

LOWER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

AUGUST 20, 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, and Becky Wozney of Anoka Conservation District.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the August 20, 2026 agenda as presented. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

RESIDENT'S FORUM

None.

APPROVE MINUTES

July 16, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the July 16, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Weaver). Motion carried.

FINANCE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Yager presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2026. Account balances for the period were: Checking, \$218,374.74; less permit account balance of (\$46,973.66); less Generation Plan reserves balance of (\$41,493.43); for a total balance of \$129,907.65.

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

Payment of Bills

Yager presented the payment of bills for TimeSaver in the amount of \$913 (June secretarial services), ECM Publisher in the amount of \$176.40 (*Anoka Herald* notice), City of Anoka in the amount of \$215.60 (closed permits #2018-22 and #2024-60), Summergate Development in the

amount of \$664.25 (closed permit #2022-15), and City of Ramsey in the amount of \$678.50 (closed permits #2023-23 and #2024-19).

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

NEW BUSINESS

LRRWMO Permit #2026-05 ~ Northbrook Meadows ~ Ramsey

Gillett reviewed the August 14, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering, in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue this item to the September meeting, as Barr Engineering awaits a response from the applicant to the most recent review comments.

Riley asked about the review timeline. Gillett commented that this is a challenging site and has been an ongoing process. Lau commented that they did send their comments to the applicant and provided them with additional information on how they could meet those requirements. She believed that there would be a recommendation at the September meeting.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to continue Permit #2026-05, Northbrook Meadows, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 14, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-12 ~ Wildlife Research Addition ~ Ramsey

Gillett reviewed the August 13, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the revised wetland boundary/type and revised de minimis exemption request as documented in the draft WCA Notice of Decision. Wozney provided additional information noting that she was onsite.

Riley commented that this will be a great use of land that would have otherwise not been used and provided additional information on the proposed project, noting that the applicant has been great to work with on all levels.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to approve the revised wetland boundary/type and de minimis exemption request as documented in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2026-12, Wildlife Research Addition, Ramsey, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 13, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-13 ~ Constance Free Church ~ Andover

Kytonen reviewed the August 13, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering, in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the revised wetland boundaries and types as documented in the draft WCA Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to approve the revised wetland boundaries and types as documented in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2026-13, Constance Free Church, Andover, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 13, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-14 ~ Wildlife Research Addition ~ Ramsey

Gillett reviewed the August 14, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue this item and extend the review period by 60-days to allow for review of the revised materials.

Lau provided additional clarification noting that the applicant is planning to use an existing pond for rate control, but an old size of the pond was used in the model, rather than the modifications that were previously made, and the current condition needs to be shown in the model. She believed that this would also be ready for a recommendation at the September meeting.

Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Shafto, to continue Permit #2026-14, Wildlife Research Addition, Ramsey, and issue a 60-day extension, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 14, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-15 ~ Constance Free Church ~ Andover

Kytonen reviewed the August 14, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering, in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve of the permit for this project, subject to 11 conditions detailed in the memorandum.

Lau noted that condition ten is a new condition that will become standard on all permits going forward.

Weaver asked if the new condition would cause additional expense to the applicant. Lau clarified that this condition does not change the process, and provided additional information on that process.

Kytonen stated that City staff keep close communication with Barr to ensure there would not be additional expense, but ultimately it is up to the applicant if they want to try to obtain the approval from Barr before the City review is completed. Wozney clarified that it is the risk of the applicant to come before the LRRWMO before the City approval process has been completed. She stated that they try to avoid this situation because it is inefficient, but the additional language provides that clarification to applicants. She noted that generally there would still be funds within the escrow to cover the additional cost.

Riley asked if there are examples of when this has been done. Lau noted that this permit request is an example and provided additional explanation.

Weaver wanted to ensure that the clause is not used in a nefarious manner. Kytonen stressed the importance of communication between City staff, Barr Engineering, and the applicant.

Riley commented that he is still unsure why the LRRWMO would be looking at applications before they are approved, because if the plans are not approved, things could change. Weaver stated that perhaps it would be a better process to require City approval prior to the LRRWMO review. Nelson noted that would result in delays for projects and stated that staff is proactive in having the applications submitted simultaneously, as long as there are no concerns.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to approve Permit #2026-15, Constance Free Church, Andover, subject to eleven (11) conditions as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 14, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-16 ~ Haven Homes WCA de minimis Exemption ~ Andover

Kytonen reviewed the August 13, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO approve the WCA de minimis exemption request as documented on the draft WCA Notice of Decision.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to approve the WCA de minimis exemption as documented in the WCA Notice of Decision for Permit #2026-16, Haven Homes WCA de minimis exemption, Andover, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 13, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

LRRWMO Permit #2026-17 ~ Ward Lake Preserve ~ Andover

Kytonen reviewed the August 14, 2026 memo from Barr Engineering in which Barr Engineering recommends that the LRRWMO continue this item and extend the review period by 60-days as Barr Engineering completes a review of the revised materials.

Weaver asked if Barr believes that this would be ready for September. Lau commented that this would be ready for the September meeting but noted that the applicant may request a special meeting. She provided additional information on the review timeline that occurred and noted that the applicant would like to break ground by September 7, 2026.

Wozney stated that she did communicate to the applicant that there would be a cost for a special meeting and noted the conditions that would need to be met to request a special meeting. She stated that Andover has meetings twice a month and the applicant is hoping to appear on Andover's September 1st agenda. She provided additional information on the timeline discussed with Andover staff. She was unsure if the request would meet the conditions for a special meeting, and she was also unsure that holding a special meeting would speed up the timeline for the applicant to break ground. Lau agreed that the applicant is requesting a short timeline given the processes that exist to obtain LRRWMO approval, especially given that revisions were required.

Nelson noted that this applicant has also been through this review process and through the LRRWMO for projects in Anoka, so it is not their first experience.

Shafto commented that this is a difficult site and there have been many iterations for this project, providing a brief overview of those challenges. He stated that it did take a long time to get through the City process, so he suspects that the applicant is just antsy to get through this. Kytonen believed that there will still be another round of comments and review. Shafto did not believe it would be in the best interest of the applicant to hold a special meeting.

Weaver confirmed the consensus of the Board that this request would not meet the criteria for a special meeting.

Motion was made by Shafto, seconded by Riley, to continue Permit #2026-17, Ward Lake Preserve, Andover, and extend the review period by 60-days, as detailed in the Barr Engineering memorandum dated August 14, 2026. Vote: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

REPORT OF OFFICERS & WAC ADMINISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT ~ None

ACD QUARTERLY REPORT ~ None

OLD BUSINESS ~ None

OUTSTANDING ITEMS/TASK CHECKLIST

Wozney reviewed the outstanding items and task checklist.

OTHER BUSINESS

Anoka County FEMA Modeling Updates

Lau provided an update on the June meeting with the DNR and member cities related to the FEMA modeling updates that are going to occur in Anoka County. She highlighted the areas proposed to be updated and the information that is requested to be provided by member cities. She noted that she would follow up with members with this information in an email. She noted that the modeling will not be complete for three to four years, so cities should continue to use the current FEMA mapping until the new maps are made available in the future.

Nelson asked if the Board has a preference on Zone X. He stated that Anoka did not get a vote while Andover voted to leave it and Ramsey voted to remove it. He was unsure if it would make a difference to the DNR, but the Board could make a recommendation.

Shafto commented that if there are changes, that can impact property owners along the river. Weaver stated that he has been through that process and it is time-consuming and frustrating.

Wozney commented that it would be an opinion and was unsure of the timing of the DNR for those responses. Nelson commented on the slow pace of the DNR through this process.

Kytonen stated that he has not been involved in that process for Andover, as that has been handled by other engineers and therefore would have to defer to the Andover opinion that was provided. Gillett commented that he is in the same position, as he has not been in the lead for that topic and is not well versed with the potential impacts to different aspects.

Weaver noted that changes can impact the allowances for river lots for single-family homes, potential additions, and potential developments. Nelson stated that in Anoka, the previous changes caused residents who previously did not require flood insurance to purchase flood insurance or prove that they would not.

Wozney was unsure that the members of the Board and staff present would have the experience and knowledge to make that opinion and should defer to the decisions that have been provided by the member cities. The Board agreed with Wozney.

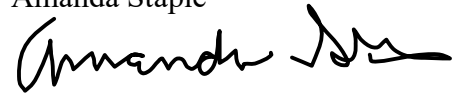
ADJOURNMENT

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

Time of adjournment: 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Staple', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Administrative Secretary