



AGENDA

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
Prior Lake City Hall

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

**Bruce Loney, President; Frank Boyles, Vice President;
Christian Morkeberg, Treasurer; Beverly Burnett, Secretary; Matt Tofanelli, Manager**

Note: Individuals with items on the agenda or who wish to speak to the Board are encouraged to be in attendance when the meeting is called to order.

Board Workshop 4:00 PM – *Parkview Conference Room*

- | | | |
|----------------|-----|--|
| 4:00 – 4:20 PM | W.1 | WISKI Database Review (Zach Nagel) |
| 4:20 – 4:40 PM | W.2 | 2026 Budget Draft (Joni Giese) |
| 4:40 – 5:00 PM | W.3 | Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Delegates Selection Discussion (Joni Giese) |
| 5:00 – 5:15 PM | W.4 | SCALE Insurance Consortium Analysis Update (Joni Giese) |
| 5:15 – 5:35 PM | W.5 | Conservation Easement Acquisition Process Update (Joni Giese) |
| 5:35 – 5:40 PM | W.6 | Administrator Report (Joni Giese) |
| 5:40 – 5:55 PM | W.7 | Liaison Updates |
- District Partners in Attendance
 - Managers' Summary of other Meetings Attended

6:00 – 6:01 PM 1.0 **BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

6:01 – 6:01 PM 2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

If anyone wishes to address the Board of Managers on an item not on the agenda or on the consent agenda, please come forward at this time. Go up to the podium, turn on the microphone and state your name and address. (The Chair may limit your time for commenting.)

6:01 – 6:02 PM 3.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

6:02 – 6:30 PM 4.0 **OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Programs & Projects Update (Discussion)
- 4.2 Cates Lake Goldfish Management Decision (Vote)
- 4.3 Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Annual Meeting Delegate Appointment (Vote)
- 4.4 County Ditch 13 Drainage Authority (Vote)

- 6:30 – 6:35 PM 5.0 **TREASURER’S REPORT**
- 5.1 Monthly Financial Reports (Discussion Only)
- Financial Report
 - Treasurers Report
 - Cash Flow Projections
 - Cost Analysis
- 6:35 – 6:40 PM 6.0 **CONSENT AGENDA**
- The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of the Board member, staff member, or a member of the audience. Please state which item or items you wish to remove for separate discussion.
- 6.1 Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025, Board Workshop
- 6.2 Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025, Board Meeting
- 6.3 Claims List and Bank Purchase Card Expenditures Summary
- 6.4 Quarterly Investment Summary
- 6.5 Resolution 25-398: Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550–Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF
- 6:40 – 6:45 PM 7.0 **UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE:**
- Carp Carnival- Celebration of Meeting Upper Prior Lake Carp Goal, Saturday July 26, 2025, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, (Sand Point Beach Park)
 - Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, Thursday, July 31, 2025, 6:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Wagon Bridge Conference Room)
 - Board of Managers Workshop, Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 4:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Parkview Conference Room)
 - Board of Managers Meeting, Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 6:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Council Chambers)
- 6:45 PM 8.0 **ADJOURNMENT**
-

JULY 2025 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
<p>Upper Watershed Projects</p> <p>Buck Stream Stabilization, Spring West IESF, MB CD-13 IESF, Swamp IESF, Fish Lake Mgmt Plan, Sutton IESF, Swamp IESF, Buck Chemical Treatment, Potential Flood Storage Projects</p> <p><i>Project Lead: Emily and Danielle</i></p>	<p>Buck Stream Stabilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Spring Lake West IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with legal counsel, landowners to prepare agreements and closing process. Discussed with potential buyer. Executed agreement and set closing date. <p>MB CD-13 IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p>Swamp IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting, bonds and insurance review initiated. <p>Fish Lake Management Plan (FLMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed soil core results to assess benefit of 200 St pond. Collected water quality samples at 200 St Pond <p>Potential Flood Storage Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received lake level logger data on Project 10. 	<p>Buck Stream Stabilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p>Spring Lake West IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer easement acquisition payment and obtain recorded easement. <p>MB CD-13 IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p>Swamp IESF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete contracting. Schedule pre-construction meeting and issue notice to proceed. <p>Fish Lake Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect cost/benefit of different excavation depths in excavation design. <p>Potential Flood Storage Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze lake level data, and discuss feasible options with EOR.
<p>Carp Management</p> <p><i>Rough Fish Management (Class 611)</i></p> <p><i>Project Lead: Jeff</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracked carp on Spring Lake Ordered Radio and PIT tags. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implant remaining radio tag into Spring Lake carp. Continue with population estimate on Spring Lake.
<p>Ferric Chloride System Operations</p> <p><i>Project Lead: Jeff and Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up HydroMet Cloud station for Ferric Chloride System. Station is internal facing and reads flow, dosing rate, and chemical levels. Tank sensor is operational and integrated. Scheduled pressure switch installation. Tank filled with one delivery of ferric chloride, 2,310 gallons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final completion on FeCl driveway. Final completion of FeCl building. Complete install of pressure switch. Mouse-proof the building
<p>Farmer-Led Council</p> <p><i>Project Lead: Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned meeting formats and discussed speakers with Scott SWCD. Solicited speaker for Lake Friendly Farm Awards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan August meeting.

JULY 2025 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
<p>Cost Share Incentives <i>Project Lead: Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review cost share applications with Scott SWCD as needed.
<p>Sutton Lake Outlet and Lake Management Plan <i>Project Lead: Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
<p>Website and Media <i>Project Lead: Danielle</i></p>	<p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starry Trek call for volunteers, Happy July 4th, FeCl Facility Updates, Reel Cool Fishing School, Algae blooms, PLOC outletting, Patty Retirement, Joint Tour <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carp Carnival, FeCl project page update <p>News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article submitted to Prior Lake Compass on completed PLOC lining • Press-release submitted to Prior Lake Compass on Starry Trek 	<p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMP volunteers' recognition, monitoring highlight, Carp Carnival, Lakefront Music Fest clean-lake tips <p>News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in Prior Lake Compass on Carp Carnival
<p>Citizen Advisory Committee <i>Project Lead: Danielle</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set agenda for July 31 CAC meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep and complete July 31 CAC meeting
<p>Education Program <i>Project Lead: Danielle</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reel Cool Fishing School • Continue Planning summer and fall events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carp Carnival • Plan for Watershed Week
<p>Monitoring Program <i>Project Lead: Jeff and Zach</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued monitoring lakes and streams for water chemistry and discharge • Automating water level elevations in WISKI • Conducted maintenance on monitoring equipment • Begun diagnostic monitoring on Haas Lake inputs. • Begun acquiring parts to set up 6712 auto-samplers • Responded to public's questions and concerns about algae blooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and complete parts list on automated water sampling equipment given to District by CRWD. • Field test auto samplers
<p>Aquatic Vegetation Management and Surveys <i>Project Lead: Jeff</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed follow up treatment discussions with Lake Associations and residents. • Reviewed post-treatment assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>AIS <i>Project Lead: Jeff and Zach</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating boat inspection program. • Coordinated with DNR on CD3 station installation agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install CD3 station at Sand Point boat launch, once approved.

JULY 2025 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
<p>Rules Revisions <i>Project Lead: Joni</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracted with consultant to assist with completing equivalency MOAs with LGUs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review City of Savage draft ordinance update.
<p>BMPs & Easements <i>Project Lead: Joni</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstormed alternate approach than development agreements to fund conservation easements establishment. Consulted with City of Prior Lake and landowner on easement vegetation management being performed by the City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with two landowners on easement amendments.
<p>Permitting <i>Project Lead: Joni</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Permit Application 25.01 to complete permit conditions. Performed construction inspections for open permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Permit 25.01 once all conditions have been met. Perform on-going construction inspections until permits can be closed.
<p>Planning Activities <i>Project Lead: Joni and Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided project information to City of Prior Lake associated with AUAR process. Status update meeting with consultant on Fountain Hills Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study. Hosted a SCALE Water Committee planning meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with consultant and attend initial findings meeting for Fountain Hills Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study on 8/5/2025. Attend Prior Lake Annexation Area AUAR meeting on 8/4/2025. Hold bi-monthly coordination meeting with City of Prior Lake public works staff on 8/19/2025.
<p>Outlet Channel Projects and Administration <i>Project Lead: Emily/Jeff</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with grant manager on pipelining project. Began grant invoice request for pipelining. Completed site restoration on pipelining project. Received engineer certification on pipelining. Collected flow measurement at outlet. Cleaned vegetation from outlet structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buckthorn maintenance surveys and contracting. Receive as-builts for pipelining and close out project. Complete grant reporting on pipelining. Present Prior Lake Outlet Structure standard operating procedures memo at August meeting.
<p>General Administration <i>Project Lead: Joni/Emily</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Minnesota Watersheds summer tour and administrators' meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in Insurance Consortium Subcommittee meeting on 8/13/2025.



Subject 	Goldfish in Cates Lake Follow-up From March 2025	
Board Meeting Date 	July 15, 2025	Item No: 4.2
Prepared By 	Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Coordinator	
Attachments 	None	
Proposed Action 	Motion to hold on management of goldfish on Cates Lake and to continue to monitor lake water quality.	

Background

Since 2020, staff have been aware of the presence of goldfish on Cates Lake. Observations from our CAMP volunteer lake sampler, along with reports from several local residents, have noted a growing number of goldfish in the lake. These community members have reached out to the District with questions about potential management options.

Goldfish, similar to common carp, are non-native fish that can disrupt lake ecosystems. In large numbers, they may impact water quality and clarity, particularly if natural food sources become limited, as they can disturb sediment and aquatic vegetation. However, more research is needed to fully understand the extent of their impact in lakes.

Water clarity readings on Cates Lake are a lake health indicator where data shows a slight negative trend over the last 20 years. Prior to 2021, the trend was generally stable or slightly improving, but subsequent to 2020 the trend has been more negative. One possible reason for the recent downward clarity readings may be due to the goldfish infestation, but the decline may also be the result other unknown internal or external conditions. Overall, Cates Lake's water quality exceeds the state water quality standards for Secchi, total phosphorus, and Chlorophyll-a. The most recent district prepared report for Cates Lake provides a grade of "A" for Secchi, total phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a.

Discussion

After a March 2025 board workshop discussion and an April 2025 resident comment at the board meeting, staff discussed potential management options listed on the DNR's website with the DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor and Invasive Species Specialist. Findings from this discussion are listed below:

Management Option	DNR Comment
Predatory Fish Stocking	Predation approach is an option for non-public water basins. Cates Lake is not a good candidate for stocking predatory fish such as northern pike due to the shallow characteristics of the lake and concerns of winter kill of the predatory fish.
Fish Harvest/Removal (seining and/or trap netting)	Is not known to be effective for goldfish. A commercial fishing or research permit is required.
Lower Water Levels to Facilitate Winter Kill	Requires DNR approval, which DNR is not likely to provide.
Pesticide (i.e., Rotenone)	Chemical is toxic to insects, aquatic organisms and fish. Requires DNR approval, which DNR is not likely to provide.

District staff will continue to monitor the water quality of Cates Lake and scientific research on goldfish management. Should water quality monitoring indicate potential lake impairment, goldfish management can be re-evaluated.

Recommended Action

Motion to hold on management of goldfish on Cates Lake and to continue to monitor lake water quality.

Budget Impact

No budget impact.



Subject	Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Annual Meeting Delegate Appointment	
Board Meeting Date	July 15, 2025	Item No: 4.3
Prepared By	Joni Giese, District Administrator	
Attachments	Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions & Petitions Packet	
Proposed Action	Motion to appoint (insert managers names) as delegates and (insert manager name) as an alternate to vote on behalf of Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District at the Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions & Petitions.	

Background

At a March 21, 2025 special meeting, Minnesota Watersheds delegates voted to revise the organization's schedule for voting on proposed legislations resolutions and legislative platform. Managers Boyles and Burnett served as the District's appointed delegates at the March 21 meeting. Managers Boyles and Burnett also serve on the Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Legislative Committee.

In accordance with the new resolutions development schedule, proposed resolutions were submitted to Minnesota Watersheds no later than June 2, 2025. The Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Legislative Committee met on June 18, 2025, to review the submitted resolutions and updated legislative platform, in order to provide feedback to the resolution submitters and to vote on whether the committee recommends adoption of the submitted resolutions and revised legislative platform. The Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors reviewed the proposed legislative platform and resolutions on June 25, 2025. From there the proposed resolutions and legislative platform were distributed to the general membership for consideration.

At the board workshop, Administrator Giese will provide a brief overview of the proposed legislative platform revisions, along with the proposed resolutions. Managers will provide their input on the proposed resolutions at the workshop. Managers will also discuss potential delegates and alternate for the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions & Petitions.

Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to vote on the appointment of two delegates and one alternate to attend and the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions & Petitions and vote on behalf of the District. The managers may vote to have Managers Boyles and Burnett to continue to

serve the District's delegates. An alternate should also be selected in case one of the delegates is unable to attend.

Recommended Action

Motion to appoint (insert managers names) as delegates and (insert manager name) as an alternate to vote on behalf of Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District at the Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions & Petitions.

Budget Impact

The per diem costs associated with manager attendance at the virtual 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions is covered under budget item Program Salaries and Benefits.



Minnesota Watersheds
2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
August 25, 2025
Via Zoom

Member Meeting Materials

Enclosed are the following items:

1. Notice of Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
2. Delegate Appointment Form
3. List of Delegates Appointed for the March Special Meeting
4. Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Agenda
5. Proposed Legislative Platform Updates
6. Proposed Resolutions
7. Active Resolutions

Please note that the Delegate Appointment Forms are **REQUIRED**. For the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions to be held, **a quorum of 22 delegates MUST be present and must include at least one delegate from each of the three regions.** Please return your Delegate Appointment Forms to Jan Voit at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com at your earliest convenience.

Delegates appointed for the special meeting may serve as delegates for the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions and the Annual Business Meeting. *Email confirmation of those delegates is required from each organization.*

This packet has been distributed to administrators and managers via email. No paper copies of this packet will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

**We are looking forward to your participation in this year's
virtual Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions!**



Minnesota Watersheds

2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will be held by Zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 25 for the following purposes:

1. to consider and act upon proposed Legislative Platform updates; and
2. to consider and act upon proposed Resolutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda Holker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid black horizontal line.

Wanda Holker
Secretary



Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Delegate Appointment Form

The _____ hereby certifies that it is
name of watershed organization

a watershed district or watershed management organization duly established and in good standing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B or 103D and is a member of Minnesota Watersheds for the year 2025.

The _____ hereby further certifies
name of watershed organization

the following individuals have been appointed as delegates, or as an alternate delegate, all of whom are managers in good standing with their respective watershed district or watershed management organization.

Delegate #1: _____

Delegate #2: _____

Alternate: _____

Authorized by: _____
 Signature Date

Title

** Please return this form to mnwatershed@gmail.com at your earliest convenience. **

REGION 1	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Linda Vavra	Allen Wold	
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	Peter Fjestad	Cathy Affield	
Cormorant Lakes Watershed District			
Joe River Watershed District			
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers	Bill Petersen	Lein Schiller	Keith Szczepanski
Pelican River Watershed District	Laurie Olson	Chris Jasken	Charlie Jasken
Red Lake Watershed District	LeRoy Ose	Gene Tiedemann	Allan Page
Roseau River Watershed District	Jim Johnson	LaVerne Voll	
Sand Hill River Watershed District	Don Andringa		
Two Rivers Watershed District	Gerald Olsonawski		
Warroad River Watershed District			
Wild Rice Watershed District	Mike Christensen	Duane Erickson	Curt Johannsen
REGION 2	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Buffalo Creek Watershed District			
Cedar River Watershed District			
Clearwater River Watershed District			
Crooked Creek Watershed District			
High Island Creek Watershed District			
Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District			
Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District	Andrew Weber		
Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District	Ruth Schaefer	Jeff Gertgen	
North Fork Crow River Watershed District	Bob Brauchler	Jim Wuertz	Jim Barchenger
Okabena Ocheda Watershed District			
Shell Rock River Watershed District	Brad Kramer	Joe Pacovsky	Mike Lee
Turtle Creek Watershed District			
Upper Minnesota River Watershed District	Wanda Holker		
Yellow Medicine River Watershed District	Bill Briggs	Randy Kamrath	Darwyn Bach
REGION 3	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Alternate
Bassett Creek WMC	Joan Hauer	Shaun Kennedy	RJ Twiford
Brown's Creek Watershed District	Celia Wirth	Klayton Eckles	Chuck LeRoux
Capitol Region Watershed District	Shawn Mazanec	Hawona Sullivan Janzen	Joe Collins
Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District	Paul Richert		
Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District	Jackie Anderson	Steve Schmaltz	
Coon Creek Watershed District	Jim Hafner		
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Sherry White	William Olson	Eugene Maxwell
Mississippi WMO			
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District	Peggy Kvam	Chris-Ann Lauria	
Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District	Ben Burnett	Bruce Loney	
Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District	Val Eisele	Benjamin Karp	
Rice Creek Watershed District	Mike Bradley	Marcie Weinandt	
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District	David Ziegler	Jill Crafton	Tom Duevel
South Washington Watershed District	Mike Madigan	Brian Johnson	
Vadnais Lake Area WMO			
Valley Branch Watershed District	Don Pereira	Ed Marchan	John Brach



Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

AGENDA

Monday, August 25, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Join online: [CLICK HERE](#)

Join by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 837 1967 3264

Passcode: 992222

GENERAL BUSINESS

10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Process Overview – Brad Kramer

10:05 a.m. Approval of Agenda (Action) – Brad Kramer

ACTION ITEMS

10:10 a.m. **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM** (Action) – Brad Kramer

10:30 a.m. **RESOLUTIONS HEARING** (Action) – Don Pereira

Note: If you wish to testify "FOR" or "AGAINST", please raise your hand. You must be recognized by the meeting host before you speak. Limit your comments to two (2) minutes. Voting on each resolution will be done by hand raising.

Resolution 1 – Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Repairs

Resolution 2 – Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

Resolution 3 – Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

12:00 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**



**MINNESOTA
WATERSHEDS**
Connecting People. Protecting Water.

DRAFT 2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Abstract

This document articulates clearly defined legislative policies so members and Minnesota Watersheds representatives on the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board, Clean Water Council, and Local Government Water Roundtable can accurately state our positions.

Adopted December 6, 2024

Contents

Purpose	3
Emerging Issues.....	3
Finance	3
1. Capacity.....	3
2. Grant Funding	3
Urban Stormwater	4
1. Stormwater Quality Treatment	4
2. Water Reuse	4
Water Quantity	4
1. Drainage	5
2. Funding	5
3. Flood Control	5
4. Regulation	5
5. Policy	5
Water Quality	6
1. Lakes.....	6
2. Wetlands	6
3. Rivers and Streams.....	6
4. Policy	6
Watershed Management and Operations	6
1. Watershed Powers	6
2. Watershed Duties.....	7
3. Watershed Planning	7
Agency Relations	7
1. Advocacy	7
2. Representation.....	7
3. Regulation	7
Regulations.....	8
Natural Resources	8
1. Planning	8
2. Policy	8
3. Habitat	8

2024 Results 9

 Water Quantity..... 9

 Drainage 9

 Watershed Management and Operations 9

 Watershed Planning 9

DRAFT

Purpose

Minnesota Watersheds represents both watershed districts and watershed management organizations (collectively referred to as Watersheds). That representation underscores the necessity of protecting Watershed powers, duties, and planning responsibilities on a watershed basis.

This legislative platform outlines Minnesota Watersheds positions on legislative matters and serves as the foundation for our organization to support or oppose various local, state, and federal legislation. The legislative platform is based on adopted resolutions and emerging issues as identified by the MAWA Legislative Platform Committee and the Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions and Legislative Committees and adopted by the membership. It also is designed to clearly articulate defined legislative policies so members and Minnesota Watersheds representatives on the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board, Clean Water Council, and Local Government Water Roundtable can accurately state our positions.

Emerging Issues

New or developing problems or concerns may arise that require attention before or during the legislative session. Those problems or concerns likely have not been addressed through the resolutions process, may or may not be identified in the legislative platform, but will need to be addressed by the lobbying team and executive director through attendance and meetings, written comments, testifying at hearings, or legislation. Flexibility is necessary so that the lobbying team and executive director can be proactive on behalf of Minnesota Watersheds with state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and at the legislature.

The Minnesota Watersheds Manual of Policy and Procedures states: *In the event legislation or state agency policy is introduced that may cause harm to Minnesota Watersheds members and there is no policy adopted by Minnesota Watersheds on the issue, the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors may review the legislation or policy and adopt a temporary position on the issue on behalf of the organization. The policy position will be in effect until the next annual resolutions hearing. At that time, the membership must review the policy position and vote on whether it should become a permanent policy position or should expire.*

Finance

Watersheds are tasked with many responsibilities by Minnesota statute and local priorities are set by their boards. To effectively perform those duties, adequate funding is necessary. Although some Watersheds have levy authority, there are many other avenues of funding that are important for achieving local water management, as well as water quality and quantity goals.

1. Capacity

- a. Support Clean Water Funds for implementation, not capacity (Resolution 2021-01A and B)
- b. Support capacity funding for watershed districts (Resolution 2021-02)
- c. Support General Fund repayment of Soil and Water Conservation District capacity funds to the Clean Water Fund

2. Grant Funding

- a. Support metro watershed-based implementation funding for approved 103B plans only (Resolution 2021-07)

- b. Support a more equitable formula for watershed-based implementation funding in the metro
- c. Lobby for watershed-specific grant funding
- d. Lobby for the flood hazard mitigation grant program

Urban Stormwater

Watersheds and land use management partners work to reduce polluted stormwater runoff and/or increase infiltration from urbanization and hard surfaces. Many Watersheds in the state have adopted regulatory standards and/or official controls to successfully manage urban stormwater when land alterations occur. Watersheds also implement a variety of urban stormwater management practices to treat runoff before it enters our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

1. Stormwater Quality Treatment

- a. Support limited liability for certified commercial salt applicators (Resolution 2022-02)
- b. Support, partner/collaborate with a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4s – municipal separate storm sewer system) (if/where appropriate) in permit compliance activities
- c. Support the use of green infrastructure and minimizing impervious surfaces, where practical, in urban development and planning
- d. Where it may exist, support removing duplication of urban stormwater regulatory standards and controls
- e. Support the rescission of the Department of Labor and Industry/Plumbing Board Final Interpretation of Inquiry PB0159, storm drainage surcharge to return to common engineering practice for stormwater pond design

2. Water Reuse

- a. Support the Stormwater Reuse Task Force and for the Minnesota Department of Health to complete a review process (Resolution 2022-01)
- b. Support efforts to clarify and simplify State Plumbing Board rulings and requirements to facilitate more reuse of rainwater/stormwater

Water Quantity

Watersheds are directed by statute to conserve the natural resources of the state by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects. Specific purposes refer to flood damage reduction, stream flows, water supply, and drainage systems, as well as to identify and plan for effective protection and improvement of surface water and groundwater, and to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities. Numerous past, present, and future legislative initiatives have affected how water quantity issues are managed at the local level. This very broad-based topic includes management of the volume of water (drought, flooding, water supply), the flow of water (drainage, storm water, channel restoration, habitat), and recreational (lakes, rivers, wetlands) activities like fishing, boating, and hunting.

1. Drainage

- a. Support the current statutory requirements for notification and coordination in the development of petitioned repairs, drainage improvement projects, and new drainage systems
- b. Support the addition of a classification for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses
- c. Seek increased support for and participation in the Drainage Work Group (Resolution 2022-03)
- d. Oppose the drainage registry information portal
- e. Oppose incorporating increased environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria (M.S. 103E.015 requirements)
- f. Support new legislation modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) regarding Department of Natural Resources regulatory authority over public drainage maintenance and repairs (Resolution 2023-03)
- g. Oppose mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheets for drainage projects
- h. Investigate ways of maintaining water flow during periods of drought and explore opportunities for aquifer recharge.

2. Funding

- a. Obtain stable funding for flood damage reduction and natural resources enhancement projects (Resolution 2022-05)
- b. Clarify county financing obligations and/or authorize watershed district general obligation bonding for public drainage projects

3. Flood Control

- a. Support crop insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas (Resolution 2021-05)
- b. Seek action for streamlining the Department of Natural Resources Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Resolution 2023-04)

4. Regulation

- a. Support temporary water storage on Department of Natural Resources wetlands during major flood events (Resolution 2020-04)
- b. Support managing water flows in the Minnesota River Basin (statewide) through increased water storage and other strategies and practices
- c. Work with Minnesota Department of Transportation to support flood control and how to handle increased water volume issues along state and federal highway systems (example from Bemidji district of the Minnesota Department of Transportation)

5. Policy

- a. Support funding for watershed-based climate resiliency projects and studies
- b. Support funding for best management practices that protect and enhance groundwater supply
- c. Seek the ability to allow resale of acquisition buyout property (Resolution 2024-04)

Water Quality

Protecting and improving the quality of surface and ground water in our Watersheds is an essential component of managing water resources on a watershed basis.

1. Lakes

- a. Support limiting wake boat activities (Resolution 2022-06)
- b. Support designation change and research needs for the Chinese Mystery Snail
- c. Support temporary lake quarantine authorization to control the spread of aquatic invasive species
- d. Support streamlining permit applications for rough fish management
- e. Support dredging as a best management practice to manage internal phosphorus loads in lakes

2. Wetlands

- a. Support a statutory requirement for water level control structures in wetland restorations and wetland banks
- b. Support federal, state, and local funding for wetland restoration and protection activities
- c. Seek clarification of the statutorily modified definition of wetlands and the effects on watershed implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 90, Article 3, section 77](#))

3. Rivers and Streams

- a. Support a statutory deadline for Department of Natural Resources Public Waters Work Permits (45-60 days)
- b. Support automatic transfer of public waters work permits to Watersheds (M.S. Chapter 103G.245 Subd.5)

4. Policy

- a. Support funding for watershed-based climate resiliency projects and studies
- b. Support funding for best management practices that protect groundwater quality
- c. Support development, adoption, and implementation of regulatory approaches to reducing chloride contamination in waters of the state (Resolution 2024-01)

Watershed Management and Operations

Protecting, enhancing, defending, and supporting existing Watershed statutory powers, duties, and planning responsibilities is necessary for effective and efficient watershed management and operations. Specific Watershed powers, duties, and planning responsibilities are contained in Minnesota Statutes [Chapter 103B](#) and [Chapter 103D](#).

1. Watershed Powers

- a. Support and defend eminent domain powers for watershed districts
- b. Support Watershed powers to levy property taxes and collect special assessments
- c. Support a watershed district's power to accept the transfer of drainage systems in the watershed; to repair, improve, and maintain the transferred drainage systems; and to construct all new drainage systems and improvements of existing drainage systems in the watershed

- d. Support a Watershed's power to regulate the use and development of land within its boundaries

2. Watershed Duties

- a. Support a Watershed's duty to initiate projects
- b. Support a Watershed's duty to maintain and operate existing projects
- c. ~~Support increased flexibility in the open meeting law (Resolution 2023-05)~~
- d. Allow alternative notice of watershed district proceedings by publication on the district's website (Resolution 2024-02)

3. Watershed Planning

- a. Support a Watershed's ability to jointly or cooperatively manage and/or plan for the management of surface and ground water
- b. Support the connection between watershed-based implementation and funding
- c. Support development of a soil health goal for metropolitan watershed management plans (Resolution 2020-03)
- d. Support education and outreach to encourage formation of watershed districts in unserved areas (Resolution 2023-06)

Agency Relations

Watershed organizations work with many federal and state agencies to accomplish their mission. While relationships vary from administrative to funding and regulatory, agency policies and procedures can have a major impact on Watershed operations and projects. Maintaining strong, positive relations and ensuring Watersheds have a role in policy making is key to successful watershed management and operations.

1. Advocacy

- a. Require a 60-day review period before state agencies adopt new policies related to water and watershed management (Resolution 2021-06)
- b. Increase collaborative efforts between Minnesota Watersheds and all state agencies involved in water management

2. Representation

- a. Support watershed district managers being appointed, not allowing county commissioners to serve as managers

3. Regulation

- a. Streamline the Department of Natural Resources permitting process by increasing responsiveness, decreasing the amount of time it takes to approve permits, providing a detailed fee schedule prior to application, and conducting water level management practices that result in their reaction more quickly to serious, changing climate conditions
- b. Require watershed district permits for all state agencies (Resolution 2023-01)
- c. Oppose mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheets for drainage projects
- d. Request support to request new legislation to set permit review time limits upon the Department of Natural Resources (Resolution 2024-13)

Regulations

Watershed representation on state and local panels and committees and the ability for Watersheds to regulate development and use of land within the organization's boundaries without prohibitive regulatory restrictions is necessary.

- a. Oppose legislation that forces spending on political boundaries
- b. Support the ability to appeal public water designations (Resolution 2020-01)
- c. Seek Watershed membership on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels (Resolution 2024-03)

Natural Resources

Minnesota Statutes direct Watersheds to conserve the natural resources of the state. Some of the purposes listed in statute are to conserve water in streams and water supply, alleviate soil erosion and siltation of water courses or water basins, regulate improvements by riparian property owners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and wetlands for preservation and beneficial public use; protect or enhance the water quality in water courses or water basins; and protect and preserve groundwater resources.

1. Planning

- a. Ensure timely updates to Wildlife Management Area plans
- b. Support Watershed inclusion in development of state plans (i.e., Prairie Plan, State Water Plan, etc.) related to water and watershed management

2. Policy

- a. Support funding for climate resiliency
- b. Seek clarification in the statutory language regarding funding for and updating the public waters inventory ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 116, Article 3, section 47](#))
- c. Seek the Department of Natural Resources to establish a "Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management" (Resolution 2024-05)
- d. Seek the Department of Natural Resources to adopt a program to incentivize calcareous fen management on private lands (Resolution 2024-07)
- e. Seek a formal process to distribute a complete list of calcareous fens annually (Resolution 2024-10)
- f. Seek the development of a calcareous fen work group (Resolution 2024-12)

3. Habitat

- a. Clarify buffer rule issues
- b. Support funding to reduce erosion and sedimentation
- c. Support funding for the enhancement, establishment, and protection of stream corridors and riparian areas
- d. Support funding for the enhancement and protection of habitats

2024 Results

This section will document when an issue is resolved.

Water Quantity

Drainage (2024)

- Comply with the legislative mandate to review outlet adequacy and notification requirements in the Drainage Work Group
 - During the 2023 legislative session ([Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 60, Article 5, section 21](#)), BWSR and the DWG were directed by the legislature to evaluate and develop recommendations on the definition and application of outlet adequacy as provided in M.S. Chapter 103E.261 and public notice requirements for drainage activities, including a drainage registry portal. The report was developed during DWG meetings following the 2023 legislative session. The report was submitted to the legislature on February 1, 2024 as required by the statutory language.

Watershed Management and Operations

Watershed Duties (2025)

- Support increased flexibility in the open meeting law
 - During the 2025 legislative session, the Open Meeting Law was amended to remove some of the requirements for remote meeting participation using interactive technology. Watershed boards and other local government bodies may conduct their meetings using interactive technology so long as:
 - all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear and see one another and can hear and see all discussion and testimony presented at any location at which at least one member is present;
 - members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can hear and see all discussion and testimony and all votes of members of the body;
 - at least one member of the body is physically present at the regular meeting location; and
 - all votes are conducted by roll call so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

Watershed Planning (2024)

- Support watershed autonomy during and following a One Watershed, One Plan development process
 - Changes were made to clarify and modernize M.S. Chapter 103D during the 2024 legislative session ([Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 90, Article 3, section 42](#)). M.S. Chapter 103D.401 was clarified that a watershed district maintains the authority to adopt a plan even when participating in a comprehensive watershed management planning program under section 103B.801 (One Watershed, One Plan/1W1P).

Resolutions and Legislative Committee Recommendations



The committee's recommendations on resolutions are as follows.

#	Resolution Title	Committee Recommendation
1	Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Repairs	Recommends adoption
2	Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations	Recommends adoption
3	Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness	Recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-01

Resolution Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Exemption for Public Drainage System Repairs

Proposing District: Rice Creek Watershed District
Contact Name: Nicholas Tomczik, Administrator
Phone Number: 763-398-3079
Email Address: ntomczik@ricecreek.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution:

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) currently exempts potential impacts to wetlands that have existed for less than 25 years resulting from public drainage system repairs. However, many public drainage systems state-wide at the discretion of the Drainage Authority have been unmaintained or undermaintained for more than 25 years, and repairs determined to be necessary now or at a future date to these systems can trigger the need for extensive investigation to determine the potential for wetland impact and mitigation requirements. Determining the impacts from public drainage system repairs is inexact at best, and as a result the regulatory pathways to accomplish these repairs are often inconsistent and inconclusive. To address these complications, RCWD would like the WCA to be modified to extend this exemption to all public drainage system repairs. This would simplify regulatory engagement for drainage system repairs and reduce costs for drainage authorities and benefiting landowners.

Balancing efficient drainage repairs with wetland preservation is critical, especially as infrastructure needs grow due to increased flood risks and climate impacts. This issue is important to ensure timely repairs while protecting water resources.

Relevant regulatory documents include Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420, detailing the current exemptions and processes under the WCA.

Efforts to solve the problem

The RCWD has had extensive dialog with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff for many years on the topic of evaluating wetland impacts from public drainage system repairs. Recent 2024 legislation attempted to simplify WCA, but did not address this specific issue.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Yes, legislative action is the appropriate means. The purpose of the proposal is to amend existing statutes to expand the 25-year wetlands exemption to include all public drainage repair activities.

If legislative action is not pursued, advocacy efforts could focus on engaging with local and state officials to promote administrative modifications or policy adjustments. This might include informing DNR and BWSR of the importance of balancing repair efficiency with wetland preservation, emphasizing the economic and flood mitigation benefits of streamlined repairs.

Potential solutions include

- Advocating for amendments to Minnesota Statutes 103G.2241 and MN Rules 8420.0420 to expand exemptions.
- Developing policies that support expedited drainage repair approvals without compromising wetland protections.

Anticipated support or opposition

Other Watershed Districts that are Drainage Authorities for public drainage systems might support this issue. State agencies such as BWSR or DNR, wetland conservation special interest groups might oppose this effort.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:		Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:	X	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-01

Resolution Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Exemption for Public Drainage System Repairs

WHEREAS, the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) currently exempts potential impacts to wetlands that have existed for less than 25 years resulting from public drainage system repairs; and

WHEREAS, many public drainage systems statewide, at the discretion of the Drainage Authority, have been unmaintained or undermaintained for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, repairs determined to be necessary now or at a future date to these systems can trigger the need for extensive investigation to determine the potential for wetland impact and mitigation requirements; and

WHEREAS, determining the impacts from public drainage system repairs is inexact at best, and as a result, the regulatory pathways to accomplish these repairs are often inconsistent and inconclusive; and

WHEREAS, to address these complications, RCWD proposes that the WCA be modified to extend this exemption to all public drainage system repairs, which would simplify regulatory engagement for drainage system repairs and reduce costs for drainage authorities and benefiting landowners; and

WHEREAS, balancing efficient drainage repairs with wetland preservation is critical, especially as infrastructure needs grow due to increased flood risks and climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, this issue is important to ensure timely repairs while protecting water resources; and

WHEREAS, relevant regulatory documents include Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420, which detail the current exemptions and processes under the WCA; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Creek Watershed District has had extensive dialog with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff for many years on the topic of evaluating wetland impacts from public drainage system repairs, and recent 2024 legislation attempting to simplify WCA did not address this specific issue; and

WHEREAS, legislative action is the appropriate means of addressing this matter, with the purpose of amending existing statutes to expand the 25-year wetlands exemption to include all public drainage repair activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation to amend Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420 to expand the WCA exemption to include all public drainage system repairs and commits its staff to further discussion through the Drainage Work Group in 2025 and to promote passage of such legislation in upcoming sessions.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Resolution Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

Proposing District: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Contact Name: Laura Jester, Administrator
Phone Number: 952-270-1990
Email Address: laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

[MN Statute 383B.79 Multijurisdictional Program](#) gives Hennepin County the ability to create multijurisdictional reinvestment programs in partnership with certain jurisdictions in the county including watershed districts that are wholly or partially in the county. The statute does not include watershed management organizations in the list of jurisdictions allowed to officially participate in these programs.

The Bassett Creek Valley lies in the lower end of the watershed in the city of Minneapolis and receives stormwater runoff from over 20,000 acres of upstream and surrounding drainage areas. It lies within a natural low area that is plagued by historic contamination, poor soils, and high groundwater. In addition, the 100-year floodplain within the Bassett Creek Valley extends up and beyond the creek’s channel and into surrounding neighborhood and commercial areas, negatively impacting existing properties and hindering redevelopment opportunities.

Improved conditions in the Bassett Creek Valley are a high priority for the BCWMC. Since 2019, the BCWMC has been working with the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, and other partners to study the valley and develop plans for regional stormwater and floodplain management, ecological improvements, and community access to the creek. The County has expressed interest in convening a multijurisdictional partnership to implement a Community Works Project that would bring together science, partners, community planning, and funding to realize vast improvements in the Bassett Creek Valley. The BCWMC seeks to be an official partner in this endeavor. However, the statute does not provide authority for joint powers watershed management organizations to participate in such endeavors.

Efforts to solve the problem

No actions have been taken on this issue to date.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

A change to the statute would require legislative action. BCWMC advocates for a change to the statute language to add “watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County” to the list of political subdivisions contained in MN Statutes 383B.79, Subdivision 1.

Anticipated support or opposition

Hennepin County is likely to support this resolution. No known opposition.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:	X	Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:		Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

X This would apply to any watershed management organization wholly or partially in Hennepin County.

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-02

Resolution Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 383B.79 Multijurisdictional Program gives Hennepin County the ability to create multijurisdictional reinvestment programs in partnership with certain political subdivisions in the county, including watershed districts that are wholly or partially in the county; and

WHEREAS, a high priority goal of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (a joint powers WMO) is to collaborate on evaluation, sequencing, and implementation of multi-beneficial projects within the Bassett Creek Valley to create regional flood storage, reduce floodplain by at least 8 acres, improve regional stormwater management and improve creek access; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County has expressed interest in utilizing the multijurisdictional program to implement a Community Works Project that would bring together partners, science, community planning, and funding to realize vast improvements in the Bassett Creek Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission wishes to participate as an official jurisdiction on the Community Works Project; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 383B.79 does not expressly include joint powers watershed management organizations (WMOs) in the list of political subdivisions allowed to officially participate in these programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds seeks a revision to Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.79, Subd 1. to explicitly include “joint powers watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County” to the list of political subdivisions that can participate in the county’s multijurisdictional reinvestment programs.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-03

(which combines several resolutions submitted in 2024 and 2025)

Resolution Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

Proposing District: Resolutions and Legislative Committee
Contact Name: Jan Voit, MW Executive Director
Phone Number: 507-822-0921
Email Address: jvoit@mnwatersheds.com

Background that led to submission of this resolution

In 2024, resolutions from Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and Shell Rock River Watershed District brought to light permitting issues with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). These included inconsistency in following Minn. Rule 8420.0935 regarding the list of calcareous fens and the exclusion of a timeline in M.S. 15.992 for an application requiring one or more public hearings or an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment worksheet. Again in 2025, resolutions from Coon Creek Watershed District address problems with timely permit issuance, lack of acknowledgement of existing and approved plans, and unclear or nonexistent criteria for determining permit application completeness.

In meetings with MDNR and MPCA leadership, Minnesota Watersheds has learned that MDNR conducts both their review of permit application completeness, and project compliance with state standards, at the same time. The current process has created an environment of potential years-long requests for data, information, and additional costs with no certainty of obtaining approval.

Efforts to solve the problem

In January, February, March, and May, a small group representing Minnesota Watersheds interests met with MDNR and MPCA assistant commissioners, division directors, and lead program staff to review, discuss, and work together on resolving these issues. The meetings and communications have yet to foster any practical or feasible alternatives or clear paths or actions for reducing the risk and uncertainty to a public permit applicant engaged in required water resource management projects potentially involving public funds.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

We believe that legislation is required to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.992, 84.027, and 116.03 to

- structure the permit review process by separating the determination of a complete application from review of that application's compliance with established standards,
- develop permit submittal standards that the agencies will use to determine permit application completeness for protected waters and threatened and endangered species,
- implement a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet,
- provide deference to accept existing approved plans and studies as sufficient evidence and disclosure on the need and reasonableness of local water management projects that are the product of a planning or environmental review process, have been reviewed and generally vetted by local and state agencies, coordinated with local, state, and federal water management efforts, and potentially obtained state and local funding,
- require a state agency to notify an applicant, in writing, whether an application is complete or incomplete within 30 days,
 - if deemed complete, the 90- or 150-day compliance timeline begins,
 - if deemed incomplete, the state agency must specifically enumerate all deficiencies, citing specific provisions of the applicable rules and statutes, and advise the applicant on how the deficiencies can be remedied, and

- require state agencies to attend a preapplication meeting to review site specific restraints, constraints, and problems and identify practical and feasible actions for completing the project

In the end, uncertainty will be reduced by making explicit the requirements for a complete application and the ability to gauge permit review timelines with the goals of ending late-stage surprises, reducing excessive costs that waste taxpayer dollars, lessening the risk to our state’s natural resources, and eliminating adversarial interaction at the local and state level.

Anticipated support or concern

Support

- Association of Minnesota Counties
- Association of County Highway Engineers
- League of Minnesota Cities
- Minnesota City Stormwater Coalition
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Concern

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:		Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:	X	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-03

Resolution Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

WHEREAS, the review, findings of permit application completeness, and timelines for review of those permit applications by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is guided in part by Minnesota Statutes 84.027, subdivisions 14, 14a; and permit applications to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) are guided by Minnesota Statute 116.03, subdivision 2b; and Minnesota Statutes 15.99 for both agencies, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes 15.992, state agencies have a 60-day deadline to take final action on a written request, except the statute excludes an application requiring one or more public hearings or an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment worksheet, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Rule 8420.0935, the commissioner “must provide technical assistance to landowners or project sponsors in the development of management plans; and the commissioner must provide an updated list of calcareous fens to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for further distribution”, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes 84.027, Subd. 14, it is part of the MDNR’s mission that “within the department’s resources the commissioner shall endeavor to: (1) prevent the waste or unnecessary spending of public money;” and,

WHEREAS, watershed projects statewide have had projects delayed and found that the review time period was never started, and

WHEREAS, as an authoritative political subdivision within the State of Minnesota with significant legislative authority and routine vetting and approval of comprehensive watershed management plans within a watershed, with similar goals and authority as the state to protect and preserve the natural resources within the watershed district, watershed district permit applications should be provided deference in the review process and be expedited, and

WHEREAS, implementation of the comprehensive watershed management plan involves a combination of direct and indirect best management practices that may involve construction to build, repair, and/or restore natural features, and

WHEREAS, implementing those practices and projects may require permits from the MPCA and/or the MDNR, and

WHEREAS, projects statewide to implement channel restoration, floodplain reconnection, riparian habitat rehabilitation, dredging, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, and reduce flooding to name a few, have experienced prolonged permitting delays during MPCA and MDNR review processes, with no clear criteria for application completeness, inconsistent communication, and repeated requests for additional information that jeopardizes public funding, project timelines, and environmental outcomes, and

WHEREAS, conversations with the MDNR have indicated that review of application completeness and compliance with state standards is performed simultaneously, resulting in circumventing statutory review timelines, and

WHEREAS, efforts by Minnesota Watersheds with support from the Coon Creek, Shell Rock River, and Valley Branch Watershed Districts to engage with MDNR and MPCA leadership in early 2025 failed to yield clear, feasible alternatives or timelines to resolve these system issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds shall pursue legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.99, 84.027, and 116.03 to:

- separate permit completeness review from compliance standards review so that statutory deadlines for permit decisions are meaningfully triggered.
- require MDNR and MPCA to develop and publish a list of practical, reasonable information and criteria that constitutes a complete permit application.
- mandate that, once submitted by the applicant, the application is deemed complete and allows review timelines to begin.
- require MDNR and MPCA to notify an applicant in writing, within 30 days of receiving a permit application, whether the application is complete or incomplete. If the agency determines the application is incomplete, specific

provisions of applicable rules and statutes must be cited, an explanation of what additional information is needed must be provided, and the agency must advise the applicant how the deficiencies can be remedied. If action on the permit application is not completed within 150 days, the permit is deemed to be granted.

- define the applicant's burden and the agency's expectations in terms of compliance with state standards once completeness is confirmed.
- establish a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- the Board of Water and Soil Resources establish a formal process to distribute, on an annual basis, an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.
- pre-application meetings shall be required upon request by a qualified local agency with a project identified in state-approved plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, or other recognized water quality studies. Such meetings shall be scheduled within four weeks of the request.
- local agencies requesting such meetings must provide 10% - 20% design-level plans with sufficient specificity to identify natural resource concerns and constraints.
- failure of either MDNR or MPCA to attend a requested pre-application meeting shall be construed as satisfaction of relevant permitting standards, allowing the project to proceed toward final design and permitting.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

Active Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions

December 1, 2024



FINANCE

Capacity

2021-01A: Support SWCD Capacity Fund Sources

Minnesota Watersheds supports SWCD capacity funds to come from county and state general funds.

2021-01B: Support Clean Water Funds for Implementation, Not Capacity

Minnesota Watersheds supports Clean Water Funds being used for implementation and not for capacity.

2021-02: Support Capacity Funding for Watershed Districts

Minnesota Watersheds supports capacity base funding resources directed to non-metro watershed district who request this assistance, to implement the activities as outlined in approved watershed district watershed management plans or comprehensive watershed management plans.

Grant Funding

2021-07: Support Metro Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for Approved 103B Plans Only

Minnesota Watersheds supports BWSR distribution of metro WBIF among the 23 watershed management organizations with state-approved comprehensive, multi-year 103B watershed management plans. Those plans implement multijurisdictional priorities at a watershed scale and facilitate funding projects of any eligible local government unit (including soil and water conservation districts, counties, cities, and townships).

URBAN STORMWATER

Stormwater Quality Treatment

2022-02 Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators

Minnesota Watersheds supports enactment of state law that provides limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established state salt-applicator certification program and follow best management practices.

Water Reuse

2022-01 Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force

Minnesota Watersheds supports administratively or legislatively including at least one Minnesota Watersheds member on the Minnesota Department of Health's workgroup to move forward, prioritize, and implement the recommendations of the interagency report on reuse of stormwater and rainwater in Minnesota.

WATER QUANTITY

Drainage

2022-03: Seek Increased Support and Participation for the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG)

- Minnesota Watersheds communications increase awareness of the DWG (meeting dates and links, topics, minutes, reports) amongst members.

- Minnesota Watersheds training opportunities strongly encourage participation in the DWG by watershed staff and board managers (for watersheds that serve as ditch authorities or work on drainage projects) – for e.g., add agenda space for DWG member updates, host a DWG meeting as part of a regular event.
- In preparation for Minnesota Watersheds member legislative visits, staff add a standing reminder for watershed drainage authorities to inform legislators on the existence, purpose, and outcomes of the DWG, and reinforce the legitimacy of the DWG as a multi-faceted problem-solving body.
- During Minnesota Watersheds staff Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) visits, regularly seek updates on how facilitation of the DWG is leading to improvements for member drainage authorities and convey this information to members.

2023-03: Support New Legislation Modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) Regarding DNR Regulatory Authority over Public Drainage Maintenance and Repairs

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 and commits its lobbying efforts toward promoting the passage of the bills in subsequent sessions.

Funding

2022-05: Obtain Stable Funding for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resources Enhancement Projects

Minnesota Watersheds supports collaborating with the Red River Watershed Management Board and state agencies to seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to provide stable sources of funding through existing or potentially new programs that provide flood damage reduction and/or natural resources enhancements. A suggested sustainable level of funding is \$30 million per year for the next 10 years.

Flood Control

2021-05: Support Crop Insurance to Include Crop Losses Within Impoundment Areas

Minnesota Watersheds supports expansion of Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas.

2023-04 Seeking Action for Streamlining the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Minnesota Watersheds seeks action requiring the DNR to establish transparent scoring, ranking, and funding criteria for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (M.S. Chapter 103F) and asking the Minnesota Legislature to fully fund the state's share of eligible projects that are on the DNR's list within each two-year bonding cycle. Information regarding scoring, ranking, and funding should be provided annually to project applicants.

Policy

2024-04: Seeking the Ability to Allow Resale of Acquisition Buyout Property

Minnesota Watersheds seeks federal legislation to allow the conveyance by an LGU of flood acquisition buyout real estate to a public entity or to a qualified conservation organization, or alternatively a resale to a private taxpayer, subject to the FEMA Model Deed Restrictions as stated in Exhibit A.

WATER QUALITY

Lakes

2022-06: Limit Wake Boat Activities

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- Limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
- Require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks; and
- Providing funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems.

Policy

2024-01: Regulatory Approaches to Reducing Chloride Contamination

Minnesota Watersheds supports development, adoption, and implementation of regulatory approaches to reducing chloride contamination in waters of the state.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Duties

2023-05: Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law

Minnesota Watersheds hereby supports changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide greater flexibility in the use of interactive technology by allowing members to participate remotely in a nonpublic location that is not noticed, without limit on the number of times such remote participation may occur; and allowing public participation from a remote location by interactive technology, or alternatively from the regular meeting location where interactive technology will be made available for each meeting, unless otherwise noticed under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021; and that Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring watershed district to prepare and publish procedures for conducting public meetings using interactive technology.

2024-02: Alternative Notice of Watershed District Proceedings by Publication on the District's website

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Watershed Law to provide for publication on a watershed district's website as an alternative to publication in a legal newspaper.

Watershed Planning

2023-06 Education and Outreach to Encourage Formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas

Minnesota Watersheds, in consultation with its membership, will develop a framework for education and outreach intended to encourage petition and advocacy for the formation of watershed districts in areas of the state not presently served by watershed-based public agencies.

AGENCY RELATIONS

Advocacy

2021-06: Support 60-day Review Required for State Agencies on Policy Changes

Minnesota Watersheds supports requiring state agencies to provide a meaningful, not less than 60-day review and comment period from affected local units of government on new or amended water management policies, programs, or initiatives with a response to those comments required prior to adoption.

Regulation

2023-01 Require Watershed District Permits for all State Agencies

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes § 103D.345, Subd. 5 to read as follows: **Subd. 5. Applicability of permit requirements to state.** A rule adopted by the managers that requires a permit for an activity applies to all state agencies, including the Department of Transportation.

2024-13 Request New Legislation to Set Permit Review Time Limits upon the DNR

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes to implement a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an EAW.

REGULATIONS

2024-03: Provide for Watershed Management Organization Representation on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels

Minnesota Watersheds supports amendment of Minnesota Statutes 103G.2242, subdivision 2 to include a watershed management organization representative on TEPs that are convened in cases where the organization is not the WCA LGU.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Policy

2024-5: Seeking the DNR to Establish a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management”

Minnesota Watersheds supports DNR establishing a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management” as a tool for project proposers to analyze a project’s feasibility or cost effectiveness.

2024-7: Seeking the DNR to Adopt a Program to Incentivize Calcareous Fen Management on Private Lands

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources adopting a program through which a fee is paid to landowners to incentivize them to manage the quantity and quality of the Calcareous Fens on private lands, which program is made similar to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program or similar to a perpetual easement through the Board of Water and Soil Resources Reinvest in Minnesota.

2024-10: Seeking a Formal Process to Distribute a Complete List of Calcareous Fens Annually

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Board of Water and Soil Resources establishing a formal process to distribute on an annual basis an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.

2024-12: Seeking the Development of a Calcareous Fen Work Group

Minnesota Watersheds supports the relevant state agencies, together with relevant stakeholders (including watershed districts), convene a work group to develop by consensus clear, objective and measurable criteria for determining the presence and quality of Calcareous Fen, which criteria shall thereafter be used by all state and local units of government.

Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2025

All resolutions cease to be active at the end of the fifth year following the resolution’s adoption.

2020-01 Appealing Public Water Designations

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that would provide landowners with a more formal process to appeal decisions made by the DNR regarding the designation of public waters including the right to fair representation in a process such as a contested case proceeding which would allow landowners an option to give oral arguments or provide expert witnesses for their case.

2020-03 Soil Health Goal for Metropolitan Watershed Management Plans

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Rule 8410.0080 to include a goal for soil health in watershed management plans and ten-year plan amendments.

2020-04 Temporary Water Storage on DNR Wetlands during Major Flood Events

Minnesota Watersheds supports the temporary storage of water on existing DNR-controlled wetlands in the times of major flood events.



Subject	County Ditch 13 Drainage Authority	
Board Meeting Date	July 15, 2025	Item No: 4.4
Prepared By	Joni Giese, District Administrator	
Attachments	None	
Proposed Action	See “Recommended Action” section below	

Background

Scott County contacted PLSLWD to see if the District is interested in taking on the role of drainage authority for County Ditch (CD) 13, which is located within the watershed district. Scott County currently serves as the drainage authority for CD 13.

At the February, May, and June 2025 board workshops, Administrator Giese brought forward information on drainage authority roles and responsibilities, various operational options provided by state statutes, estimated transitional costs and activities, along with potential opportunities and challenges for achieving the District’s goals and mission associated with taking on this role.

Discussion

Administrator Giese will provide a high-level recap of the previous workshop presentations.

Recommended Action

Move that the board of managers favors the District assuming from Scott County, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 103D.625, subdivision 1, the role of drainage authority for County Ditch (CD) 13, with the intent to fund CD 13 management by means of a water management district under Minn. Stat. 103D.729, on the following conditions:

- (a) Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships, and the City of Prior Lake, concur in District management of CD 13 under authority of Minn. Stat. 103D.621, subdivision 4;
- (b) Scott County enters into a joint powers agreement with the District, as needed to bring a parcel benefited by CD 13, but outside the District legal boundary, within District drainage authority jurisdiction;
- (c) the existing CD 13 fund balance is preserved for District use; and
- (d) the County agrees to administer the annual WMD charge without additional fees; and that the District Administrator is directed to engage County staff regarding the transfer of authority pursuant to these terms, and report to the board.

Budget Impact

It is estimated that costs of approximately \$35,000 - \$50,000 + staff time would be required to set up new systems to fund and operate the drainage system.

PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report - Cash Basis
January 1, 2025 Through June 31, 2025

Program Element	2025 Source of Funds					2025 Actual Results		
	2025 Levy	Budget Reserve	Grant Funds/Fees	Budget Adjustment	2025 Budget	June 2025	YTD	YTD % of Budget
General Fund (Administration)								
Revenues								
Property Taxes	\$ 261,600	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 261,600	\$ 155,620	\$ 156,562	60%
Interest	-	-	18,400		18,400	7,387	13,414	73%
Other	-	-	-		-	11,440	11,440	0%
Total Revenues	\$ 261,600	\$ -	\$ 18,400	\$ -	\$ 280,000	\$ 174,447	\$ 181,415	65%
Expenditures								
Administrative Salaries and Benefits	\$ 137,100	\$ -	\$ 18,400		\$ 155,500	25,867	101,256	65%
703 · Telephone, Internet & IT Support	19,500	-	-		19,500	1,211	6,758	35%
702 · Rent	28,200	-	-		28,200	2,532	16,608	59%
706 · Office Supplies	7,000	-	-		7,000	302	4,918	70%
709 · Insurance and Bonds	13,000	-	-		13,000	-	13,690	105%
670 · Accounting	36,300	-	-		36,300	2,783	22,653	62%
671 · Audit	11,000	-	-		11,000	2,250	11,025	100%
903 · Fees, Dues, and Subscriptions	1,500	-	-		1,500	76	1,434	96%
660 · Legal (not for projects)	8,000	-	-		8,000	1,152	3,028	38%
General Fund (Administration) Expenditures	\$ 261,600	\$ -	\$ 18,400		\$ 280,000	\$ 36,174	\$ 181,370	65%
Net Change in General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	138,273	45	

No assurance is provided on this statement. See selected information.

PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report - Cash Basis
January 1, 2025 Through June 31, 2025

Program Element	2025 Source of Funds					2025 Actual Results		
	2025 Levy	Budget Reserve	Grant Funds/Fees	Budget Adjustment	2025 Budget	June 2025	YTD	YTD % of Budget
Implementation Fund								
Revenues								
Property Taxes	\$ 1,784,850	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,784,850	912,571	918,909	51%
Grants/Fees	-	-	145,967	443,975	589,942	-	296,988	50%
Interest	-	-	124,300	-	124,300	11,112	62,279	50%
Sales/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,357	0%
Budget Reserves	-	\$ 1,018,908	-	11,300	1,030,208	-	-	0%
Total Revenues	\$ 1,784,850	\$ 1,018,908	\$ 270,267	\$ 455,275	\$ 3,529,300	\$ 923,683	\$ 1,288,533	37%
Expenditures								
Program Salaries and Benefits (not JPA/MOA)	\$ 379,700	\$ -	\$ 124,300	\$ -	\$ 504,000	\$ 33,788.17	\$ 206,128	41%
Water Qual 550 - Swamp Lake	\$ 9,390	\$ 89,968	\$ 535,942	\$ 443,975	\$ 1,079,275	\$ 2,681	\$ 57,724	5%
Water Qual 550 -200th Street Pond Improvements	-	26,400	15,000	-	41,400	-	5,349	13%
Water Qual 550 - FeCl Site Improvements	154,500	116,700	-	-	271,200	1,893	247,569	91%
Water Qual 550 - Buck Stream Stabilization	-	-	-	7,500	7,500	-	4,830	64%
Water Qual 652 Farmer-led Council	72,000	-	-	-	72,000	-	8,167	11%
Water Qual 652 Cost-Share Incentives	88,000	-	-	-	88,000	-	12,460	14%
Water Qual 611 Highway 13 Wetland, FeCl system & Desilt, O&M	159,500	55,000	-	-	214,500	8,193	38,965	18%
Water Qual 611 Carp Management	88,500	-	-	-	88,500	10,535	32,415	37%
Water Qual 611 District Owned Parcels Maintenance	1,200	-	-	3,800	5,000	-	3,675	73%
Water Qual 611 Buck Stream Stabilization Parcel Maintenance	4,000	-	-	-	4,000	1,025	1,025	26%
Water Qual 611 Alum Internal Loading Reserve	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	4,152	19,623	10%
Water Qual 637 District Monitoring Program	89,100	-	-	-	89,100	4,485	10,691	12%
Water Qual 626 Planning and Program Development	32,000	-	-	-	32,000	2,085	16,895	53%
Water Qual 626 LGU Plan Review	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	0%
Water Qual 626 Engineering not for programs	21,000	-	-	-	21,000	5,295	11,392	54%
Water Qual 626 Debt Issuance Planning	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	0%
Water Qual 648 Permitting and Compliance	65,000	-	-	-	65,000	654	12,244	19%
Water Qual 648 Update MOAs with cities & county	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	55	273	5%
Water Qual 648 BMP and easement inventory & inspections	35,500	-	4,500	-	40,000	459	12,928	32%
Water Qual 626 Capital Project Planning (Prev: Upper Watershed Projects)	16,200	291,600	-	-	307,800	7,397	22,313	7%
Water Qual 626 Lake Ridge Stormwater Feasibility Study	-	48,000	7,500	-	55,500	3,434	23,888	43%
WQ TOTAL	\$ 1,053,890	\$ 632,668	\$ 562,942	\$ 455,275	\$ 2,704,775	\$ 52,342	\$ 542,425	20%
Water Storage 550 District-wide Hydraulic & Hydrologic model	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Water Storage 626 Comprehensive Wetland Plan Update	-	35,500	-	-	35,500	-	-	0%
WS TOTAL	\$ 4,000	\$ 35,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,500	\$ -	\$ -	0%
AIS 611 Aquatic Vegetation Mgmt	\$ 18,600	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 30,600	\$ 8,626	\$ 9,774	32%
AIS 637 Boat inspections on Spring, Upper & Lower Prior	19,000	-	15,000	-	34,000	4,906	4,906	14%
AIS TOTAL	\$ 37,600	\$ -	\$ 27,000	\$ -	\$ 64,600	\$ 13,532	\$ 14,680	23%
Ed & Out 652 Education and Outreach Program	18,800	8,500	-	-	27,300	2,230	7,687	28%
E&O TOTAL	\$ 18,800	\$ 8,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,300	\$ 2,230	\$ 7,687	28%
PLOC Contribution	\$ 108,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 108,125	\$ -	\$ 93,596	87%
Debt Bond Payments	-	81,000	-	-	81,000	-	-	0%
Total Implementation Fund	\$ 1,602,115	\$ 757,668	\$ 714,242	\$ 455,275	\$ 3,529,300	\$ 101,893	\$ 864,517	24%
Net Change in Fund Balance Implementation Fund	182,735	261,240	(443,975)	-	-	821,790	424,016	

Grant Funds/Fees Anticipated					2025 Budget
Interest Income (general fund & Implementation fund)			\$ 142,700		\$ 142,700
648 New Easement Acquisition/Amendment Fees			4,500		4,500
2025 WBIF Grant			104,967		104,967
Spring Lake Twnshp Contribution (Fish Lake Mgmt Plan)			9,500		9,500
AIS 611 Aquatic Vegetation Mgmt. (Scott County)			27,000		27,000
Total Grant Funds/Fees Anticipated			\$ 288,667		\$ 179,000

Budget Summary	Fund Sources/Fund Expenditures	2025 Levy	Budget Reserves	Grants/Rev	Amendments	Budget Total	2024 Levy	Levy Increase	% Increase
	General Fund	\$ 261,600		\$ 18,400	\$ -	\$ 280,000	252,000		
	Implementation Fund	\$ 1,602,115	\$ 757,668	\$ 714,242	\$ 455,275	\$ 3,529,300	1,697,000		
	Total Fund Sources	\$ 1,863,715	\$ 757,668	\$ 732,642	\$ 455,275	\$ 3,809,300	1,949,000	\$ (85,285)	-4.4%
	Expenditures								
	General Fund					280,000			
	Implementation Fund					3,529,300			
	Total Expenditures					3,809,300			

Fund Balance Commitments/Assingments						
2025 (Budget)						
	12-31-24 Bal	Additions	Reductions	Amendments	12-31-25 Bal	
611 Alum Internal Loading Reserve	\$ 910,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 910,000	
626 Upper Watershed Projects (2024)/Capital Projects Planning (2025)	\$ 291,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,600	
Debt Payment Reserve	\$ 180,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000	
	\$ 1,381,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,381,600	

No assurance is provided on this statement. See selected information.

PLSLWD Monthly Treasurers Report

Treasurer: Christian Morkeberg

Account balances as of 6/30/25

4M Fund (Checking Account)	\$	2,491,722
4M Fixed Income	\$	1,440,300
Total Uncleared Transactions	\$	-
SUBTOTAL	\$	3,932,022

RESTRICTED/COMMITTED FUNDS

Restricted - Permit Deposits, etc. (350 & 360)	\$	130,626
Restricted - PLOC Contingency Reserve (850)	\$	265,913
Restricted - PLOC O&M Funds (830)	\$	(421,099)
Committed - Alum Internal Loading Reserve	\$	910,000
Committed - Upper Watershed Fund Balance(2024)/Capital Projects Planning (2025)	\$	291,600
Committed - Debt Payment	\$	180,000
TOTAL DISTRICT/PLOC RESTRICTED OBLIGATIONS	\$	1,357,040

Available cash at end of June 2025 **\$ 2,574,982**

76.8% of 2025 Amended Budget

No assurance is provided on this statement. See selected information.

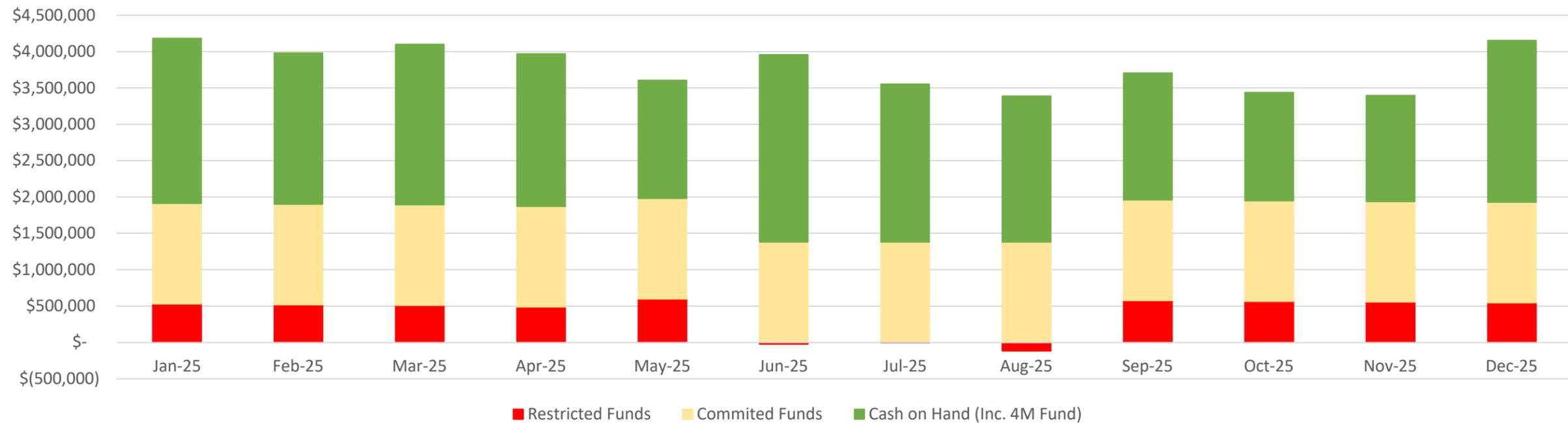
Draft amounts subject to change during audit preparation

No assurance provided on these financial statements

Cash Flow Chart

Month (End of Month)	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Restricted Funds	\$ 529,570	\$ 518,702	\$ 511,209	\$ 488,225	\$ 598,613	\$ (24,560)	\$ (6,194)	\$ (116,194)	\$ 575,806	\$ 565,806	\$ 555,806	\$ 545,806
Committed Funds	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600	\$ 1,381,600
Cash on Hand (Inc. 4M Fund)	\$ 2,269,750	\$ 2,080,487	\$ 2,208,634	\$ 2,099,953	\$ 1,624,148	\$ 2,574,982	\$ 2,171,915	\$ 2,007,164	\$ 1,748,939	\$ 1,490,714	\$ 1,458,072	\$ 2,223,572
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 4,180,920	\$ 3,980,789	\$ 4,101,443	\$ 3,969,778	\$ 3,604,361	\$ 3,932,022	\$ 3,547,321	\$ 3,272,570	\$ 3,706,345	\$ 3,438,120	\$ 3,395,478	\$ 4,150,978

2025 Cash Flow Projections



Draft Amounts subject to change during audit preparation

No assurance is provided on these financial statements. See selected information

Cash Minimum Balance Alert \$ 150,000

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total 2025
Cash on hand (beginning of month)	\$ 4,199,238	\$ 4,180,920	\$ 3,980,789	\$ 4,101,443	\$ 3,969,778	\$ 3,604,361	\$ 3,932,022	\$ 3,547,321	\$ 3,272,570	\$ 3,706,345	\$ 3,438,120	\$ 3,395,478	

Cash Receipts

Property Tax Levy	\$ 7,280	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,068,191	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,023,725	\$ 2,099,196
BWSR WBIF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83,974	-	-	20,993	-	104,967
BWSR Programs & Projects Grant	-	-	221,988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177,590	-	399,578
Grants - Other	73,709	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,500	702,000	-	27,000	-	812,209
PLOC Contributions	-	-	-	-	113,402	-	28,366	-	-	-	-	-	141,768
Interest Income	8,412	7,274	7,629	31,715	6,972	31,020	11,892	11,892	11,892	11,892	11,892	11,892	164,372
Other Receipts	1,291	-	2,600	6,100	12,257	11,440	375	375	375	375	375	375	35,938
Total Cash Receipts	\$ 90,692	\$ 7,274	\$ 232,217	\$ 37,815	\$ 132,631	\$ 1,110,651	\$ 40,633	\$ 105,741	\$ 714,267	\$ 12,267	\$ 237,850	\$ 1,035,992	\$ 3,758,028
Total Cash Available	\$ 4,289,930	\$ 4,188,194	\$ 4,213,006	\$ 4,139,258	\$ 4,102,409	\$ 4,715,012	\$ 3,972,655	\$ 3,653,062	\$ 3,986,837	\$ 3,718,612	\$ 3,675,970	\$ 4,431,470	

Cash Paid Out

Salaries and Per Diems	\$ 47,167	\$ 48,058	\$ 48,689	\$ 52,335	\$ 51,480	\$ 59,656	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 54,958	\$ 637,135
Office Expense, Audit, Accounting	7,362	9,917	12,820	9,533	18,898	8,117	10,375	10,375	10,375	10,375	10,375	10,375	10,375	128,897
PLSLWSD Program Costs	48,099	138,562	39,961	97,938	328,660	79,522	350,000	205,158	205,158	205,158	205,158	205,158	205,158	2,108,534
PLOC Contribution	-	-	-	-	93,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,596
PLOC Operations	6,382	10,868	10,093	9,674	5,414	635,695	10,000	110,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	838,126
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Disbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Subtotal	\$ 109,010	\$ 207,405	\$ 111,563	\$ 169,480	\$ 498,048	\$ 782,990	\$ 425,333	\$ 380,492	\$ 280,492	\$ 280,492	\$ 280,492	\$ 280,492	\$ 280,492	\$ 3,806,288
Cash on Hand (end of month)	\$ 4,180,920	\$ 3,980,789	\$ 4,101,443	\$ 3,969,778	\$ 3,604,361	\$ 3,932,022	\$ 3,547,321	\$ 3,272,570	\$ 3,706,345	\$ 3,438,120	\$ 3,395,478	\$ 4,150,978		

Draft Amounts subject to change during audit preparation

No assurance is provided on these financial statements. See selected information

PLSLWD
Cost Analysis
Year to Date 6/30/2025

	Year to Date 6/30/2025	
	Amount	% of total
<u>Program staff costs</u>	206,128	19.7%
<u>Consultants and Contractors</u>		
EOR	146,417	
Finch Excavating	9,975	
WSB & Associates	30,755	
Scott Soil and Water Cons.	36,727	
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	22,966	
RMB Environmental Labs	4,640	
HDR Engineering Inc.	2,945	
Waterfront Resorations	4,906	
PLM	8,453	
Vessco	525	
Total Mechanical Services	226,783	
Hawkins, Inc	14,197	
	509,289	48.7%
 Hard costs, exclusive of prog staff & consultant costs	55,503	
	55,503	5.3%
 <u>Overhead and Administration</u>		
Staff costs	101,256	
Audit/Accounting/Legal	36,706	
Other admin overhead	37,657	
IT Support (Rymark)	5,751	
	181,370	17.3%
 <u>Bonds payments</u>	-	0.0%
 <u>PLOC Contribution</u>	93,596	8.9%
 Expenses excluding PLOC expenses per manager report	1,045,887	100.0%

No assurance is provided on this statement. See selected information.

This statement omits required disclosures.

This statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting.



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Prior Lake City Hall

4:00 PM

Members Present: Bruce Loney, Frank Boyles, Beverly Burnett, Matt Tofanelli

Members Absent: Christian Morkeberg

Staff & Consultants Present: Joni Giese, District Administrator
Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager
Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Coordinator
Carl Almer, EOR, District Engineer
Chuck Holtman, District Legal Counsel

Others Present: Kim Churchill, City of Prior Lake
Cindy Geis, Scott County
Jody Brennan, Scott County
Wes Steffens, Spring Lake Association

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

County Ditch 13 Drainage Authority: Initial Analysis and Discussion

Administrator Giese presented additional background logistics, benefits and drawbacks of the District potentially becoming the drainage authority for County Ditch 13 (CD-13). The findings are summarized as follows:

A Watershed Management District (WMD) would need to determine a cost allocation methodology (e.g., quantity of water contributed to the system “burden”). In addition, ad valorem taxes could be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects that provide benefits beyond drainage. The District would need to specify drainage fees and provide those to the County. It is recommended that if large projects are pursued a revised drainage fee structure needs to be put into place.

In comparison with Buck channel, CD-13 is primarily predominantly agricultural, and has heavier sediment loads. The benefits of being a drainage authority are: streamlining implementation of projects on ditch, avoiding the risk of no management of the drainage ditch, and it may be easier to implement multipurpose drainage projects. There is currently funding for multipurpose

drainage projects from BWSR. Two-stage ditches are an example of a multipurpose drainage project but these types of projects are long-term initiatives.

Constraints include: preliminary start-up costs, staff training, updating Plans and Rules, ongoing costs/staffing, responding to landowner requests, and potential impacts to landowner relationships. Historic ditch maintenance costs have been approximately \$20,000 per year.

The Board discussed potentially utilizing the County's system until a larger project is planned to aid in a slower transition. The Board will need to make a determination of whether they are interested in taking on the role of drainage authority for CD 13 in July or August. The County would work with the District to transfer the ditch authority on a reasonable schedule. The timeline involves approval from LGUs and updating the Water Resources Management Plan in order to initiate a WMD. Administrator Giese will get a temperature check from LGUs.

Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake: Sediment Coring Initial Assessment

Water Resources Program Coordinator Jeff Anderson presented a recap of the history of alum treatments, water quality, and evaluation of effectiveness. Sediment coring was completed in Fall 2024/Spring 2025 on Upper Prior and Spring Lake to evaluate phosphorus release. Upper Prior Lake water quality values and management goals have been very favorable. Spring Lake shows that external load management goals still require significant progress, and water quality values are degrading as new phosphorus is deposited into the lake from external loading.

EOR Limnologist Anne Wilkinson presented the results of sediment cores and recommendations on future alum treatments. Upper Prior Lake is recommended for a second alum treatment due to reduced external loading, low carp populations, and favorable soil core and water quality data. Spring Lake is recommended to pursue carp and external load management before considering further alum treatments. Spring Lake alum treatments (3 phased doses, completed in 2020) worked for 12+ years and was successful to address legacy loads. However, new external loads coming into the lake are continually redepositing untreated sediments.

2026 Budget Draft

Administrator Giese presented the first draft budget for discussion purposes. The first draft was informed by Board and CAC priorities. The big takeaway is that with capital project implementation, budget reserves will be depleted in 2026 and the District should prepare to pursue grants, bonding, and rebuilding budget reserves. The anticipated 2026+ capital projects are: PLOC bank stabilization, Upper Prior Lake alum treatment. The anticipated 2027+ planned capital projects are: Hwy 13 Wetland Excavation, Spring West IESF, and Desilt Pond Improvements. Alum treatments on Spring and Fish Lake are anticipated in future years. The current draft would represent a 7.6% levy increase from 2025. The Board will approve a preliminary levy at the August meeting. Board managers were asking for a reduction closer to 5% in a revised budget draft.

Administrator Report

- Request that all managers and staff sign in for workshops and meetings.
- There was a revision to open meeting laws. You do not need to be in a noticed public location to participate virtually. There is also no longer a limit on three remote attendances in a row.
- There will be a future report on noticing in local newspapers.

Liaison Updates

District Partner Reports

- *Spring Lake Association*- Appreciation for phosphorus reduction on Spring Lake. There was a follow-up survey on aquatic treatment, which was disappointing for invasive removal but had promising native diversity. The Spring Lake boat ramp will be shut down for 5 days for improvements by the DNR to extend the ramp. The annual concert will be on July 19th at Spring Lake Regional Park. July fourth boat parade will occur if anyone is interested in judging.
- *City of Prior Lake*- Prior Lake drone was instrumental in catching Mr. Boelter. City Hall will be closed on Juneteenth. The City received a grant for a trail segment on Hwy 13. The City is discussing future ownership on Outlot A next to Charlie's.
- *Scott County*- Clarification that the County will not force PLSLWD to take on the role of drainage authority for CD 13, and the County will determine next steps after the District makes a decision regarding interest in taking over drainage authority role for CD 13. The budget will be postponed to October due to federal and state decisions.

Manager Liaison Reports

- *CAC*- None.
- *Scott SWCD*- None.
- *Lower Minnesota Watershed District*- Retained a new administrator. Reported to County Board recommending an additional manager representing Scott County be added to the board. The Watershed District will be hosting another summer boat tour on the Minnesota River.
- *Sand Creek Township*- None.
- *Spring Lake Township*- None.
- *Scott WMO*- Put out annual report. Have been drawing down reserves in their budgeting.
- *Shakopee*- None.
- *SCALE*- Annual legislative report was not very positive.
- *Scott County*- Manager Tofanelli was reappointed to a second three year term as a PLSLWD manager. Ditch discussions.
- *Minnesota Watersheds*- Legislative and Resolutions committee has a meeting tomorrow.
- *PLOC Cooperators*- None.
- *Farmer-Led Council*- None.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Dick
6/17/2025



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Prior Lake City Hall

6:00 PM

Members Present:

Bruce Loney, Frank Boyles, Matt Tofanelli,
Beverly Burnett

Members Absent:

Christian Morkeberg

Staff & Consultants Present:

Joni Giese, District Administrator
Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Coordinator
Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager
Danielle Studer, Water Resources Specialist
Carl Almer, EOR, District Engineer

Others Present:

Jody Brennan, Scott County Commissioner
Wesley Steffen, Spring Lake Association
Tom Beneke and Jordan Wochenske, Stantec
Steve Albrecht, SMSC

• **1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Meeting was called to order by President Loney at 6:05 pm. Everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

• **2.0 SWEARING IN OF MANAGER TOFANELLI**

Manager Tofanelli read his swearing in statement.

• **3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

• **4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Agenda changes:
 - Added 5.5 to discuss Lower Prior Lake boat ramp.
- Motion to approve amended agenda by Manager Burnett; 2nd by Manager Tofanelli; Passed 4-0.

- **5.0 OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- **5.1 Programs & Projects Update**

- Staff provided a report of its many activities the preceding month, and some upcoming events.
 - Prior Lakes are at 902.34' Spring Lake is at 911.44'
 - Staff shared lake data collection efforts and how this informs understanding of lake health
 - Sutton Lake drone monitoring results were shared. There is not enough data at this time to draw conclusions regarding effect of natural drawdown on the lake vegetation.
 - Staff shared a summary of conservation farming practices that have occurred in the District since 2018 via the farmer-led council. These practices are cost effective tool for removing phosphorus.
 - Staff highlighted two upcoming education and outreach events: the Reel Cool fishing School in collaboration with the City of Prior Lake and the Carp Carnival.
 - Staff provided a recap of approach for advancing water quality and flood reduction projects and summarized projects that are high priority pursuit projects, no longer being pursued, or put on hold.

- **5.2 Lake Ridge Estates Stormwater Retrofit Feasibility Study**

- Danielle Studer introduced Tom Beneke and Jordan Wochenske from Stantec to present the study results.
 - Study findings indicate that nutrient reduction projects in the study area do not appear to be cost effective. If some stormwater ponds in the project area are cleaned out, there may be an opportunity to retrofit a water quality project into the maintenance project.
- Motion to approve and accept the study report by Manager Boyles; 2nd by Manager Tofanelli; Passed 4-0.

- **5.3 Second Amendment to Conservation Easement A744386 by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Shepherd of the Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church (full details in packet)**

- Administrator Giese presented this item.
- Steve Albrecht from SMSC presented the view from SMSC and answered some questions during the discussion.
- Motion to approve the Second Amendment to Conservation Easement A744386 [on PID 254520025] and the cohort memorandum of understanding for execution by the District Administrator subject to the receipt of an original copy of the amendment signed and notarized by Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church and an original copy of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; by Manager Boyles, 2nd by Manager Burnett; Passed 4-0.

- **5.4 Spring West Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Easement Acquisition**

- Emily Dick presented a proposal to acquire an easement for a future iron enhanced

sand filter project in the Spring Lake West subwatershed.

- Motion to authorize board president to sign agreement and easement, with any non-substantive changes on advice of counsel and engineer, and authorize board officers and administrator, on advice of counsel, to perform District obligations under the agreement; by Manager Burnett, 2nd by Manager Tofanelli; Passed 4-0.

5.5 Discuss Lower Prior Lake boat ramp.

- Manager Tofanelli was at the recent “dive the lake” cleanup event where he and others observed some construction debris, materials, and trash left behind by the the boat ramp contractor. Prior Lake Association drafted and will send a message to DNR expressing concern about the debris.
- A motion to have staff investigate and determine next appropriate steps was made by Manager Tofanelli, 2nd by Manager Boyles, Passed 4-0.

6.0 TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Morkeberg was absent, Board President Loney summarized the financial information contained in the packet including:

6.1 Monthly Financial Reports (Discussion Only)

- Financial Report
- Treasurers Report
- Cash Flow Projections
- Cost Analysis
- Note: PLSLWD is loaning money to PLOC to pay for the pipe lining project. When the PLOC receives their awarded grant money, the PLSLWD loan will be paid back.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of the Board member, staff member, or a member of the audience.
 - 7.1 Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025, Board Workshop
 - 7.2 Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025, Board Meeting
 - 7.3 Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2025, Board Retreat
 - 7.4 Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2025, CAC Meeting
 - ~~7.5 Claims List and Bank Purchase Card Expenditures Summary~~ **Removed**
 - 7.6 Permit Application 25.01: County Road 18 & Muhlenhardt Road & Utility Improvements
 - 7.7 Rules Equivalency MOA Assistance Scope of Services
 - Motion to approve consent agenda (7.5 removed) by Manager Burnett, 2nd by Manager Tofanelli, Passed 4-0.
- 7.5 Claims List and Bank Purchase Card Expenditures Summary
 - Administrator Giese presented an updated Claims list.
 - Two items added to the claims list that were not originally included in the

packet. These invoices were inadvertently missed and needed to be added to ensure we make payment within our statutory timeframe of 35 days. These items are from the PLM for the Spring Lake curly leaf pondweed treatment and for the upper Prior Lake curly leaf pondweed treatment.

- Motion to approve by Manager Boyles, 2nd by Manager Burnett, Passed 4-0.

- **8.0 UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE:**

- Board of Managers Workshop, Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 4:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Parkview Conference Room)
- Board of Managers Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 6:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Council Chambers)
- Carp Carnival- Celebration of Meeting Upper Prior Lake Carp Goal, Saturday July 26, 2025, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, (Sand Point Beach Park)
- Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, Thursday, July 31, 2025, 6:00 pm (Prior Lake City Hall – Wagon Bridge Conference Room)

- **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn by Manager Boyles; 2nd by Manager Tofanelli; Passed 4-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly (Ben) Burnett, PLSLWD Secretary, 7/9/2025.

**Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District
Claims list for Invoice Payments due for the prior month**

Managers will consider approving this claims list - Staff payroll and benefits, Manager per diems, and Health insurance premiums have already been paid via ACH transfers. After the managers vote, two Managers will approve individual payments via BILL within three days of the meeting for approved claims. Then, staff will release payment via BILL to the claims list parties.

Vendor	Invoice Link	Description	Amount
1. Watershed District Projects (excluding staff payroll)			
For One Transportation Inc	x	Annual Tour of Watershed	\$ 213.75
Hawkins, Inc.	x	Ferric Chloride	\$ 9,929.90
OTT HydroMet	x	Hydromet Cloud	\$ 2,725.55
	x	Hydromet Data Plans	\$ 640.44
PLM Lake and Land Management Corp	x	Treatment of Langford Blvd Pond	\$ 1,696.00
RMB	x	Ferric Monitoring	\$ 1,795.00
	x	Watershed Monitoring	\$ 2,916.00
	x	SWAG Monitoring	\$ 160.00
Smith Partners	x	Water Resource Plan - Spring Lake West	\$ 1,994.10
		Water Resource Plan - Swamp Lake	\$ 404.60
		Water Resource Plan CD 13	\$ 1,358.30
		Easements	\$ 404.60
Stantec	x	Lake Ridge Estates Stormwater Feasibility Study	\$ 4,249.00
Tech Sales Co	x	YSI Sensors	\$ 6,499.73
Waterfront Restoration, LLC	x	Watercraft Inspector-On-site at launch 6/1-6/30	\$ 8,526.37
WSB	x	Fountain Hills Wetland Study - May Activity	\$ 3,124.25
	x	Fountain Hills Wetland Study - April Activity	\$ 5,399.50
	x	May 2025 Carp Management Services	\$ 3,831.28
CLA		Bill.com Fees	\$ 149.00
Xcel Energy	x	Utilities	\$ 20.66
		Subtotal	\$ 56,038.03
2. Outlet Channel - JPA/MOA (excluding staff payroll)			
WSB	x	2025 PLOC Project Services	\$ 3,721.25
		Subtotal	\$ 3,721.25
3. Payroll, Office and Overhead			
ADP Manager Per Diems			\$ 330.00
ADP Staff Payroll			\$ 24,245.73
ADP Taxes & Benefits			\$ 22,326.99
NCPERS	x	August Premiums	\$ 96.00
Reliance Standard	x	July LTD and STD Premiums	\$ 974.35
HealthPartners	x	July Health Insurance Premiums	\$ 9,328.54
City of Prior Lake	x	Rent (August 2025)	\$ 2,532.40
CLA	x	June Monthly Accounting	\$ 2,200.00
		Monthly Payroll Processing Fees	\$ 400.00
		Technology and Client Support Fee	\$ 130.00
MetroSales	x	Contract base rate 6/30 - 9/30/25) usage rate (3/30)	\$ 539.58
	x	Contract Equipment rental rate June-July	\$ 155.00
MN DOA Data Practices Office	x	Intro to Data Practices Webinar	\$ 125.00
Rymark	x	July Billing (7 workstations)	\$ 971.25
Smith Partners		General Legal and Meetings	\$ 216.80
		General Admin and Legal Services	\$ 243.20
State of Minnesota	x	Tribal-State Relations Training-Bev Burnett	\$ 430.00
US Bank	x	June 7 - July 6 Billing	\$ 1,606.44
		Subtotal	\$ 66,851.28
		TOTAL CLAIMS 7/15/2025	\$ 126,610.56

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District
US Bank Transactions through 7/6/2025

Trans Date	Merchant Name	Amount	Receipt Link	Staff Approval	Class	Customer	Expense	Description
6/6/2025	Shutterfly	\$ 55.25	x	Teresa Gostonczik	405 General Fund		706 Office Supplies	charged to card in error. Staff reimbursed cost
6/9/2025	Microsoft	\$ 4.99	x	Joni Giese	626 Planning	Planning and Program Development	903 Dues, Fees, Subscriptions	Software Subscription
6/9/2025	Group Greeting	\$ 5.41	x	Teresa Gostonczik	626 Planning	Staff Appreciation	710 Office Expense Other	Patty's Happy Bday/ Retirement
6/9/2025	Eileen's Colossal Cookies	\$ 25.00	x	Teresa Gostonczik	626 Planning	Staff Appreciation	710 Office Expense Other	Patty's Happy Bday/ Retirement
6/13/2025	Veero Tech	\$ 251.40	x	Teresa Gostonczik	405 General Fund		703 Telephone, Internet & IT support	Website annual hosting fee
6/17/2025	Jimmy John's	\$ 107.97	x	Teresa Gostonczik	626 Planning	Planning and Program Development	902 Meals and Lodging	Board Workshop/Meeting Meals
6/18/2025	Holiday Stations	\$ 5.40	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Equipment Storage & Maintenance	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	Wiper Fluid
6/18/2025	Holiday Stations	\$ 72.41	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Equipment Storage & Maintenance	801 Gas, Mileage	Boat Gas
6/18/2025	Shell Oil	\$ 68.22	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Equipment Storage & Maintenance	801 Gas, Mileage	Truck Gas
6/18/2025	REI	\$ 181.78	x	Emily Dick	626 Planning	Staff Field Gear	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	Outdoor/Rain gear
6/23/2025	Adobe Inc	\$ 92.06	x	Teresa Gostonczik	626 Planning	Planning and Program Development	903 Dues, Fees, Subscriptions	Software Subscription
6/25/2025	Amazon	\$ 39.88	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Effectiveness Monitoring	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	PVC Vinyl Tubing
6/26/2025	Group Greeting	\$ 5.41	x	Teresa Gostonczik	626 Planning	Staff Appreciation	710 Office Expense Other	Jeff's Birthday Card
6/26/2025	Brickhouse Restaurant	\$ 23.62	x	Joni Giese	626 Planning	Training	902 Meals and Lodging	Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour
6/26/2025	Amazon	\$ 114.26	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Effectiveness Monitoring	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	Pump Jugs and Hose
6/26/2025	AmericInn	\$ 413.91	x	Joni Giese	626 Planning	Training	902 Meals and Lodging	Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour
6/26/2025	REI	\$ (100.00)	x	Emily Dick	626 Planning	Staff Field Gear	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	REI Refund
6/30/2025	Amazon	\$ 4.99	x	Zach Nagel	637 Monitoring & Research	Equipment Storage & Maintenance	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	SD Reader
7/1/2025	Dakota Meadows Mini Storage	\$ 90.00	x	Teresa Gostonczik	611 Operations & Maintenance	Fish Mgmt - Equipment, Storage & Maintenance	903 Dues, Fees, Subscriptions	Storage Unit
7/1/2025	Manning Environmental Inc	\$ 114.40	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Effectiveness Monitoring	876 Field Equipment & Maintenance	Auto Sampler Parts
7/3/2025	Verizon	\$ 30.08	x	Jeff Anderson	637 Monitoring & Research	Equipment Storage & Maintenance	903 Dues, Fees, Subscriptions	Cell Data
		TOTAL \$ 1,606.44						



Subject | Quarterly Report of Investment Activities

Board Meeting Date | July 15, 2025

Item No: 6.4

Prepared By | Joni Giese, District Administrator

Attachments | None.

Proposed Action | Acceptance of quarterly investment report

Background

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) Investment Policy and Procedure Manual – Investment of Watershed District Funds states at least quarterly, the District Administrator shall submit a written report of investment activities to the Board of Managers. This memorandum is intended to meet this District governance requirement.

Discussion

As of June 30, 2025, \$2,490,722 (63.4%) of PLSLWD funds are maintained in two money market accounts earning interest at average monthly rates of 4.228% and 4.256%. The Administrator will continue to monitor funds in the lower yield account, which is used to cover District expenses, and transfer funds from the higher yield account as needed. \$1,440,300 (36.6%) of District funds are invested in six certificates of deposit (CDs) earning interest ranging from 3.97% - 4.25%. The time and dollar weighted average portfolio yield on fixed rate investments is 4.08%. The portfolio yield is approximately 1.1 percentage points less than June 2024.

Two CDs totaling slightly less than \$500,000 reached maturity on June 30, 2025. These funds were deposited into, and are reflected in, the District's money market account on June 30, 2025. The District Administrator reinvested \$480,200 into two certificates with interest rates ranging from 4.04% – 4.07% on July 8, 2025. The District's 12-month CDs are structured to mature using a laddered approach with a quarter of the funds maturing approximately every three months. Using a laddered approach reduces interest rate market risk and provides availability of funds for current obligations. The next scheduled maturity and reinvestment period is mid-October. The District currently has adequate liquid funds available to cover upcoming operating costs and capital expenditures until the next reinvestment period. The Administrator will continue to monitor construction expenses to determine if funds maturing in October will be reinvested or held out to cover capital project costs.

All investments are managed through the 4M Fund, which ensures investment activity complies with State Statutes and District policies.

Recommended Action

Staff recommend acceptance of the quarterly investment report.

Budget Impact

There are no budget impacts associated with this activity.



Subject	Resolution 25-398: Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550–Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF	
Board Meeting Date	July 15, 2025	Item No: 6.5
Prepared By	Joni Giese, District Administrator	
Attachments	Resolution 25-398: Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550–Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF	
Proposed Action	Motion to approve Resolution 25-398: Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550–Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF	

Background

In the 2025 budget adopted by the Board of Managers on December 17, 2024, the 509 Implementation Fund, 550-Swamp Lake IESF budget item was set at \$635,300, with the project being funded with \$192,125 of levy proceeds, \$351,208 of budget reserves, \$89,967 from a 2025 BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Fund grant, and a \$2,000 Spring Lake Township grant.

On December 18, 2024, BWSR issued a news release announcing the award of \$8.2 million in Clean Water Fund, Projects and Practices grants, which included \$443,975 to PLSLWD, with a \$44,397 match required, to support the implementation of the Swamp Lake IESF project.

Discussion

In March 2025 the budget was amended to reflect the award of the grant. The intent of the budget amendment was to track the grant that will be used to offset construction costs associated with the Swamp Lake IESF project. The award of the grant allows the district to reallocate \$443,975 of funds to other District projects. Until another use could be determined for the excess funds, the budget amount for 550-Swamp Lake IESF was higher than needed to implement the project.

On April 15, 2025, the Board of Managers passed Resolution 25-395 ordering the Spring Lake West IESF Project. On June 17, 2025, the Board of Managers authorized the Board President to sign an easement acquisition agreement for the Spring Lake West IESF project. The new project requires dedicated funding and staff recommends the excess funds in the 550-Swamp Lake IESF budget item be transferred to a new budget line item 550-Spring Lake West IESF.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Managers approve Resolution 25-398: Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550–Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF.

Budget Impact

The budget amendment will reallocate excess project funds in the 550-Swamp Lake IESF budget item to a newly created project that requires dedicated funding.



Resolution 25-398

Amending the 2025 Budget to Reallocate funds in the 509-Implementation Fund from 550-Swamp Lake IESF to 550-Spring Lake West IESF

Motion By: _____ **Second By:** _____

WHEREAS, the District was awarded a Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) grant in the amount of \$443,975 for the Swamp Lake Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) project that was executed on March 12, 2025; AND

WHEREAS, the District’s 2025 budget had \$443,975 allocated to the Swamp Lake IESF project; AND

WHEREAS, after receipt of the grant, the original budgeted funds of \$443,975 were no longer needed for the Swamp Lake IESF project and could be reallocated to a different District project; AND

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2025, the Board of Managers passed Resolution 25-395 ordering the Spring Lake West IESF Project; AND

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2025, the Board of Managers authorized the Board President to sign an easement acquisition agreement for the Spring Lake West IESF project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in the 509 Implementation Fund \$443,975 will be reallocated from 550 –Swamp Lake IESF to 550–Spring Lake West IESF, resulting in an amended 550–Swamp Lake IESF budget line item of \$635,300 and a new 550–Spring Lake West IESF budget line item of \$443,975.

The question was called on the adoption of the Resolution and there were __ yeas and __ nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Boyles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morkeberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tofanelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon vote, the chair declared the resolution adopted.

It is hereby certified that the Board of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District adopted this Resolution at a duly convened meeting of the Board held on the 15th day of July 2025, and that such Resolution is in full force and effect on this date, and that such Resolution has not been modified, amended, or rescinded since its adoption.

Ben “Beverly” Burnett, Secretary

Dated: July 15, 2025