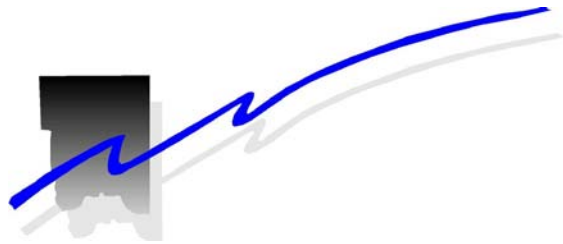


## Ramsey Conservation District



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### Minutes of the **Board of Supervisors Regular Board Meeting** held April 9, 2010.

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Wasley at 2:00 p.m.

A. Roll of Attendance

**Supervisors present:**

Karen Eckman  
Nick Quade, arrived at 2:08 pm  
Carrie Wasley  
Mara Humphrey, arrived at 3:15 pm, with notice  
Margaret Behrens

**Others present:**

Tom Petersen, RCD Staff  
Ann WhiteEagle, RCD Staff  
Ryan Johnson, RCD Staff  
Mike Goodnature, RCD Staff  
Bob Simonet, St. Paul resident

B. Review of Agenda: Manager Petersen requested moving Action Items d. MASWCD Resolution and f. Native Buffer FY09 Cost Share Project Encumbrances to Staff Reports and adding g. Hill Murray DNR Request to the agenda. **Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Behrens seconded to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Staff Reports: The Board was sent a report detailing the major activities of staff members, prior to the meeting. The staff was present to answer any questions on the staff reports, as well as provide information for two board resolutions.

MASWCD Resolution: Manager Petersen and Mr. Goodnature presented the Board with background information on the former joint powers agreement with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and six SWCDs (including the RCD) to perform National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit site inspections. Due to legislative reductions for the MPCA, the program ended at the end of June, 2009. The staff would like to see the program reinstated. **Resolution 10-04-01.** Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Behrens seconded. **Resolved the Board approved the following resolution for submittal to the Area IV association of SWCDs:**

**Whereas,** Soil erosion from construction site land disturbance activities can produce soil erosion rates in excess of 200 tons per acre; and

**Whereas,** Sediment is the leading cause of surface water quality and storm water conveyance system degradation; and

**Whereas,** The MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required, by Federal regulations (EPA), to implement controls (the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Construction Storm water Permit ) to control soil erosion and sedimentation from construction sites that are 1 acre or larger in size; and

**Whereas,** Six SWCDs (Dakota, Ramsey, Carver, Crow Wing, Rice, and South St. Louis) assisted the MPCA implement the Construction Storm water Permit program, through a joint powers agreement, for the period of January 2005 through June 2009; and

**Whereas,** The joint powers agreements between the MPCA and the six SWCDs provided up to \$50,000.00 annual revenue for permit inspection services provided by the Districts'; and

**Whereas,** It is widely known and documented that the partnerships with the six SWCDs established a condition for superior permit compliance and performance that exceeded program expectations by the MPCA; and

**Whereas,** The Governor's FY-2010/2011 Budget included funding to continue the joint powers program with the six SWCDs; and

**Whereas,** The joint powers program was dropped from the MPCA's FY-2010/2011 budget proposal in June of 2009 as a result of the Legislature removing it from the FY-2010.2011 budget; and

**Whereas,** The loss of this program has resulted in fewer Construction Storm water Permit site inspections and a resulting loss in efficiencies afforded by utilizing local SWCDs.

**Now Therefore Be It resolved,** The MASWCD will actively seek, the Governor's and Legislature's support to reinstate the MPCA, NPDES Construction Storm water Permit Inspection Joint Powers Agreement program with local units of government for the State FY- 2012 and 2013 MPCA budget.

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

Native Buffer FY09 Cost Share Project Encumbrances: Mr. Johnson explained two new shoreline restoration projects that are seeking cost share funding. **Resolution 10-04-02.** Supervisor Behrens moved and Supervisor Eckman seconded. Resolved the Board approved the following resolution:

**Resolved the Board approved the following resolution:** The MN BWSR has provided \$150,000 in FY09 Native Buffer Cost-Share funding to the RCD for the restoration of eroded shorelines on lakes within Ramsey County; and Whereas, the BWSR cost-share shall not exceed 75% of the total construction cost and the RCD shall utilize 20% of the BWSR cost-share grant for technical and administrative costs incurred by the RCD staff; and Whereas, the RCD Board of Supervisors designates, Ryan Johnson, District Staff, as the technical representative for these projects.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the RCD Board agrees to enter into BWSR cost-share agreements with the following:

1. Stephanie McNamara of Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) at 800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 for the Whitaker Pond Project.  
Contract#: NBFY-09-09, Conservation Practice: 342 & 643 Total Project Cost: \$10,216.00 BWSR cost-share: 75%/\$7,662.00, T&A Amount: 20%/\$1,915.50. The project must be started by September 30, 2010 and completed by November 30, 2010.
2. Stephanie McNamara of Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) at 800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 for the Birch Lake Shoreline Project.  
Contract#: NBFY-09-10, Conservation Practice: 342 & 643 Total Project Cost: \$9,310.00 BWSR cost-share: 75%/\$6,982.50, T&A Amount: 20%/\$1,745.63. The project must be started by September 30, 2010 and completed by November 30, 2010.

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

3. Approval of Standing Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting March 12, 2010: **Motion by Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Quade seconded to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2010.**

Voting in favor of the resolution: Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: Behrens

Treasury Report: Abbreviated 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010 estimate: Ms. WhiteEagle provided a financial summary for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, explaining that not all of the payroll expenses had posted yet. She further stated that the RCD was on track to come in at or below the budget of \$367K.

4. Action Items

a. Supervisor Per Diem Policy 2010: The Board established a per diem maximum of \$150 per month at the January 2010 Board Meeting, but because there would be a number of special meetings planned for April and May, the Board was sent several options for increasing the per diem and yet stay under budget. Supervisor Behrens moved and Supervisor Quade seconded to amend the per diem policy for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010. The motion failed. **Resolution 10-04-03.** Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Quade seconded. **Resolved the Board approved increasing the per diem to \$225 per month for April and May, 2010.**

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

b. Supervisor 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 Expense Claim Reimbursement: Manager Petersen reiterated the Board policy to limit per diem to \$150 per month, except for the April and May exception, and the policy to establish mileage from the Supervisor's residence to the approved meeting location and back. He clarified that he wouldn't sign an expense claim that was not compliant these policy guidelines. Supervisor Behrens reduced her January 2010 per diem to \$150. **Resolution 10-04-04.** Supervisor Eckman moved and Supervisor Quade seconded. **Resolved the Board approved 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010 expense claims as submitted by Supervisors Behrens, Eckman, Humphrey, and Wasley, subject to approval of mileage audit and corrections per board policy as completed by Manager Petersen.**

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

c. Phalen Waterfest Participation & Funding Approval: **Resolution 10-04-05.** Supervisor Quade moved and Supervisor Behrens seconded. **Resolved the Board approved participation in the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Phalen Waterfest, along with \$100 contribution and up to \$150 for the plant give-a-way.**

Voting in favor of the resolution: Behrens, Eckman, Quade, and Wasley – Voting against: none – Abstaining: none

d. MASWCD Resolution: Previously covered in the meeting.

e. Approve new Board Meeting Time: Supervisor Quade stated that he preferred an earlier meeting time. By consensus the Board established 9:00am on the second Friday as the Regular Board Meeting time.

f. Native Buffer FY09 Cost Share Project Encumbrance: Previously covered in the meeting.

g. Hill Murray DNR Request: Manager Petersen explained that the DNR sent a request for comment on a recent water appropriation permit application from Hill Murray High School. The school would be using groundwater to irrigate their athletic fields and estimated that it would amount to over 6 million gallons per year. Manager Petersen suggested recommending the DNR approve of the permit, with the stipulation that BMPs, to conserve water and reduce the need to irrigate, would be strongly encouraged. He also encouraged the Board to establish a policy statement on the use of groundwater as related to DNR groundwater appropriation permits for irrigation. Supervisor Eckman asked how long the permit was for. Supervisor Quade asked if other high schools and colleges in Ramsey County use this practice for watering athletic fields. Supervisor Behrens stated that this was a luxury expense of groundwater. Supervisor Wasley explained that she would like to have more information before constructing a policy statement on the use of groundwater. **Resolution 10-04-06.** Supervisor Behrens moved and Supervisor Eckman seconded. **Resolved the Board recommended approval of the Hill Murray DNR request, with strong encouragement in the use of BMPs and subject to the Board's review of the written response prepared by Manager Petersen.**

5. Standing Committee Reports

A. Metro Area Conservation District – Eckman/Wasley

Manager Petersen stated that Mr. Goodnature will be creating the posters for the Metro SWCD booth at the Living Green Expo on May 1 & 2. Action Step: Manager Petersen will send a sign-up schedule to the other SWCDs that will be assisting with the booth. Manager Petersen also summarized the last MCD Manager's meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated that the SRP projects will most likely not be reimbursed until 2011.

- B. Rice Creek Advisory Committee – Quade
- C. Watershed Advisory Commission (RWMWD Advisory Committee) – Wasley/Behren
- D. Capitol Region Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee – Eckman/Quade  
Supervisor Quade will attend the next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Legislative Committee – Committee of the whole
- F. RCLLG – Behrens/Humphrey

6. Natural Resource Conservation Service Report (NRCS): Manager Petersen stated that Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter and Capitol Region Watershed District Board Manager Seitu Jones were both interested in “High Tunnels” for public gardening projects in the Frogtown area of St. Paul.

7. Updates

- a. Living Green Expo: Manager Petersen will send a sign-up sheet.
- b. BWSR 2011 Budget Reductions: Manager Petersen handed out a sheet on projected reductions in grant revenue as a result of the legislative cuts to the BWSR budget.
- c. 2010 RCD Supervisor Elections: Manager Petersen has prepared a public service announcement for the Supervisor positions open for re-election for the RCD. Action Step: Ms. WhiteEagle will put a link on the RCD web site to the candidates “bios” on the Ramsey County web site, once they are available.

8. Board Review & Comment on Manager's 2010 Work Plan Priorities: The Board reviewed the work plan submitted by Manager Petersen. Supervisor Eckman requested that he add a financial goal in order to meet the salaries of the current budget. **Action Step:** Manager Petersen will add a dollar value on goal #1 of his work plan. He will also find and send the Groundwater Plan delegation document to Ramsey County Manager, Julie Kleinschmidt. Manager Petersen also stated that he will be attending wetland delineation training in May, so that he may complete the professional delineation certification by the end of the year. The Board also discussed the value of having a “Tour” to view different RCD programs/projects, such as observation wells, raingardens, and wetland delineations. The RCD staff will plan for a tour, tentatively at the end of July for the Board and possibly the Ramsey County Board.

9. Next Regular Meeting Date – Friday, May 14, 2010 at 9:00a.m.

10. Adjournment: Chair Wasley adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by  
Ann WhiteEagle  
Office Manager