

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

APRIL 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 Water Resources Technician Nathan Gillett, Anoka Assistant City Engineer Ben Nelson, Heather Lau of Barr Engineering, Andover Natural Resources Technician Kameron Kytonen, Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District, Jamie Schurbon of Anoka Conservation District, and Danielle Holder of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the April 16, 2026, agenda as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

March 19, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the March 19, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Yager presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2026. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$183,996.66; less permit account balance of (\$38,782.91), less Generation Plan reserves balance of (\$41,493.43); for a total balance of \$103,720.32.

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

Payment of Bills

Yager presented the payment of bills for RTY Consulting in the amount of \$2,326.50 (1st quarter 2026 accounting services) and Barr Engineering in the amount of \$2,241.50 (March engineering services).

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

2025 Annual Financial Report

Yager presented the 2025 Annual Financial Report and provided a brief overview.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to accept the 2025 Annual Financial Report. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2026-01 ~ Green Haven Villas ~ Anoka

Nelson reviewed the April 10, 2026, memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue this item to the May Board meeting, as they are still awaiting additional information to be provided.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to continue Permit #2026-01, Green Haven Villas, Anoka, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated April 10, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-02 ~ Anoka Miller Building ~ Anoka

Nelson reviewed the April 10, 2026, memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the permit for this project, subject to 11 conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Weaver asked if there would be any runoff going into the river from the geothermal system, as he had concerns with the degradation of the ice in the winter. Lau explained that the geothermal system is a closed system, so runoff would not be added to the closed loop.

Weaver noted a City of Anoka well that cannot be used across the river because of a plume of pollution in that aquifer, and asked if this applicant tapping into that aquifer would draw that pollution to the river. Nelson explained that it would be a closed system and provided more details.

Wozney commented that typically geothermal systems pull from groundwater and not from drinking water aquifers. Lau explained how the closed-loop system works, noting that the same water is being reused; it is not continuously pulling new water.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to approve Permit #2026-02, Anoka Miller Building, Anoka, subject to eleven (11) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated April 10, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

First Quarter Report

Kytonen presented the Year 2026 First Quarter Report for the City of Andover.

Nelson presented the Year 2026 First Quarter Report for the City of Anoka.

Weaver noted a previous concern that he brought about a section of riprap that creates a gap along the shoreline and asked if there were any updates. Schurbon replied that area has less severe damage than the repaired areas. He noted that permitting to get back into that area would be very difficult.

Gillet presented the Year 2026 First Quarter Report for the City of Ramsey.

Weaver noted a project that was mentioned in a local newspaper, which the Board previously approved, related to a parking area, and asked for more information. Riley commented that project has been before the City Council twice, once when the applicant asked for a reduction in surety and the other when the applicant requested an extension of time. He stated that the project was originally planned to be completed in October, but was extended to June. He commented that the additional extension request was denied by the City Council. Wozney stated that the applicant just has to start the project within one year of the LRRWMO approval date, or the permit will expire.

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter Report

Wozney presented the First Quarter Report for ACD.

Schurbon provided more information on the cost-share grant program and interest from multiple homeowners related to shoreline stabilization projects.

Weaver referenced the high school monitoring program and commented that it would be nice to have a few students provide a presentation to the Board on their experience and findings. Wozney stated that she could follow up on that idea.

OLD BUSINESS

Permit Application Update

Wozney provided information on the current application fee and required escrow. She noted that most projects are within the escrow. She provided additional input from Yager, which recommended a slight increase of \$100 to the escrow if Barr Engineering increases its rates. She presented the additional language that has been added following previous Board discussions.

Shafto asked for clarification on the number of permits that exceeded the escrow in the past year. Wozney believed that two permits of 28 exceeded the escrow. She explained that you want to set an escrow to cover costs while also not being overburdensome for smaller permits. Shafto agreed that he did not see a reason to increase the escrow unless a majority of the applicants are exceeding the escrow.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to approve the changes to the permit application as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Wozney reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

Weaver noted erosion near Rum River West across from Fosters Island and asked if there is any information on that. Schurbon noted that issue has been discussed by Anoka County Parks and commented that it would be a high-cost project if/when it ever happens.

OTHER BUSINESS

Watershed Plan Amendment to Include Street Sweeping

Schurbon stated that in recent weeks, the convene group for the WBIF has met, and one of the identified projects was enhanced street sweeping. He explained that the LRRWMO Watershed Plan needs to be amended to include street sweeping and some other practices. He noted that draft language was included in the packet for review. He stated that all three cities are interested in enhanced street sweeping. He provided additional information on the plan amendment process that would be followed.

Nelson provided additional information on the benefits that would be received by the cities through the enhanced street sweeping, noting that cost would be covered by the grant funds.

Weaver recognized that grant funds do not continue in perpetuity and asked where future funding would come from. Schurbon stated that the grant would pay for three years of enhanced street sweeping; after that time, the State would allow an additional round of funding for this work.

Nelson explained that including this within the plan makes the work eligible for grant funds, and if the items are not included in the plan, they would not be eligible for grant funding.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to authorize the Watershed Coordinator to begin the process of amending the LRRWMO Watershed Plan to include street sweeping, agricultural practices, et al. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT (Continued)

First Quarter Report

Nelson noted that a motion is needed to accept the reports, close out the requested permits, and authorize the release of escrow for the requested permits.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the Year 2026 First Quarter Report for the City of Anoka, City of Ramsey, and City of Andover, as presented, and to authorize release of unused escrow for Permit #2018-22, Anoka Infiltration Credits; and #2024-16, Rum River Channel Restoration. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Time of adjournment: 8:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Staple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Amanda Staple
Administrative Secretary