



**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
October 7, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of October 7, 2020, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Marj Ebensteiner, President
Cliff Aichinger, Vice President
Lawrence Swope, Treasurer
Dianne Ward, Secretary
Dr. Pam Skinner, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Tina Carstens, District Administrator
Tracey Galowitz, Attorney for District
Nicole Soderholm, Permit Coordinator
Tyler Olsen, Barr Engineering
Paige Ahlborg, Project Manager

Bill Bartodziej, Natural Resource Specialist
Brad Lindaman, Barr Engineering
John Pound, Yards Per Pound, representing Meyers and Duces
Jeff and Connie Meyer, Lake Owasso Residents
Melissa Duce, Lake Owasso Resident
Melissa Elke, Twin Lake Association Vice President

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ebensteiner at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Aichinger	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes from September 2, 2020
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Permit Program
 - i. 20-32 MnDOT Highway 61 Drainage Infrastructure, Maplewood
 - ii. 20-36 The Parkway, St. Paul

- iii. 20-37 Maplewood Living, Maplewood
- D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 20-46 CS 33rd Company, Woodbury
 - ii. 20-47 CS North East Seniors for Better Living, St. Paul
 - iii. 20-48 CS Neprash, St. Paul
 - iv. 20-49 CS Sharpe, Maplewood
- E. Twin Lake Outlet Project – Change Order No. 1
- F. 2020 CIP Maintenance and Repair Project – Change Order No. 4

Motion: Manager Ward moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Further discussion: A Manager referenced Item F and asked if there is a process in place to make it easier for field employees to get contractors to complete work without the additional involvement of the Board. Tina Carstens replied that the work has been done and described the process, noting that any changes to the contract need to come before the Board for approval.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Aichinger	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS

Connie Meyer stated that she and her husband have lived on Lake Owasso for many years and they attempted to do plantings on the lakeshore to protect the shoreline, but that method has failed. She commented that the increased activity from wake boats has damaged their shoreline and they have lost over four feet of shoreline since 2004. She stated that their attempt in their project is to protect the lakeshore, as fill is going into the lake at increasing rates and the shore continues to erode. She stated that without the variance, the project would be cost prohibitive and the lakeshore will continue to erode.

Tina Carstens noted that their project will be heard under the permit program.

Melissa Elke, Vice President of the Twin Lake Association, reviewed the three main priorities of their association: rerouting West Vadnais to prevent it from overflowing into Twin Lake, restoring the outlet, and water quality.

Melissa Deuce stated that she is south of the Meyer property. She stated that her application along with the Meyer application are unique because of the location along the lake. She stated that there is a large trench near their properties that allow for wake boats to go in that area. She stated that the properties in that area are taking the brunt of the wave action from the boats. She stated that there is a timber wall on her property, which is failing, and the soil is draining from behind the wall.

John Pound stated that both properties have elevations above the lake and if the timber wall goes in, there will be three feet lost on the Deuce property and 1.5 feet on the Meyer property. He commented on the wave activity from boats when he has been at the properties and the shoreline that continues to wash away. He noted that the intent of the projects is to stabilize the existing bank.

5. PERMIT PROGRAM

A. Applications

Nicole Soderholm commented that these two permits include variance requests.

Permit #20-34: W Owasso Boulevard – Shoreview

Nicole Soderholm stated that this would be the Meyer property, noting that the applicants have explained their situation. She stated that the variance would include 38.44 cubic yards of fill below the 100-year floodplain of the lake. She stated that staff requested that the applicants revise their application to come within the rules, but also advised the applicant that they would have the ability to bring their request forward to the Board. She stated that as the floodplain rule stands, there is no exception to the compensatory storage rule, therefore you meet the rule or request a variance.

A Manager asked if the fill within the floodplain would be the riprap. Nicole Soderholm confirmed that it would be the riprap, boulders and backfill. The Manager commented that the lake side of the boulder wall should not be allowed any further into the lake than the current shoreline. Brad Lindaman commented that the waves produced by the wake boats are huge and it would be a unique situation where vegetation would hold up, therefore riprap would be necessary. He asked if the contractor has considered that approach.

John Pound commented that the difference between the ordinary high water (OHW) mark and the floodplain elevation is two feet. He stated that he is attempting to support the bank above the OHW mark but also protect the bank under that mark. He stated that they are not going out further than the previous shoreline.

A Manager commented that they would not have a problem with the boulder wall taking the place of the cement block structure or the timber wall location. It was asked if staff has reviewed the impact to the floodplain. Brad Lindaman commented that the impact to the floodplain would be very small. He stated that there are homes in the floodplain in this area, so every incremental amount counts. He stated that he would agree with the approach of the Manager to replace the existing structures with the boulder walls. He stated that if the design can be shown in that way, it would then meet the rule and would not be considered a variance. The Manager commented that technically the riprap would most likely constitute as fill and would support that variance as it would be necessary to stabilize the bank. The comment was made that this project would be an improvement as it improves water quality and stabilizes the bank.

Brad Lindaman asked if there have been other spots where the applicants looked to create compensatory storage, even if it is not on the subject property. Nicole Soderholm commented that the District does not have property along the lake. She noted that staff could make a request of the City or County, but noted that in the past the County was not interested in providing additional compensatory storage on Snail Lake.

Tracey Galowitz stated that if this variance is passed, the Board reviewed the benefit provided by the project was weighed against the compensatory storage rule. She stated that in seeking to have a de minimis impact on the floodplain that would place the improvement in the same place the shore previously existed prior to erosion.

A Manager commented that the project appears to be just taking the line back to where it used to be before it was eroded by waves from boat activity. It was noted that there could be discussion related to when the timeline began as that would impact where the shoreline begins. Nicole Soderholm stated that staff reviews the existing conditions to determine where fill would be.

A Manager requested that a floating silt curtain be added as a special provision.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Swope seconded, to approve Permit #20-34 with the floating silt curtain and the notation that the boulder wall should not be further lakeward than the current conditions.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope aye
Manager Ward aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Aichinger aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Permit #20-35: 3204 W Owasso Boulevard – Shoreview

Nicole Soderholm noted that there would be a smaller infill amount because the timber wall be removed. She confirmed that a special provision could be added related to the floating silt curtain.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to approve Permit #20-35 with the floating silt curtain.

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope aye
Manager Ward aye
Manager Skinner aye
Manager Aichinger aye
President Ebensteiner aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Monthly Enforcement Report

During September, eight notices were sent to address: install/maintain perimeter control (2), install/maintain construction entrance (2), sweep streets (1), stabilize exposed soils (2), and implement proper dewatering (1).

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Applications – See Consent Agenda

B. Budget Status Update

No comments.

7. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

B. Gervais Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study

Tyler Olsen provided details on the process that was followed for the feasibility studies. He reviewed the opportunities identified within the subwatershed, noting that most of the projects would be rain gardens. He provided additional details on some of the identified project areas.

Brad Lindaman provided details on an opportunity for stormwater collection and water quality elements.

A Manager noted that in their travels they noticed certain highway departments denoting chloride reduction zones and asked if that has been considered. Tyler Olsen stated that several staff members from Barr Engineering are working with the MPCA on chloride management. Tina Carstens stated that the District works with its member cities on chloride management and continues to participate in the salt symposium. A Manager encouraged staff to keep up with the research related to chloride application and management.

A Manager noted that some projects mention homeowner cooperation and asked for additional details. Tina Carstens provided details on the typical communication between the District and homeowners related to potential projects. A Manager commented that they would like to see a timeline that can be used to measure the impact projects have over the subwatershed throughout the years. Tina Carstens confirmed that staff could graph that information and agreed it would be interesting to see the change over the years from the accumulated projects.

A Manager commented that it would also be helpful to have information that identifies the reduction in loading a project would have for the applicable water body. Tyler Olsen provided additional details on the modeling that is completed to prioritize projects based on that knowledge.

A. Fish Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study

Tyler Olsen stated that the same methodology was used to complete this feasibility study. He noted that this area is a lot less developed than other subwatersheds within the District. He noted that several opportunities for water quality were identified including retrofits and rain gardens. He provided details a more unique project opportunity for the double driveway pond.

A Manager asked if there is a permanent easement for the double driveway pond. Brad Lindaman stated that there is a permanent easement, but was unsure if the District is named. Tina Carstens confirmed that the District is named on the easement. Brad Lindaman stated that the District has cleaned out the pond three or four times since its creation.

Tyler Olsen provided details on another unique project opportunity that would include a swale berm.

A Manager asked how the Pleasant View Park rain garden would be connected to Fish Creek. Tyler Olsen highlighted the path water would take to reach Fish Creek. A Manager commented that would seem a lower priority project because of its distance from Fish Creek. Tyler Olsen noted that one of the benefits of the project would be for education because of its visibility.

C. Project Prioritization Memo

Tyler Olsen stated that the goal was to develop an objective tool that could be used to review and rank the different projects identified through things like these feasibility studies, retrofit projects, and in coordination with the Beltline Resiliency Study. He provided additional details on how the scoring of criteria was developed in order to provide an accurate rating for the District. He stated that previous projects were then scored against the criteria to ensure that the appropriate ranking was gained based on the priority of that project that the District considered it to be.

A Manager commented that it is an impressive tool and something that the District has talked about developing for years. Tyler Olsen provided additional details on how the weighting of certain criteria was developed. A Manager commented that it would be helpful to see how projects are ranked when the District is considering them. Tina Carstens confirmed that staff should share that ranking to the Board when presenting projects.

A Manager suggested some grammatical changes, suggestions for weighting criteria, and received clarification on some definitions.

Tina Carstens noted that staff will continue to finetune the criteria and scoring and will send out the list of past projects that were ranked through the tool for the Managers to review. She noted that the feasibility studies will be finalized based on the comments received tonight and those projects will then be reviewed through the tool.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Meetings Attended

No comments.

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

The Water Resource Conference is coming up in a few weeks and information should be provided in the next week related to access. She noted that the MAWD Annual Meeting will also be held virtually this year.

C. Budget Status Information

No comments.

D. Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

A Manager asked why the District is contributing such a large amount. Another Manager commented that the Watershed Districts are the largest beneficiaries to this information and therefore provide a larger share of the cost. Tina Carstens confirmed that she would keep the budget for this item at \$35,000 with the additional \$10,000 coming from the reserve. A Manager proposed that the RWMWD increase its support for the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council by \$10,000 to help offset the reduction in State funds and keep these important projects on track.

E. CAC By-Laws and Membership

A Manager stated that the CAC by-laws were created in 2013-2014, therefore there were a few areas that need updating. A Manager referenced the language related to term of appointment and the consensus was to remove the word "automatically". A Manager asked how more diversity could be gained on the Board if the current members choose to continue to participate. Tina Carstens stated that the CAC is currently low on membership and advised that there will be an attempt to recruit members in different ethnic communities.

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to approve the by-laws with the change in language related to the word "automatic".

A roll call vote was performed:

Manager Swope	aye
Manager Ward	aye
Manager Skinner	aye
Manager Aichinger	aye
President Ebensteiner	aye

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Equity and Inclusion Consultant for RWMWD

Tina Carstens stated that she has heard a desire for more diversity and noted that this effort would be a continuation in working on that. She stated that she was impressed with the proposal, although the price was a bit higher than she expected. She acknowledged that this is long-term work and the consultant was highly recommended.

A Manager commented that they support moving forward in this direction, but suggested that a few more proposals be reviewed. The Board echoed those comments.

9. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS

A. Ongoing Project and Program Updates

- i. Owasso Basin Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study
- ii. West Vadnais to South I-694 Conveyance Feasibility Study
- iii. Willow Creek Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study

- iv. Ames Lake Area Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study
- v. FEMA Flood Mapping Updates
- vi. Hillcrest Golf Course
- vii. Subwatershed Feasibility Studies
- viii. Targeted Retrofit Projects
- ix. Kohlman Permeable Weir Test System
- x. Keller Channel Weir and Phalen Outlet Resiliency Modifications
- xi. Twin Lake Outlet Construction
- xii. CIP Maintenance and Repair 2020 Project
- xiii. Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel Inspection
- xiv. 2020 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring
- xv. Internal Load Management Discussions
- xvi. Project Prioritization Study
- xvii. Natural Resources Program Update
- xviii. Education Program Update
- xix. Communications Program Update

A Manager asked if there is consideration of ongoing maintenance requirements when permeable pavement is being considered. Paige Ahlborg stated that specific to the Boys and Girls Club project, the Watershed will complete the maintenance for two years and the applicant will then partner with the City for ongoing maintenance. Another Manager asked and received confirmation that the project would use pavers, noting that pavers do not clog as much.

A Manager referenced the Beltline/Battle Creek Tunnel Inspection and asked if a contract would be needed for the repairs. Brad Lindaman confirmed that a contract would come forward, noting that \$50,000 to \$75,000 worth of repairs would be needed and \$75,000 had been budgeted.

A Manager referenced the lake studies and asked for details on the coring samples that were taken. Brad Lindaman explained that a core is taken from the bottom of the lake and then analyzed to determine the amount of phosphorus and mobile phosphorus.

A Manager thanked staff for installing the temporary wildflower signs as it helps to educate the public and may also encourage others to plant similar flowers and native plants.

10. REPORTS OF MANAGERS

No comments.

11. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Aichinger moved, Manager Skinner seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Ward, Secretary