

Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

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3. New Business

a) MN Water Resources Conference Manager Registration

Manager Bakke recommended that due to budget restrictions, the Board not approve any expenditures for Board members to attend the University of Minnesota Water Resources Conference in October.

Manager Bakke moved not to approve expenditures for members of the Board to attend the 2025 MN Water Resources Conference. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

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

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b) Watershed Implementation Funding Agreement Extension

The matter before the Board is a three-year extension of the partner funding agreement for the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant awards through the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP).

The extension would allow the District to receive WBIF grant awards through the Partnership’s grant fiscal agent, Chisago SWCD.

Manager Toavs moved to authorize the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to enter into an agreement with Chisago SWCD for Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

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

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4. Old Business

a) Building Architect Consultants

Given the 2026 budget projections, President Anderson invited discussion about delaying the pre-design work for a new District office building to 2026, or attempting to cover the design and construction costs with grant funding. She also favors working with the owner of the current office space to construct a new office space to be built to the District’s needs and specifications, and leased to the District.

Manager Bakke noted that the budget for professional services related to architectural design has already been overspent and spoke in favor of delaying building planning to 2026. Mr. Kreilich said he is excited to support the District’s vision, whether it be now or in the future.

Ms. Heinz added that the proposal would not change, just begin at a later time. Not many grants will cover costs for architectural services, but large grants such as the one the District is seeking from the Bush Foundation may offset local spending and thereby free up levy dollars that could be used for this purpose.

President Anderson is hopeful that if the District receives funding from the Bush Foundation, its broad parameters for education and outreach may make it applicable toward design and building costs.

Manager Loth recommended postponing the decision for a few months in consideration of the budget and pending more information on the potential Bush Foundation grant.

President Anderson moved to postpone action on engaging architectural services until a later date when more funding information is available. Seconded by Manager Toavs. The motion carried 4-0.

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

b) 2026 Budget & Accomplishments Outreach

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103 Mr. Hjelm and Ms. Heinz have created an outreach plan to communicate information
104 about the proposed 2026 budget to members of the public. A public hearing for the
105 budget is set for September 25, which is when the Board intends to adopt the 2026
106 budget. Those interested in attending via Zoom must preregister on the District
107 website to attend and participate.

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109 President Anderson recommended keeping the messaging brief and mentioned that
110 similar topics will be addressed at the State of the Watershed event on September
111 30.

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113 **5. Program and Project Update**

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115 **a) Project Update**

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117 Ms. Heinz gave an overview of current projects. The Heath Avenue Iron Enhanced
118 Sand Filter is in the design phase, and currently under review by the City of Wyoming.
119 Construction is planned for 2026.

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121 The second phase of the Forest Lake alum treatment is planned for early October.
122 This will include a public presentation at the Forest Lake Senior Center on October 2.

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124 President Anderson asked for an update on connecting with residents in the
125 neighborhood bordering Bixby Park. She directed that staff set up a time to meet with
126 residents and invite Board members to be present. Ms. Heinz said this will most likely
127 take place before the State of the Watershed event on September 30, and staff will
128 be sure to share the invitation with the Board.

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131 **b) Program Update – Grant Research and Preparation**

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133 Ms. Heinz explained that grants are one of the largest sources of revenue used by the
134 District, in addition to the tax levy and loans. In recent years the District has taken out
135 low-interest and no-interest Clean Water Partnership loans. The District has a
136 repayment schedule over the next 9 years, and in the meantime the grants have
137 come into focus as another source of revenue that could be increased.

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139 The Heath Avenue Iron Enhanced Sand Filter project was awarded a competitive
140 grant of nearly \$1.5 million from the Clean Water Fund. Ten years ago, this amount
141 was close to the District's entire operating budget. The District has taken on bigger
142 and bigger projects since then and continues to increase its scale.

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144 Success in achieving the targeted water quality benefits has followed.

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146 These kinds of projects will continue, but the District will also look toward projects with
147 even wider scope such as flood resiliency, greenbelt and open space protection, and
148 land acquisition and restoration.

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150 **6. Report of Officers and Managers**

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152 This is Manager Loth's final meeting as a Board member. He thanked the members
153 of the staff and the other managers for the opportunity to serve the community in
154 this way. The other members of the Board in turn commended his service and
155 thanked him.

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157 Manager Bakke thanked Citizen Advisory Committee members Ted Hanson, Tom
158 Furey, and Randy Schumacher for their expertise and feedback shared with the
159 Board during the 2026 budget planning process. He also welcomed Jim Schottmuller,
160 newly appointed by the Washington County Board of Commissioners, to the Board.
161 He will take his oath of office at the September 25 regular board meeting.

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163 Manager Toavs shared that he attended a Chisago City meeting that provided an
164 overview of the planned MNDOT Highway 8 expansion project. Mike Sandager shared
165 that staff met with MNDOT consultants in early September and discussed concerns
166 about reducing roadway runoff and invited MNDOT representatives to attend a future
167 Board meeting.

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170 **7. Summary and Approval of Board Direction**

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172 The following board directive was summarized:

- 173 • Staff will continue to prepare materials for residents near Bixby Park and
174 will invite the managers to meet with that group of neighbors.

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176 **8. Adjourn**

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178 **a) Next regular board meeting September 25, 2025, 6:30 pm**

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180 Manager Toavs moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Loth. Upon a
181 roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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

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184 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----