

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, October 9th, 2025

6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach; Rachel Dana, West Lakeland; Dave Millard, Lakeland; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD

Call to Order

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager Collins motioned to approve the agenda. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Collins motioned to approve the draft August 14th, 2025 board meeting minutes, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance as of October 9, 2025 was \$40,500.30. First Bank CD's were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from August was \$99,930. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for October 9th, 2025. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bills to approve for October are five bills to the Washington Conservation District for admin, watershed plan, water monitoring, EMWREP, and technical services totaling \$22,147.57.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve payment of bills for \$22,147.57 to the Washington Conservation District for October 9th, 2025. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment

None

Watershed Management Plan Update

See staff report

Old Business

None

New Business

2025 County Budget Summary

This is an informational item. Included in the board packet is the power point slide that will be presented at the 2025 County Budget Summary. The slide shows the St. Croix United Church Bioretention Project and includes a list of partners on the project, budget and funding, timeline, and outcomes with before and after photos. Manager Zeller states there is a new Commissioner and will attend the meeting if able.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

ArtReach St. Croix Stewardship Grant Reimbursement

On April 10th the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$500 for the installation of a 350 square-foot native pollinator garden to provide habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife on the ArtReach St. Croix property located at 224 4th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082. The ArtReach St. Croix staff completed the installation of the garden in August of 2025 with a total project cost of \$632.82.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve reimbursement of \$500.00 cost share for the installation of the ArtReach St. Croix Pollinator Garden Project at 224 4th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

McCready Stewardship Grant Reimbursement

On February, 2025 the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$500 for the enhancement of a 0.5-acre woodland located on the property of Andrea McCready (132 7th St, in Bayport) less than a half mile from the St. Croix Savanna Scientific and Natural Area. The landowner hired Edge Ecosystems to complete the enhancement work in June and August of 2025 with a total project cost of \$715.28. Work consisted of woody invasive species removal and vegetation management to reduce non-native species competition and promote regeneration of native woodland species within a high-quality ecological corridor.

Manager Collins motioned to approve reimbursement of \$500.00 cost share for the implementation of the McCready Woodland Enhancement Project at 132 7th St S, Bayport, MN 55003. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Afton-Lakeland Elementary Stewardship Grant Request

Afton-Lakeland Elementary principal Gina Doe is applying for a 2025 MSCWMO Stewardship Grant to install a 300 square-foot of pollinator garden and enhance a 4,500 pollinator meadow on the school's campus to provide environmental education opportunities for students. The school PTA will also be incorporating a hammock garden and little free library adjacent to the pollinator meadow for a more interactive student experience. Stewardship Grant funds will be used to reimburse for native plant and seed purchases. The project is supported in part by an FY25 Pollinator Pathways grant received through the Washington Conservation District. Total project estimate is \$8,609.83 and cost share requested is \$500.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$500.00 cost share for the Afton-Lakeland Elementary Pollinator Gardens project at 475 St Croix Trail S, Lakeland, MN 55043. Manager Millard seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Lily Lake Elementary Stewardship Grant Request

Lily Lake Elementary school principal Bill Gronseth is applying for a 2025 MSCWMO Stewardship Grant to covert approximately 1,310 square feet of existing turf and degraded ornamental garden space to native pollinator gardens. These native pollinator gardens will frame the entrance to the school and provide environmental education opportunities for students. Stewardship Grant funds will be used to reimburse for native plant purchases. The project is supported in part by an FY25 Pollinator Pathways grant received through the Washington Conservation District. Total project estimate is \$5,500.00 and cost share requested is \$500.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$500.00 cost share for the Lily Lake Elementary Pollinator Garden Project at 2003 W Willard St, Stillwater, MN 55082. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bayport Fire Station Turf-to-Prairie Water Quality Improvement Grant Request

The City of Bayport is applying for a 2025 MSCWMO Water Quality Improvement Grant to covert approximately 1.42 acres of turf to native prairie under an existing solar array at the Bayport Fire Station property, 1012 5th Ave N, Bayport, MN 55003. The project is expected to reduce TP loading to Perro Creek and Perro Pond by approximately 0.48 lbs/yr while providing nesting and forage resources to birds, pollinators and other wildlife. The City has hired Natural Resource Services (NRS) to perform the site preparation and installation work with seed installation anticipated in fall of 2025. Total project estimate is \$3,895.00 and cost share requested is \$1,200.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$1,200.00 cost share for the Bayport Fire Station Turf-to-Prairie Restoration project at 1012 5th Ave N, Bayport, MN 55003.

Youmans Stewardship Grant Request

Stillwater residents Zack and Ingrid Youmans are applying for a 2025 MSCWMO Stewardship Grant to covert approximately 800 square feet of existing turf in the back yard to prairie on their property. Stewardship Grant funds will be used to reimburse for native plant and seed purchases, as well as erosion and sediment control material. The goal of the project is to reduce runoff volume from the property and to provide diverse pollen and nectar resources to pollinators throughout the season. Total project estimate is \$776.00 and cost share requested is \$500.00.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve encumbrance of \$500.00 cost share for the Youmans Turf-to-Prairie project at 7890 Newberry Ct N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Youmans Stewardship Grant Reimbursement

On September 11th, 2025 the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$500 for the Zack and Ingrid Youmans Native Landscaping Project, including 800 square feet of turf-to-native prairie conversion on the Youmans property located at Newberry Ct N in Stillwater. The landowner completed the project in September of 2025 with a total project cost of \$496.68. Over 140 native perennial plants were installed as a part of the project to provide pollen and nectar resources to pollinators from spring through fall.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve reimbursement of \$496.68 cost share for the installation of the Youmans Native Landscaping Project at 7890 Newberry Ct N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

Lumberjack Landing Shoreline Rehabilitation

Submittal items were received on September 15th, 2025 and revised materials on October 2nd, 2025 for the shoreline rehabilitation project located at Lumberjack Landing within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Stillwater. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves since it involves movement of 100 cubic yards of material and work within public water buffers. MSCWMO staff recommends board approval.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the Lumberjack Landing Shoreline Rehabilitation project. Manager Millard seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Central Automotive Parking Lot Addition

Submittal items were received on July 31st, 2025 for a proposed parking lot expansion at 14819 59th Street N within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Oak Park Heights. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2015 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) since it involves construction of more than 6,000 square feet of impervious surface. Additional review materials were received on October 3rd, 2025, however the applicant has not demonstrated rate control at all discharge points and has been requested to revise/resubmit.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

There are nine erosion and sediment control inspection reports included in the board packet.

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. He states that final draft of the 10-year management plan update was sent out for 90-day review on September 24, 2025. Water monitoring and BMP maintenance efforts are beginning to wind down for the season.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing attended several meetings including LSC steering team meetings, a WMP goals meeting with BWSR, and project site visits. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes that at the pre-app meeting for the CSAH Phase 5 he stated he would prefer not to accept cash-in-lieu as MSCWMO staff have not been able to identify projects with the cash-in-lieu funds already available.

1W1P Updates

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes there is another meeting next week for 1W1P and that the mid-point assessment for the partnership is upcoming.

Other

None

Adjourn

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager McCarthy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:24.