

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Workshop Conference Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Voting members present were: Chris Riley, Ramsey; Jeff Weaver, Anoka; and Jonathan Shafto, Andover.

Voting members absent were: None.

Also present were: Deputy Treasurer Lori Yager, Ramsey City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby, Ramsey Water Resources Technician Nathan Gillett, Anoka Assistant City Engineer Ben Nelson, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen, Janna Kieffer of Barr Engineering, Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District, and Danielle Holder of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the February 19, 2026, agenda as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2025-28 ~ Waterfront Waterplay Park ~ Ramsey

Westby reviewed the February 2, 2026, memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project, subject to nine conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Weaver asked if all permit fees have been paid. Westby confirmed that the City of Ramsey has paid all fees.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve Permit #2025-28, Waterfront Waterplay Park, Ramsey, subject to nine (9) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated February 2, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Designate Representative to Rum Metro WBIF Grant Process Memo

Wozney explained that one or two representatives are needed to participate in a two- to three-meeting process to decide how the State grant dollars are to be used. She noted that Kytonen is willing to serve again. It was suggested that Gillet attend as well, as a newer staff person on the LRRWMO.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to designate Kytonen and Gillett as the representatives to the FY27 Rum Metro WBIF grant convene process. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Yager presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2026. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$191,206.39; less permit account balance of (\$37,806.41), less Generation Plan reserves balance of (\$38,493.43); for a total balance of \$114,906.55.

Weaver asked for information on the balances of unpaid permit fees. Yager provided those additional details, noting a total outstanding balance of \$4,118.40. She was unsure if the permits had been approved. Weaver stated that following the action to occur later in the meeting, he would like Yager to provide a statement to be included with the permit reviews to specify whether the permit fees had been paid.

Riley noted a list of outstanding receivables and asked for an update on one of the applicants. Yager confirmed that even though a payment had been received, there is still a balance owing. She noted that she will follow up with that applicant. Westby provided additional details, noting that the emails are going to the engineer and suggested that correspondence be provided to the applicant directly.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Yager presented the payment of bills for TimeSaver in the amount of \$907 (January secretarial services) and City of Andover in the amount of \$2,167.81 (Permit closures).

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to authorize payment as presented and indicated above. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from FEMA

Kieffer provided additional details on the communication, noting that no action is needed.

Weaver asked why the Mississippi is not being updated along with the Rum. He asked if the changes would have any impact on Anoka property owners. Nelson was unsure but stated that he would follow up with the proper staff member for Anoka.

Westby commented that the City of Ramsey staff met to discuss this the previous day and noticed that the Mississippi River is outside of the study area. Kieffer confirmed that the Mississippi is outside of the study area but was unsure why that decision was made. She provided additional information on the study process.

Riley acknowledged that this is more of an issue that would be handled and managed on the city level rather than the WMO level. Weaver asked that City staff provide updates as they get a better handle on this as it moves forward.

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT ~ None

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT ~ None

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Wozney reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

OLD BUSINESS

Permit Fees Paid Prior to Permit Issuance

Wozney stated that legal counsel has stated that a permit application can be paused until the fees have been paid, and provided sample language that could be incorporated into the permit application. Weaver suggested removing the weaker language and inserting stronger language on the topic.

Riley agreed and stated that would simply be another checked box in the review process.

Shafto asked if there were any concerns with timing. Kytonen stated that even though approved by the WMO, the City may not have fully approved the project on their end, so WMO approval does not necessarily mean that work can start the day of WMO approval.

Weaver believed that a developer concerned with timing would ensure that the permit fees are paid.

Nelson commented that he believed that an escrow must be paid before a permit number is issued. He noted that this would only apply to permits that have gone past that escrow amount. He noted that most projects in Anoka never exceed the escrow that has been paid.

Kieffer asked if there is usually a lag, noting that often the Barr invoice is not sent immediately. She was unsure how that situation would be managed. Wozney stated that the approval could be made conditional upon payment of the fees, which would then ensure that could be managed by staff.

Kieffer provided additional information on the billing cycle from Barr Engineering.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to direct staff to create a policy that would ensure balances due are paid before final issuance of permits. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Wozney stated that she would discuss this with Yager and Kieffer to develop the best path forward. She commented that only a handful of permits exceed the escrow amount. There was a suggestion that perhaps larger projects require a larger escrow.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Staple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "S".

Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary