



## Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.  
Wellstone Center, Saint Paul

### Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair), Inver Grove Heights  
Dawn Gaetke, Inver Grove Heights  
Tom Sutton, Lilydale  
Analiese Miller, West St. Paul  
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul

Karen Reid (Vice Chair), Saint Paul  
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights  
Mary Kleinberg, Lilydale  
Daniel Anderson, South St. Paul  
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

### Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ruzek, Mendota Heights  
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul  
Cody Joos, West St. Paul  
Chris English, Inver Grove Heights  
Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering  
Jan Martland, Mendota Heights  
Barb Kaufman, Mendota Heights  
Jonquil Shipman, Resurrection Cemetery  
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights  
Brady Zeug, Saint Paul  
Paul Merchlewicz, Inver Grove Heights  
Conor Resnikoff, South St. Paul  
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering  
Kenneth Dodge, Mendota Heights  
Tom Hanschen, Mendota Heights  
John Manville, Mendota Heights

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

#### 1.1 Public Comment / Introductions

Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda.

#### 1.2 Approval of Agenda\* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

**Motion** by Halvorsen to approve the agenda, second by Miller; motion passed.

### 2. Election of Officers

The current Chair (Lencowski), Vice Chair (Reid), and Secretary/Treasurer (Gebauer) were nominated by Halvorsen from the floor.

**Motion** by Anderson to elect the current Board officers to serve again in 2025, second by Miller; motion passed.

### 3. Approve December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Motion** by Anderson to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Lencowski; motion passed.

#### **4. Approve January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Financial Summary & Invoices**

Ruzek provided a summary of the finances.

**Motion** by Anderson to approve the financial summary, second by Pilgrim; motion passed.

#### **5. Designation of 2025 Financial Depository and Official Newspapers**

**Motion** by Anderson to designate Gateway Bank as the official financial depository, and the Star Tribune and St. Paul Legal Ledger and official newspapers for public notices, second by Reid; motion passed.

#### **6. Discussion on Lake Augusta Next Steps and LMRWMO Role**

Barten provided a summary presentation on the history of studies and improvement efforts on Lake Augusta, discussions at the previous two meetings, and summarized the information in the packet. The Board discussed the history of work done on Lake Augusta by the LMRWMO, existing recommendations from the feasibility study, the difficulties in attempting to manage cormorant populations, supporting City efforts for further work at Lake Augusta, and future monitoring of lake water quality and water levels.

**The following recommendations were provided to the LMRWMO Board for consideration:**

1. The City of Mendota Heights (City) can choose to pursue a lake outlet at Lake Augusta. The LMRWMO would support the City in this effort, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc.
2. The residents/private property owners or City can choose to pursue and lead the effort for removal of trees either before or after an outlet is installed. Since the lake shore is private property, the LMRWMO role is more limited. The City can decide if they have a role and can request assistance from the LMRWMO. The LMRWMO would support the City in this effort, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc. Establishment of permanent native vegetation around the lake should be pursued along with tree removal.
3. The LMRWMO will add monitoring of lake levels to its current monitoring schedule, periodically during the growing season, until and potentially after a lake outlet is installed. If the lake continues to fluctuate, this data could help in planning a lake outlet. The LMRWMO will continue to monitor water quality as it has been, either via volunteers or paid staff to maintain a comprehensive water quality data set.
4. Opportunities for water quality improvements in the watershed can be considered down the road, likely lead by the City, should they choose, but not until the multi-year effects of the outlet on water quality (after 5+ years of monitoring for example) indicate whether the outlet has had any impact on water quality. The LMRWMO would support the City in watershed water quality improvement efforts, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc.
5. The City, Residents, or LMRWMO could pursue further study of the cormorant population. However, this would be with a limited budget and only if a willing partner, such as the UofM could be found to lead such a study. The aim of such a study would be to track the population of birds on the lake over many years and see if the population correlates to Lake water quality. It would also be to better understand the population in the event that residents would want to take on management. The LMRWMO will not take or lead any actions to manage the cormorant population. The LMRWMO can

work with the MPCA to discuss a lake specific TMDL that accounts for the cormorant impacts, only when that comes up next in the MPCA 10-year assessment cycle

**Motion** by Reid to approve the above recommendations for the LMRWMO role in Lake Augusta projects, further study, monitoring efforts, and other potential actions going forward, second by Sutton; motion passed.

**7. Grant Tracking Database**

Williams summarized available grants in the tracking spreadsheet document.

**8. Member City Updates:** City Advisors and Members provided updates on relevant projects in their Cities.

**9. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 with the next Board meeting scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the West St. Paul City Hall.