

Minutes- Approved September 17th, 2025
Time/Date: 7:00pm, August 20th, 2025
Location: County Board Room, Carver County Government
Center , 602 East 4th Street Chaska, MN 55318 Virtual Location:
Teams Meeting [Video of Meeting](#)



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Barisonzi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Managers Present: Barisonzi, Kuplic, Viswanathan, Salvato

Managers Absent: Scott Co. Seat

Staff Present: Will Lytle (Administrator), Linda Loomis, Della Young, John Kolb

Others Present: Joe Barten, Earth Evans, Bev Burnett

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS

A. Levy Benchmarking Memo

Administrator Lytle presented a benchmarking memo summarizing levy comparisons and financial data across peer watershed districts. The staff recommendation was a levy of up to 1.03% and a budget of \$1,971,367.00 with the following allocation: General Fund: \$436,992.00; Plan Implementation Fund: \$1,234,375.00; Construction Fund: \$300,000

B. Public Hearing on 2026 Preliminary Levy and Budget

A public hearing was held to take comment on the preliminary certification of tax levies for taxes payable in 2026 and the proposed 2026 budget. No formal public comments were made. The hearing was closed.

Motion to adopt four Resolutions on the preliminary certification of 2026 tax levies and proposed budget for 2026 based on the staff recommendations which will be shared with the counties. Moved by Salvato. Seconded by Kuplic. Motion carried unanimously.

- Resolution 25-10 for Preliminary Certification of Property Tax Levies for Carver County for Taxes Payable 2026 and Preliminary Approval of 2026 Proposed Budget
- Resolution 25-11 for Preliminary Certification of Property Tax Levies for Dakota County for Taxes Payable 2026 and Preliminary Approval of 2026 Proposed Budget
- Resolution 25-12 for Preliminary Certification of Property Tax Levies for Hennepin County for Taxes Payable 2026 and Preliminary Approval of 2026 Proposed Budget

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- Resolution 25-13 for Preliminary Certification of Property Tax Levies for Scott County for Taxes Payable 2026 and Preliminary Approval of 2026 Proposed Budget

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Manager Salvato to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent items included:

- Review Finance and Personnel Committee Minutes (August 2025)
- Approve Board Meeting Minutes (June and July 2025)
- Accounts Payable approvals

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Permits

2025-001 Eagle Creek Memo

Motion to give conditional approval of the Eagle Creek Restoration Project contingent upon the receipt and compliance of staff recommended materials. Motion by Manager Salvato. Seconded by Manager Kuplic. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-004 BIG Bandwidth Memo

Board discussed cumulative impact of projects in the floodplain was discussed in relation to District rules, reviews, inspections, and policies.

Motion to give conditional approval of the BIG Bandwidth IG Hwy 77 project for the installation of fiber optic cable and conduit in 100-year floodplain in Bloomington, Burnsville, and Eagan contingent upon the receipt and compliance of staff recommended materials. Motion by Viswanathan. Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried with abstention from President Barisonzi.

President Barisonzi Reason for Abstention: The applicant is meeting the standards of our process, but “I think the board is feeling increasingly uncomfortable with the scope of our rules reflecting the reality of what's happening in the water.”

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2025-006 LTS Outer Ring Memo

Motion to give conditional approval of the LTS Outer Ring (LMRWD No. 2025-006) contingent upon the receipt and compliance of staff recommended materials. Motion by Kuplic. Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried with abstention from President Barisonzi.

2025-009 East Tarnhill Pond Memo

Motion to approve the permit for East Tarnhill Pond (LMRWD No. 2025-009). Motion by Salvato. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried with abstention from President Barisonzi.

LMRWD_Permit Renewals_2025-08 Memo

Motion by Manager Kuplic to approve renewals for permits listed in the memo 202301, 202406, and 2024010. Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried unanimously.

494 & Highway 13 Design-Build Memo

Motion by Manager Salvato to confirm preliminary approval conditions, recommended by staff, that will guide early design compliance and direct staff to establish and coordinate workflow. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-003 MAC Ponds Memo

Board received and discussed technical memo and staff recommendations regarding MAC Ponds.

Motion by Manager Salvato to:

1. grant conditional approval of the MAC Pond project permit, contingent on submission of a Contamination Contingency Plan that includes:

- a. Pre- and post-construction sediment and water sampling for PFAS at the ponds and authorization of cost-sharing from the LMRWD to provide up to \$5,000 towards agreed upon 3rd party sampling;*
- b. Documentation of coordination with EPA, MPCA, and USAF;*
- c. Financial assurance to cover mitigation in the event of contamination*

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2. Motion to direct the Administrator to work with staff, legal counsel, and agency partners to review and revise LMRWD rules and inspection policies which may be incorporated into future fee structures and permit evaluation scenarios including:

- a. Emerging contaminants of concern*
- b. Cumulative environmental risk*
- c. Required contingency planning*
- d. Enhanced in-person site evaluation protocols*

Seconded by Kuplic. Motion passed unanimously.

B. 2025 Midyear Budget Reallocation Resolution

Motion by President Barisonzi to adopt Resolution 25-14 on the midyear budget reallocation. Seconded by Manager Kuplic. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution to Update WMP and 60-Day Notice

Motion by Manager Salvato to adopt Resolution 25-15. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Commercial Liability Insurance

Motion by Manager Kuplic to Accept Commercial Policy Renewal Quote and Authorize Payment. Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Study Area #3

Motion by Manager Salvato to adopt Resolution 25-16 - Approval of Final Design and Ordering Study Area #3 Improvements. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Letter of Engagement for 2023 Financial Audit

Motion by Manager Kuplic to adopt Resolution 25-17 – Authorization to Hire Redpath and Company to Complete FY 2023 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Financial Audit

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and authorize the District Administrator to execute the Letter of Engagement on behalf of the LMRWD . Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Communications Policy

Personnel Committee Moved a recommendation to adopt the LMRWD Communications Policy. Seconded by Manager Viswanathan. Motion carried unanimously.

H. NAIAD Invoice

Motion by Manager Kuplic to: 1) authorize payment of \$33,146.81 to Naiad for Ongoing admin, mileage, and reimbursements incurred May, June, and July of 2025, and 2) give conditional approval to authorize payment of up to \$23,900 for the remaining invoice amount, including SOW categories One-time Transition Tasks, Project-based Support, and Contingency, upon review and recommendation by the Administrator, Personnel and Finance Committees.

Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried unanimously.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

6.1 Permit Program Summary

Board received summary of permits.

6.2 Channel Maintenance and Dredging

Staff provided update on current dredging situation and volumes of sediment.

Action Item: Staff to continue evaluating priority locations for future coordination with USACE.

6.3 Administrator Report

Board received Administrator's Report.

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6.4 Implementation Plan

Quarry Lake Tech Assessment Memo

Motion by President Barisonzi to receive and file. Seconded by Manager Kuplic. Motion carried unanimously.

Board directed staff to ensure there is continuity to pull immediate and mid-term recommendations into planning and staff processes.

6.5 Education & Outreach: Post-Riverboat Event Update

Board discussed successes and areas for improvement in future river-based events.

6.6 CAC Report (Quarterly)

No formal report presented.

6.7 TAC

6.8 Partnerships, and Coordination

Administrator reported upcoming meetings and collaboration opportunities.

6.9 BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORTS

A. July 2025 Financial Report

Motion by President Barisonzi to receive the report. Seconded by Manager Kuplic. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2022 Audit Governance Letter

Referred to Finance Committee for further review.

C. 2022 Annual Financial Report

Action Item: Finance Committee to provide recommendation at next regular meeting.

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6.10 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INITIATIVES

6.11 Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Lower MN River East WBIF

Discussion on new BWSR funding structure. *Staff to engage with East WBIF planning team and report back on governance structure.*

9. OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

A. Calendar and Upcoming Events

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Manager Viswanathan. Seconded by Manager Salvato. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025.