

Stephen Schmaltz	X			
------------------	---	--	--	--

37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63

3. New Business

a) DNR Angler Study

The MN DNR is requesting to store a boat on Comfort Lake related to its work to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and its angler survey work on the lake.

Tori Philippi explained the angler study that will be taking place on 9 lakes in Chisago County, including Comfort Lake. Manager Schmaltz gave insight into creel-type angler studies and how helpful they can be.

b) Redpath Quote for Budget Plan Assistance

President Anderson discussed an email from Redpath about the 10-Year Financial Management Plan. The quote is \$3,500. Redpath would review revenues and expenses over the next 10 years; additionally, inflation and property taxes would be included in the study. Redpath is aware that the District may not want to fill financial gaps with the tax levy. Manager Bakke asked about Redpath attending a meeting. President Anderson indicated this would take place July 28th, 2025. Redpath would meet with staff and managers to collect information.

President Anderson moved to authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement with Redpath for budget preparation services in an amount not to exceed \$3,500. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71

c) Legal Counsel Note About Implementing District Initiatives Thru the WMP

Attorney Holtman explained that anything that is funded by the levy must have a basis in the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). With specific reference to the Flood Resiliency Action Plan and, later, the Greenbelt plan, the District will want to incorporate the plans into the WMP and establish the basis for specific projects in the WMP implementation plan. The amendment process involves sharing proposed WMP

72 revisions with state agencies and local units of government and providing for public
73 hearing and comment.

74
75 Manager Schmaltz asked if incorporating the Flood Resiliency Action Plan requires a
76 formal WMP amendment. Administrator Kinney stated that watershed management
77 plan amendments are common and expected over the ten-year life of the plan.
78 Emily Heinz clarified that the WMP indicates the District will complete a floodplain
79 vulnerability assessment, but all of the resulting projects may not be specifically
80 articulated in the WMP at this time. Mr. Holtman advised that the WMP need not
81 identify projects with an excessive level of precision, but they must be defined to a
82 certain extent. He recommended that staff review the existing WMP to gauge the
83 scope of amendment that would be appropriate.

84 85 **4. Old Business**

86 **a) Flood Resiliency Action Plan**

87
88 Cecilio Olivier presented the Flood Resiliency Action Plan. Priority areas have been
89 established within the District. The plan focuses on the Forest Lake urban area,
90 Sunrise River corridor, Little Comfort Lake, and Shields Lake area. The results
91 demonstrated that there is no critical infrastructure (e.g., fire and police stations,
92 water towers, schools) at risk in these areas. Projections indicate that there are likely
93 to be issues with roadway flooding. Mr. Olivier stated that city infrastructure was
94 designed and installed years ago and is based on outdated rainfall and stormwater
95 volume estimates. Using the latest data, the model demonstrates that the
96 stormwater conveyance system will not be able to handle flow, and localized
97 flooding is expected.

98
99 Mr. Olivier then spoke about key considerations, including factors outside of the
100 District's control, such as participation, roles, and responsibilities among
101 stakeholders.

102
103 The anticipated benefits of the proposed mitigation actions include: 10-year flood
104 reduction (footprint and depth), localized flooding footprint gets reduced by 80-90%,
105 eliminate potential for building inundation of 35-60 buildings, reduce roadway
106 overtopping by 30-50%, and lowering of peak channel velocities by 10-15%.

107
108 Mr. Olivier completed the presentation by stating that the stormwater network is
109 currently undersized. While no critical infrastructure would be affected in a flood
110 event, roads would be overtopped. He stated that actions can be taken to mitigate
111 potential flooding.

112
113 Manager Toavs asked whether site 9, as identified in the plan, is considered a
114 potential water storage area, and this was confirmed by Mr.. Olivier. Manager

115 Schmaltz asked about sites owned by a city, who pays for action items, and the
116 probability of a city getting grants for projects like this. Mr. Olivier stated that the
117 District should be a participant in the potential projects and that retrofit projects are
118 difficult to get grants for but it is a possibility. President Anderson asked about
119 flooding in the neighborhoods near Bixby Park and potential steps moving forward.
120 Mr. Olivier explained actions performed upstream will help reduce flooding issues at
121 Bixby Park. He noted that a MnDOT culvert is a downgradient constraint, and that the
122 District's prior project improved flood conditions. President Anderson asked that, for
123 residents' benefit, the plan speak a bit more specifically to this area of concern.

124

125 The Board did not take action on the Floodplain Resiliency Action Plan. This item will
126 be added to the next regular board meeting agenda so as to give board members
127 more time to review.

128

129 **b) Greenbelt & Open Space Plan Scope of Work**

130

131 Kevin Biehn presented on the Greenbelt and Open Space Plan scope of work. There
132 are three points of view of this work; conservation, water resource projects, and
133 public use. Mr. Biehn listed five tasks that could be included in work moving forward:

134

135 Task 1: Further Develop Greenway Typologies and Capital Improvement
136 Projects

137 Task 2: Cost/ Benefit Analysis and Compare and Contrast Approaches

138 Task 3: Probable District and Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

139 Task 4: Board Workshops

140 Task 5: Greenway Visioning Booklet (tangible product that can be delivered
141 to stakeholders, landowners, constituents)

142

143 The total cost for EOR to perform the five tasks is \$89,578.

144

145 President Anderson spoke about making projects comprehensive, with 3 to 4 entities
146 working together and the District as lead coordinator. She mentioned partnerships
147 make grant applications more competitive. Manager Schmaltz asked about projects
148 similar in other areas, the economic impact, and how funding would work.
149 Administrator Kinney stated that organizations that had received federal dollars in
150 the past will now be entering competitive grants, and this could make it harder for
151 the District to receive grants. Manager Toavs stated that greenspace is coveted in
152 many communities, and he is considering how the communities in the District feel
153 about this topic. Mr. Biehn noted that grant funding often values inclusion of public
154 use in a project. President Anderson stated that it is important to have a central
155 leader on a project of this size and the importance of having materials prepared,
156 such as a brochure.

157

158 The Board did not take action on the scope of work. This item will be discussed in
159 the context of the annual budget.

160
161 **c) Annual Review of Crisis Communication Plan**

162
163 Emily Heinz presented a brief review of the Crisis Communication Plan. Managers
164 can acquire a copy from Ms. Philippi. A crisis can be defined as any situation that
165 threatens to harm the life, health, or well-being of people and natural resources
166 within watershed boundaries, as well as any situation that has the potential to
167 damage the District's reputation or ability to operate.

168
169 President Anderson encouraged managers to take home their guide and read it for
170 a discussion at a future meeting.

171
172 **5. Program/Project Update**

173
174 **a) Project Update**

175
176 Administrator Mike Kinney gave an update on projects; most are in planning or
177 maintenance stage at this time.

178
179 **b) Program Update – Watershed Planning & Resiliency**

180
181 Ms. Heinz presented a slide with planning documents and correlating hyperlinks.

182
183
184 **6. Report of Managers**

185
186 Manager Schmaltz reported he received a message from DNR personnel about a
187 fisheries study, and the fish population is doing well. Manager Bakke discussed a
188 meeting that took place about progress on SMART goals as part of the Administrator's
189 quarterly review. The Administrator's 3rd quarterly review will take place at the end of
190 September and 4th quarterly review at the end of 2025.

191
192 **7. Summary and Approval of Board Direction**

193
194 Board directives were summarized:

- 195
196
- 197 • Staff and EOR will seek to provide more specificity with respect to how flood
198 resiliency actions will benefit the neighborhood near Bixby Park.
 - 199 • Staff will evaluate the needs and scope of a potential watershed management
200 plan amendment relating to recent planning efforts, particularly flood resiliency
projects.

201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210

8. Adjourn

- a) Next special board meeting – July 14, 2025, 6:00 pm
- b) Next regular board meeting – July 24, 2025, 6:30 pm

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

211
212

Dave Bakke, Secretary -----