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – Board Workshop and Regular Meeting
- B) Wednesday, August 12, 2026 – 5:30 p.m. – CAC Meeting (In Person) – Manager Collins will attend.

IX. Adjournment

Motion 26-149: *Adjournment of the July 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 7:35 PM.*

Mazanec/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Treichel