LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday - February 11th, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Community Center, Inver Grove Heights

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair) Inver Grove Heights
Karen Reid, Saint Paul
Mary Kleinberg, Lilydale
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake
Judd Dudgeon, Inver Grove Heights
Analiese Miller (Vice-Chair), West St. Paul
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul
Daniel Anderson, South St. Paul

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Chris English, Inver Grove Heights
Katie Pata, Dakota County
Anna Powers, West St. Paul
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD
Jess Hall, West St. Paul
Brady Zeug, Saint Paul
Kelsey Gelhar, South St. Paul
Darcy Tatham, West St. Paul
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

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 Reid to approve the meeting agenda, second by Pilgrim; motion passed.

2. Approve January 14th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Reid to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Kleinberg; motion passed.

3. Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) Presentation by Dakota County

Katie Pata with the Dakota County water resources department presented on the WHEP program and provided information on its background, structure, partners and accomplishments. Dakota County is the only in the Metro who has a team of trained volunteers who partner with City sponsors, to assess select wetlands for their long-term health using metrics of plant ecosystems and macroinvertebrates. Pilgrim asked how the WMO could use the data or be involved in the future. Spreiter noted that the City uses it informally for development impact assessments.

4. Approve February 11th, 2026 Financial Summary & Invoices

Spreiter summarized the information in the packet. It was noted that the voided checks should be shown in a modified financial summary.

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

5. Designate Official Newspaper and Financial Depository

Motion by Reid to designate the Pioneer Press and St. Paul Legal Ledger as the official newspapers and Gateway Bank as the financial depository for the LMRWMO, second by Kleinberg; motion passed.

6. Solicitation of Consultants

Motion by Reid to approve the solicitation of consultants for legal, engineering, and audit services, second by Miller; motion passed.

7. Performance of an Audit of 2025 Financials

Barten noted that the WMO is under a new statutory threshold of $1M in annual revenue that requires the WMO to perform an audit. In 2025, the annual revenue was around $650,000, including revenue from multiple grants that passed through the WMO. The Board discussed the option to not perform an audit and instead meet minimum requirements with the creation and submittal of a financial summary. They also discussed the benefit of performing a full audit to ensure fiscal responsibility at a reasonable cost.

Motion by Reid to engage with Peterson Company to perform an audit of the WMO 2025 finances, second by Miller; motion passed.

8. Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Allocation and Voting Authority

Barten provided background on the biannual funding allocation through the Fiscal Year 2027 WBIF grant and noted that the member Cities will be asked to self-select two voting representatives to decide how to spend the approx. $218,000 funding allocation. Barten will organize a convene meeting this summer and asked that the Board authorize him to vote and make funding allocation recommendations on behalf of the LMRMWO for the FY-2027 and future WBIF funding rounds.

Motion by Reid to authorize the Administrator to vote and make funding decisions for the FY-2027 and future Board of Water & Soil Resources Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant rounds on behalf of the WMO Board, second by Miller; motion passed.

9. Updates & Handouts

Williams noted that the final goal tracking spreadsheet is included in the packet for the Board's information. Barten summarized the annual report information on the Metro Watershed Partners programs and Adopt a Drain program. Cities are encouraged to use that information for their MS4 reporting, especially the Adopt a Drain participant and pollutant reduction information.

10. Member City Updates

City Advisors and Members provided updates on relevant projects in their cities.

11. Adjournment & Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026 at the Friends of the Mississippi River Offices in Saint Paul.