

**Regular Meeting
South Washington Watershed District
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:00 p.m.
City of Woodbury Public Works Building**

1. Call to Order and Setting of Agenda

Manager Doucette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to approve the Agenda. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call:

- Sharon Doucette, President
- Mike Madigan, Secretary
- Brian Johnson, Manager

Staff:

- John Loomis, Administrator
- Melissa Imse, Operations Manager
- Kyle Axtell, Watershed Project Manager
- Abby Tekiela, Water Resources Program Coordinator
- Tony Randazzo, Watershed Restoration Specialist

Others:

- Jack Clinton, SWWD Attorney
- David Clausen, City of Cottage Grove Councilmember

2. Public Open Forum. Councilmember, David Clausen with the City of Cottage Grove introduced himself as the City liaison to SWWD.

3. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda include: February 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes, February Claims Roster and Treasurer's Report: accounts payable \$414,320.47, accounts receivable \$42,649.23, 4M fund balance \$10,191,901.45, Calendar of Events, Development Reviews, Wetland Conservation Act, Cost Share, and Miscellaneous Correspondence. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Manager's Report

Manager Doucette—Manager Doucette reported that she and Manager Stephens met with Cottage Grove City Staff and SWWD Staff regarding possible property acquisition around Vanderberg Lake.

Manager Madigan—None.

Manager Johnson—Manager Johnson reported that he attended the Woodbury Commission meeting.

5. Administrator Report

SWWD Project Updates. Included in the board packet are project updates on: Trout Brook, Glacial Valley Park and Open space, Campus Greening, Wilmes Lake Alum Treatment Facility, Hasenbank Woods/Powers Lake BMP, St. Paul Park Public Works Underground BMP, Markgrafs Lake Retrofit Analysis, Colby Lake Retrofit Analysis, Northern Watershed/CDSF/East Ravine Review and Optimization, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, CR74-65th and Geneva, Watershed

Plan Update, In-Lake AIS Management, Newport Open Space Planning, and Armstrong Lake Wetland Cattail Harvesting.

3M Priority 2 Funding. The Minnesota DNR has published a Request for Proposals for the 3M PFAS Settlement Priority 2 Grant Program. The first phase involves submitting Letters of Interest by April 4, 2025. Eligible projects must help to achieve one or more of the Priority 2 settlement goals:

- **Goal 1** – Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic and terrestrial resources, wildlife, and habitats.
- **Goal 2** – Increase understanding of fish tissue contamination, improve communication about PFAS-based fish consumption advisories, and identify and enhance alternative, non-contaminated fishing areas.
- **Goal 3** – Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

Applicants can apply for no less than \$20,000 per project. No match is required, although leveraged funding is part of the review process. 50% or more of the proposed project activities must take place within the Priority 2 Project Area (see attached map).

SWWD staff have begun preparing its own applications in addition to surveying partners to learn about potential applications that could involve SWWD. These are the projects that SWWD staff are currently considering:

- Lower Grey Cloud Slough Habitat Improvement Project; partnership with DNR & ACOE, possibly Cottage Grove and Washington County (up to \$4 million request)
- SWWD Glacial Valley Park Interpretive Center (up to \$1.5 million request)
CR74 Ravine Stabilization; partnership with Washington County & Marathon Refinery (\$300,000 request).

Vanderberg Lake. SWWD Managers and Staff met with Cottage Grove City Staff and Steven Geis regarding possible property acquisition around Vanderberg Lake. The SWWD is interested in 50 acres for conservation and restoration. The City of Cottage is also interested in purchasing land for dedicated park space. No action taken by the Board.

City of Cottage Grove Street Sweeping Program. City of Cottage Grove began implementing its enhanced sweeping program in 2024. Because of the late summer windstorm and subsequent cleanup, enhanced sweeping was limited. Much of the material that would have been picked up did end up getting picked up as part of the City's baseline sweeping program following extended dry weather. SWWD does not reimburse Cities for their baseline sweeping programs.

Between baseline and enhanced sweeping efforts, the City of Cottage Grove collected 1,387 tons of material and an estimated 1,052 lbs of phosphorus. The City has requested reimbursement of \$8,530.39 which the District will pay under the existing agreement.

Agreements Authorized by Administrator. SWWD's accounting policies authorizes the Administrator to approve purchases up to \$5,000 on behalf of the District. No agreements were approved for February.

6. **Minnesota Watersheds Special Meeting.** The Minnesota Watersheds is holding a special meeting of its membership on Friday March 21 in Waite Park to consider proposed bylaws changes. The Board can appoint up to 2 managers as SWWD delegates for the meeting. Manager Madigan and Manager Johnson volunteered to serve as the SWWD delegates.

- 7. 2024 Aquatic Vegetation Survey Results and the 2025 AIS Management Professional Services.** In 2024, Stantec Consulting Services conducted aquatic plant surveys across eight lakes within the South Washington Watershed District, with two surveys per lake, one in June and another in August. These surveys aimed to assess aquatic plant communities and invasive species (AIS) presence in the early and late seasons. The survey found that many lakes were highly vegetated, with the littoral zones generally covered by aquatic plants. Armstrong Lake exhibited the highest species richness (14 species), while Ravine and Markgrafs Lakes had the lowest (7), with higher AIS abundance in Bailey, Powers, and Ravine Lakes. EWM and CLP are known invasive species in District Lakes, and all lakes sampled had one or both species present. Lakes such as Colby and La had no CLP detected in either survey. The survey also included AIS treatment and removal strategies, with recommendations for 2025 management based on DNR Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) guidelines. These recommendations include continued monitoring and additional management actions. Vegetation management in 2025 will build upon the work completed in 2024 with Stantec Consulting, proposed tasks are outlined in the Scope of Work for 2025 Lake Vegetation Monitoring and Management. AIS management tasks will include early and late season surveys, herbicide treatment, monitoring report, and general project management. An aquatic plant transplant event has also been proposed for Ravine Lake and included in the 2025 scope. The financial implication of the proposed 2025 scope of work is \$59,562. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to approve the 2025 AIS Management agreement with Stantec for up to \$59,562. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8. Cottage Grove Still Ponds Natural Resource Management Plan.** The SWWD is working with the City of Cottage Grove to provide technical assistance at Still Ponds Park to restore and enhance the ecological integrity of the natural communities. In order to continue with sound ecological planning and restoration efforts, and apply for grant funding, the SWWD has requested that the Washington Conservation District develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). This plan will provide an assessment of current conditions, future prescribed natural communities, management and installation strategies and cost estimates to be used by the City to pursue grant funding opportunities. The Still Ponds Park site fits within the SWWD management strategy of supporting healthy ecological communities through protection of high-quality natural communities that include open water, wetland and upland types. A motion was made by Manager Madigan to approve the Cottage Grove Still Ponds Natural Resource Management Plan Task Order with WCD for up to \$7,500. Manager Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9. Glacial Valley Park/CDSF Vegetation Management Addendum.** The SWWD manages approximately 250 acres of natural open spaces as part of the Glacial Valley Park stormwater and park facility. Areas surrounding the Cedarhurst developments in Cottage Grove were not included in the original management areas but are owned by the Watershed District. SWWD staff have been working with a contractor to restore these areas for the past three growing seasons. Establishment has been spotty but is progressing. Great River Greening (GRG) has been managing the bulk of the Glacial Valley Park site. This addendum to the 2022 contract with GRG will incorporate the continued establishment of 4.2 acres into GRG management activities. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to approve the Addendum to the SWWD GVP and Ravine Parkway maintenance contract with Great River Greening for up to \$8,500. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10. Campus Greening Vegetation Maintenance Contract.** Campus Greening projects are well established throughout the South Washington School District but persistent establishment and maintenances concerns remain as current restoration contracts expire. This contract will provide additional establishment and management needs on three of the

campus (Crestview, Valley Crossing and Nuevas Fronteras Elementary Schools) by Great River Greening crews. Activities will primarily involve spot mowing and herbicide treatments of persistent weed species to support continued establishment of native plant communities. This effort will also include a woodland/savanna prescribed burn in the Outdoor Laboratory area at Crestview Elementary School. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to approve the contract with Great River Greening the Campus Greening Vegetation maintenance for up to \$24,900. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Wilmes Alum Treatment Facility-Morcon Change Order 5.** The clay liner installed in the settling basin at this facility has failed to meet specifications. The contractor has been notified in writing by the engineer of this situation. Two offers were made, to either leave it as-is and have the contractor accept a 50% line item deduct (\$29,660) for defective work or have the contractor install an LLDPE liner to correct the problem, at a discount. Morcon has elected to install a new LLDPE liner. Morcon's original estimate for Change Order 5 was \$162,255. Our team has negotiated that cost down to \$125,555 (a savings of \$36,700). There may be some minor adjustments to the final cost before we are done negotiating. We also anticipate adjusting the substantial and final completion dates to late May or early June 2025. The LLDPE liner requires consistent ambient temperatures to exceed 60 degrees for proper installation. We understand that the materials associated with the LLDPE liner may require a 6-8 week lead time. As time is of the essence, staff requests that the Board authorize the Administrator to execute Morcon Change Order 5 for an amount not to exceed \$130,000. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to authorize the District Administrator to sign Morcon's change order 5 if it is in the best interest for the District to do so. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Future Business and Meetings.

- a) Minnesota Watersheds membership meeting, Friday, March 21, 2025 Waite Park
- b) CAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:30pm
- c) CAC Meeting (if needed for CCIP review), Tuesday, April 1, 2025 5:30pm
- d) Brian Johnson Recognition, Tuesday, April 8 5pm
- e) Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6pm
- f) Board Workshop and Regular Board Meeting, May 13, 2025 5pm

13. Adjourn

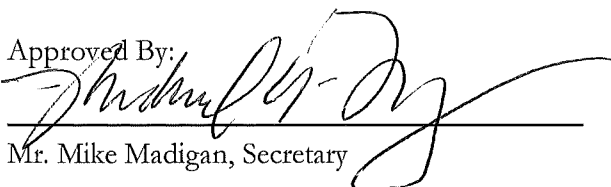
The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Manager Johnson to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Manager Madigan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Imse

Melissa Imse, Operations Manager

Approved By:


Mr. Mike Madigan, Secretary

4-8-2025
Date