

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, March 12th, 2026
6:00PM

Present: Annie Perkins, Afton; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Avis Peters, Baytown; Orin Kipp, Bayport; Tom McCarthy, Lake St. Croix Beach (remote); Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Erik Anderson, WCD

Call to Order

Manager Perkins called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

Approval of Agenda

Manager McCarthy is remote and states the reason for being remote is that he is out of town. All votes are taken by roll call due to Manager McCarthy being remote.

Manager Perkins motioned to approve the agenda. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Collins motioned to approve the draft January 8th, 2026 board meeting minutes, Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance at the end of February was \$41,726.06. First Bank CD's were valued at \$213,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from February was \$101,677.62. Manager Collins motioned to approve the report of the savings account and assets for March 12th, 2026. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Bills to approve for January are four bills to the Washington Conservation District for admin (January), technical services (January), admin (February), and technical services (February) for \$16,544.25, and one bill to Town Law Center for \$66.00. The total for January bills is \$16,610.25. Manager Collins motioned to approve payment of bills for March totaling \$16,610.25. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes that all contributions from member communities for 2025 have been received. All communities except Baytown, Lake St. Croix Beach, and West Lakeland have paid first half contributions for 2026, Afton has paid its full contribution for 2026.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

2025 Water Monitoring Report

Included in the board packet is the 2025 Water Monitoring Report prepared by the Washington Conservation District (WCD). Erik Anderson from the WCD presented an overview of the report.

The report needs approval before being finalized and posted on the MSCWMO website. After discussion, board members present decide to table the item to give other members an opportunity to review the report.

2025 Annual Watershed Report

Included in the board packet is the 2025 Annual Watershed report. The report summarizes all WMO activities from the year and requires board approval before being finalized.

Manager Peters motioned to approve the 2025 Annual Watershed Report, Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

2025 Adopt-a-Drain Summary

Included in the board packet is the 2025 Adopt-a-Drain summary. The summary shows that MSCWMO participants removed 454lbs of debris from their adopted storm drains in 2025.

This is an informational item.

Gully Erosion Analysis Authorization

At the end of 2025, the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office published second-generation lidar data. District engineer at the WCD is requesting the authorization of a task order amendment to the 2026 MSCWMO Services Agreement to complete further review of the lidar analysis output. The review could help to identify areas of potential concern where soil loss is not known and inventory areas of erosion that intersect with areas of steep slopes which indicate an actively eroding ravine. The estimated budget to complete the work is \$3,264.00.

Manager McCarthy motioned to approve authorization of the gully erosion analysis for the estimated \$3,264.00. Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Halsten Stewardship Grant Request

Bayport resident Margaret Halsten is applying for a 2026 MSCWMO Stewardship Grant to covert approximately 550 square feet of existing turf on her property to a native woodland pollinator garden. Stewardship Grant funds will be used to reimburse for native plant and seed purchases. 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 \$1,500.00 and the requested cost share is \$500.00.

Manager Peters motioned to approve encumbrance of \$500.00 cost share for the Halsten Turf-to-Pollinator Garden project at 495 7th St N, Bayport, MN 55003. Manager Kipp seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

FY27 Projects and Practices CWF Grant Request

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) released a request for applications on Feb 11, 2026 for its Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program. More than \$6 million in grants and up to \$13 million in loans are available to local governments.

As part of the recently adopted MSCWMO WMP the 2024 BMP inventory and assessment was completed. This report identified ~25 practices in need of retrofit to restore and improve the water quality benefits to Lily, McKusick and St. Croix Lakes. Staff is seeking Board authorization to apply for a \$120,000 CWF grant to implement the recommended actions from this report.

Manager McCarthy motioned to authorize staff to apply for a FY27 CWF Grant. Manager Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

BayHaven Second Addition

Submittal items were received on December 23rd, 2025 for the ten single family detached villa homes at BayHaven Second Addition (4703 Stagecoach Trail). Revised submittals were received February 4th and 19th, 2026. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2025 Watershed Management Plan ((WMP) for subdivision of four or more lots. The proposed project fully meets MSCWMO volume retention and rate control standards. MSCWMO staff recommends board approval with one (1) condition:

1. Show and describe stabilization method for areas of concentrated flow (swales) and flatter slopes (including ALL exposed soils).

Manager Peters motioned to approve the project with the one condition. Manager Kipp seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Bridgeview and Aiple Parking Lots

Submittal items were received on December 15th, 2025 for parking lot reconstruction of the Bridgeview Parking Lot within the MSCWMO boundaries and the City of Stillwater. Revised submittals including the Aiple Parking Lot were receive February 3rd, 2026. The proposed project qualifies for full review under the MSCWMO 2025 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for over 6000 square feet of reconstructed impervious. The proposed project fully meets MSWCMO MIDS volume retention and rate control standards. MSCWMO staff recommends board approval with two (2) conditions:

1. Appropriate soil borings have been conducted that meet the minimum standards and demonstrate assumed design infiltration rate based on soil texture and three (3) feet of separation distance from the bottom of the infiltration system to the elevation of the seasonally saturated soils.

2. Appropriate variances are approved for a structure within the OHW setback in the St. Croix River Overlay District.

Manager Peters motioned to approve the project with the two conditions. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

None

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. Water monitoring and BMP maintenance activities will be starting up when weather temperatures allow.

1W1P Updates

None

Other

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing notes that he will be out for a period of time for parental leave, it is possible he will be out for the next board meeting.

Adjourn

Manager Peters motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager Kipp seconded the motion. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:54PM.