



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Board of Managers

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved August 20th, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM CST, in the Board Room of the Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota, President Barisonzi called to order the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD).

President Barisonzi called for the roll call. The following Managers were present: President Barisonzi, Manager Theresa Kuplic, Manager Vinatha Viswanathan and Manager Janet Williams. Manager Lauren Salvato participated in the meeting virtually due to health concerns.

In addition, the following attended the meeting in-person: Will Lytle, Evergreen International Sustainability Solutions, LMRWD Administrator; Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrative Support; Della Schall Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, LMRWD Technical Consultant; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law, LMRWD Legal Counsel; Joe Barten, Program Management Supervisor, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District; and Jen Dullum, Board Conservationist, Board of Water & Soil Resources. Commissioner Jodi Brennan, Scott County; Ben Burnett, Manager, Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District; and Dan Niziolek, Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature; joined the meeting virtually.

President Barisonzi requested a moment of personal privilege to honor the tragic loss of Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, who were victims of an assassination. He reaffirmed the dignity and importance of public service and called upon all present to honor Representative Hortman's legacy by renewing our commitment to the values she upheld.

2. CITIZEN FORUM

No one present wished to address the Board of Managers.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A. Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda

President Barisonzi introduced this item. President Barisonzi asked that invoices from Young Environmental Consulting Group be removed from the Consent Agenda. Linda Loomis, LMRWD Administrative support, asked that the meeting minutes for May 21, 2025 and the May 2025 invoice from Naiad Consulting, LLC be removed from the agenda.

Manager Viswanathan moved to approve the agenda, with the following modifications: the invoices from Young Environmental Consulting Group were removed from the Consent Agenda, and both the May 21, 2025, meeting minutes and the May 2025 invoice from Naiad Consulting, LLC were removed entirely from the agenda. Manager Williams seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

(Call votes are required due to the virtual participation by one of the Managers)

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATION

A. 2025 Legislative Report from Park Street Public

No report was issued, as Government Relations Specialists from Park Street Public attended a vigil at the Capitol held in memory of Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

~~A. Approve Minutes May 21, 2025 Regular Meetings~~

B. Receive and file May 2025 Financial report

C. Approval of Invoices for payment

- i. Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) – Financial services May 2025
- ii. Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law –April 2025 general legal services & Area #3
- iii. Daniel Hron –July 2025 office rent
- iv. US Bank Equipment Finance –June 2025 copier lease payment
- v. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC –May 2025 technical, and Education & Outreach services
- vi. Evergreen International Sustainability Solutions, LLC – Administrative Services through May 2025
- vii. Naiad Consulting, LLC – April 2025 administrative services, mileage & expenses
- ~~viii. Naiad Consulting, LLC – May 2025 administrative services, mileage & expenses~~
- ix. Bolton & Menk, Inc. – Engineering services related to Area #3
- x. 106 Group – Archeological investigation of Area #3
- xi. Park Street Public – June 2025 Government Relations Services
- xii. TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial - preparation of March 2025 meeting minutes
- xiii. TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial - preparation of April 2025 meeting minutes
- xiv. 4M Fund – May 2025 fund service charges

D. Citizen Advisory Committee Report

E. Authorize Support for Metro Children's Water Festival

F. Accept Quote for Director's and Officer's Insurance and Authorize Payment

G. Authorize Agreement between LMRWD and Friends of the MN Valley for River Watch

H. Minutes of Board Committees

- Personnel Committee – June 4, 2025
- Finance Committee – June 4, 2025

Manager Williams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the

motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

President Barisonzi said that the reason he removed the Young Environmental Consulting Group was to point out that the line item for general engineering services is over budget and that the Finance Committee will address this at its next meeting and will bring recommendations to the board to address his concerns.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to approve payment of the invoices submitted by Young Environmental Consulting Group for May 2025. Manager Viswanathan seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried

6. PERMITS

A. LMRWD Permit Renewals

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Manager Williams a motion to renew permits as recommended in the Technical Memorandum – June 2025 Permit Renewal Requests, dated June 11, 2025. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

7. ACTIONS ITEMS

A. Dredge Management

President Barisonzi introduced this item. Ms. Loomis stated that this is a request for the Board to authorize staff to take the next step to update the license agreements with the private terminal operators, not to approve the actual license agreement.

John Kolb, legal counsel for LMRWD, explained that this item was brought to the Board of Managers' attention due to the results of recent environmental testing on the areas slated for dredging. The test results indicate that the material does not meet Tier 1 standards. He raised the question of whether the current agreement adequately accounts for the potential increase in disposal costs, should LMRWD ultimately be responsible for managing material that fails to meet those standards.

President Barisonzi questioned the fiscal impacts and where in the budget funds for this request would come from. Ms. Loomis explained that this would fall into the 9-foot channel fund and the grant from the State of Minnesota would pay for the cost of updating the license agreements. President Barisonzi said he would like to amend the recommended motion to update the license agreements to include the allocation of staff time to support that as a deliverable.

Ms. Loomis pointed out that the LMRWD allocates 15% of its annual administrative expenses to the 9-foot channel fund.

Manager Williams made a motion to authorize updating the License Agreements between the LMRWD and the Cargill, Inc., CHS, Inc. and Savage Riverport, LLC., with the amendment proposed by President Barisonzi. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being

taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

B. Study Area #3 Update

President Barisonzi introduced this item. The City of Eden Prairie has requested that the LMRWD execute a deposit agreement to proceed with the re-zoning and subdivision of the property acquired to stabilize the Minnesota River riverbank at Study Area #3. The City will not require a deposit but will request the LMRWD to pay any out-of-pocket expenses incurred. President Barisonzi asked why the City can charge the LMRWD fees for re-zoning and land subdivision and the LMRWD can't charge other units of government permit fees. Mr. Kolb explained MN Statute 103D.345 Subdivision 3 is explicit that watershed districts permit, and inspection fees may not be charged to the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to authorize execution of the Deposit Agreement with the City of Eden Prairie. Manager Viswanathan seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

C. Seminary Fen Ravine Stabilization – Ravine C-2 Update

President Barisonzi introduced this item. The Board discussed contributing funds as requested by the City of Chaska as identified in the LMRWD Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Manager Viswanathan made a motion to approve funding contribution as determined by the Board and to authorize preparation of a cooperative agreement between the LMRWD, the City of Chaska and the Carver County WMO. Manager Williams seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: None; the following voted against: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams. The motion failed.

President Barisonzi asked for a motion to have staff engage project partners to address issues that were brought up during the conversation: environmental impacts and engagement of homeowners in maintenance practices. Manager Salvato made the motion. Manager Williams seconded the motion. **Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.**

D. Education & Outreach

○ Revising CAC and TAC Appointment Process

President Barisonzi introduced this item. Administrator Lytle explained that this is being recommended as a holistic approach to future planning process that make sure the committees identify gaps in needs in terms of representation and knowledge.

Ms. Loomis pointed out that MN Statutes for CACs and TACs are two different statutes. And that whereas the CAC is a committee appointed by the Board; the TAC consists of representatives of affected statutory and home rule charter cities, counties, and soil and water conservation districts.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to direct the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop an evaluation matrix to assess current representation and identify future membership needs and to utilize this matrix in bringing forward future nomination requests to the Board of consideration and appointment.

Manager Viswanathan seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

- **Appointments to Citizen Advisory Committee**

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Manager Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-07 – 2025 Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

E. Distribution of Managers

President Barisonzi introduced this item. After discussion the Board determined that there was not a need to take any action.

F. Committee Recommended Actions and Report

President Barisonzi introduced this item. President Barisonzi asked for a motion to issue an RFP for a planning facilitator.

Manager Williams made a motion to issue an RFP (Request for Proposals) for a planning facilitator. Manager Viswanathan seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

There was brief discussion about the fiscal implications of this action.

The second issue from the Personal Committee was to change the committee meeting schedule. The Committee recommends that the Personal Committee and the Finance Committee meetings both be moved to the first Wednesday of the month. It was also recommended that if a manager attends both committee meetings they are entitled to only one stipend. There was brief discussion regarding the July meetings. Manager Kuplic made a friendly amendment to the motion that this schedule go into effect in August. There will be no personal committee meeting in July and the Finance Committee will be moved to the second Wednesday.

Manager Viswanathan made the motion to adjust the committee meeting schedule effective August 1, 2025, and reschedule the July Finance Committee meeting to July 9th and that only one stipend is paid to managers that may attend both meetings. Manager Williams seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

President Barisonzi asked for a motion to adopt the small meeting procedures from Roberts' Rules of Order for LMRWD committees.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules of Order for LMRWD committees. Manager Williams seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

G. Watershed Management Plan Process

- **Remarks delivered by President Barisonzi at the Minnesota River Congress on June 12, 2025**

President Barisonzi introduced this item and asked for a motion to endorse the remarks he presented to the Minnesota River Congress on June 12, 2025, and directs staff to utilize them to guide the CWMP update process, frame upcoming visioning sessions and integrate the message with the LMRWD PR firm and other vendors.

Manager Williams made a motion to endorse the remarks he presented to the Minnesota River Congress on June 12, 2025, and directs staff to utilize them to guide the CWMP update process, frame upcoming visioning sessions and integrate the message with the LMRWD PR firm and other vendors. Manager Salvato seconded the motion.

Manager Kuplic asked legal counsel, if he saw any concerns with the Board taking this action. Mr. Kolb said he did not see any legal issues with the Board's adoption of this.

Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

H. Forwarding Grant Correspondence

President Barisonzi introduced this item. The Administrator recommends that staff circulate grants opportunities and provide letters of support to grant applicants.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to authorize staff to (1) circulate the 'State Water Storage Grants', 'We Are Water MN' and 'Lawns to Legumes Grants' call for applications to the LMRWD's distribution list and (2) provide letters of support, as requested, for eligible watershed partners applying to host the activities in 2026. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

I. EISS IT Subcontracting

President Barisonzi introduced this item. This item is to authorize the Administrator to subcontract an IT consultant.

Manager Williams made a motion to approve the Administrator's request to engage Matt Gallagher of OK Computer to provide internal operations support related to automating invoice processing, through Bill.com and SharePoint, develop a standardized workflow for agenda preparation, and created automated connections across email, LMRWD calendar and document storage platforms. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

J. Revised Process for Citizen-initiated EAWs (Environmental Assessment Worksheets)

President Barisonzi introduced this item. Administrator Lytle advised that after speaking with the LMRWD government relations consultants that the recommendation is to stay engaged in the issue but to delay any action. President Barisonzi commented that the letter is time based and that the time for it to be meaningful has passed. He noted that this issue will be considered again at the next legislative session. He believes that it is critical for the LMRWD to identify how it can be part of the conversation when it comes back. He asked for a motion to direct staff to work with the LMRWD consultant to come back with a proposal for how the LMRWD would engage.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to direct staff to work with Park Street Public to develop a proposal how the LMRWD engage stakeholders on this issue. The motion was seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion:

Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

President Barisonzi asked legal counsel to weigh in on this issue. Mr. Kolb suggested that this direction is a good step in the right direction.

K. Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature Cost Share Extension

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He asked if there was a process for extending grants. Ms. Loomis said that this is not uncommon, as cost projects are often impacted by weather and the inability to get plant materials.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to extend the expiration of the Cost Share Agreement with Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature for 12 months. Manager Williams seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Salvato, Viswanathan, Williams; the following voted against: None. The motion carried.

8. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None

9. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A. Vernon Avenue Update

No action was recommended – for information only.

B. Open Meeting Law Update

President Barisonzi introduced this item. Administrator Lytle informed the Board of the changes made to the Open Meeting Law related to virtual meetings. Members of the Board do not need to be in a public space and location from where there are do not need to posted prior to the meeting. Mr. Kolb noted that the limitation on how many times a member may participate has been removed.

C. LMRWD Permit Program Summary

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

D. Naiad Consulting, LLC – Executed Contract

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He noted that the contract is available for the Board's information.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Administrator Report:** Administrator Lytle reported on efforts by partner agencies and emergency management officials to locate addition monitoring stations on the Minnesota River to monitor stage and flow. He reported that the LMRWD facilitated communication between the stakeholder group and the owner of the Dan Patch Swing Bridge. Mr. Lytle noted that the LMRWD may be asked to participate financially in the monitoring. Ms. Loomis mentioned LMRWD's historical participation in monitoring and noted that additional data such as bedload and suspended sediment concentrations were being monitored.

Administrator Lytle mentioned that he has received feedback from stakeholders about difficulty planning projects. He reported on the recent Minnesota River Congress and its efforts to form a Minnesota River Basin authority and how the LMRWD has shared its previous efforts to form a basin-wide authority.

Ms. Loomis stated that she has received confirmation from the MPCA agreeing with LMRWD's designation as not being classified as an MS4.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

- B. **President:** President Barisonzi reaffirmed committee appointments: Personnel Committee is Managers Salvato, Manager Kuplic and himself and the Finance Committee is Manager Viswanathan, Manager Williams and himself. He informed the Board that he is looking to appointment non-board members to the committees.
- C. **Managers:** No report
- D. **Committees:** No report
- E. **Legal Counsel:** Mr. Kolb thank President Barisonzi for the comments at the start of the meeting and for sharing comments he made at the Minnesota River Congress. He noted the federal funding promised to the State of Minnesota for water storage has been withdrawn. He noted that the Board can certainly undertake its own meeting requirements.
- F. **Engineer:** No report

11. ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, President Barisonzi adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

The next regular meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers will be at 7:00, Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in the Board Room at the Carver County Government Center.