



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Shoreview City Hall Council Chambers  
4600 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, Minnesota

and

Meeting also conducted by alternative means  
(teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote locations

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Patricia Preiner called the meeting to order, a quorum being present, at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: President Patricia Preiner, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Pres. Michael Bradley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Pres. John Waller, and Secretary Marcie Weinandt

Absent: Treasurer Steven Wagamon (with prior notice)

Staff Present: District Administrator Nick Tomczik, Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Patrick Hughes, District Technician Lauren Sampedro (video conference), District Technician Catherine Nester (video-conference); Project Manager Kyle Axtell, Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian (video-conference) and Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineers Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); District Attorney Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners)

Visitor: Jessica Olson-Barr Engineering

**SETTING OF THE AGENDA**

District Administrator Tomczik explained that staff would like to add a new action item #12 Salary Study – Gallagher, #13 Long Lake Sediment Basin Maintenance Update, and #14, Administrator Review. He asked that the Board of Managers name a Treasurer Pro Tem to facilitate certain business in Manager Wagamon’s absence.

***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the agenda, as revised.***

***Motion carried 4-0.***

***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to appoint Manager Bradley to serve as Treasurer Pro-Tem, effective until the end of the calendar day. Motion carried 4-0.***

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**READING OF THE MINUTES AND THEIR APPROVAL**

**Minutes of the November 8, 2021 Board Workshop.**

**Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**Minutes of the November 10, 2021 Board of Managers Regular Meeting.**

**Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to approve the minutes as presented.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items will be acted upon without discussion in accordance with the staff recommendation and associated documentation unless a Manager or another interested person requests opportunity for discussion:

**Table of Contents-Permit Applications Requiring Board Action**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Plan Type</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
21-098	Anoka County Highway Department	Blaine	Street and Utility Plan	CAPROC 6 items
21-101	Creative Capital Holdings, LP	Blaine	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 8 items
21-113	Karl E Brogren and Sandra J Brogren Joint Trust/ The Hill-Murray Foundation	Mahtomedi	Final Site Drainage Plan	CAPROC 9 items

Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Patrick Hughes noted a correction to Permit No. 21-098, page three, second sentence, to state, “This permit regulates the part of the project area within the RCWD legal boundary.”

Manager Waller noted a spelling error on page 38, mid-page, and explained that he believes the word ‘complaint’ should be changed to ‘compliant’.

Manager Bradley asked about page 25, in relation to Permit No. 21-098, paragraph 3, which has a discussion about how the applicant submitted a joint application under the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP). He asked how the LGRWRP mitigates wetland impacts.

75 Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Hughes explained that it is still through wetland bank  
76 credits, but it is a program that is through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) so the  
77 District would not be making a decision and it is something that the applicant addresses directly  
78 with the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

79

80 ***It was moved by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, to CAPROC permits 21-098***  
81 ***(as revised), 21-101, and 21-113 in accordance with RCWD District Engineer’s Findings and***  
82 ***Recommendations dated December 1 & 2, 2021.***

83 ***Motion Carried 4-0.***

84

85 **OPEN MIC/PUBLIC COMMENT**—Any RCWD resident may address the Board in his or her  
86 individual capacity, for up to three minutes, on any matter not on the agenda. Speakers are  
87 requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record. Additional  
88 comments may be solicited and accepted in writing. Generally, the Board of Managers will not  
89 take official action on items discussed at this time, but may refer the matter to staff for a future  
90 report or direct that the matter be scheduled on an upcoming agenda.

91 No one appeared before the Board.

92

### 93 **ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

#### 94 **1. Water Quality 2022 Technical Services Agreements**

95 Technician Lauren Sampedro reviewed the proposed minor changes to the 2022 Water  
96 Quality Grant Program, such as adding points to the program screening form to  
97 strengthen any projects that discharge to a water body within a TMDL, are part of a  
98 Minnesota Water Steward Capstone project, that implement or complete a subwatershed  
99 assessment or stormwater retrofit analysis project consistent with the July 12, 2021 Board  
100 workshop discussion. She stated that she has also updated the guidelines document as  
101 shown on page 45 of the packet to reflect the 2022 budget. She explained that she is not  
102 recommending any changes to the funding levels to the Technical Services Agreements.

103

104 Manager Bradley noted on page 45 there is a paragraph titled ‘Funding Availability’, which  
105 indicates that the funding range of grant awards is 25- 75% of the total eligible materials  
106 up to \$7,500. He stated that he thought the Board used to have language that stated that  
107 the amount could be increased by the Board and in some cases, there was a \$10,000 cap  
108 for a 75% recovery.

109

110 Technician Sampedro stated that they have not previously put in a \$10,000 cap. She  
111 stated that there is language in staff’s internal documents regarding the Boards’ ability to  
112 increase the grant award if it chooses, but it has not been added into the guidelines  
113 document. She stated that the Board could choose to do that but wants to ensure that it

114 would not be misconstrued by the public and create the expectation that everyone will  
115 receive more than the funding cap for their project.

116  
117 President Preiner stated that she feels that, in the past, it was done on a case-by-case  
118 basis and does not think it had been reflected in this document.

119  
120 Manager Waller stated that he thinks that Anoka and Washington County funding levels  
121 need to increase as part of next year's budget. He noted the money for the grants is a  
122 separate budgeted item from the service agreements. He stated that he believes that  
123 Technician Sampedro is correct that a higher funding cap has never been 'in print', but  
124 the Board has done it in the past and suggested that it be examined at the same time as  
125 they consider the money for administration.

126  
127 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to approve the 2022***  
128 ***Water Quality Grant Program as presented, and to authorize staff to promote and***  
129 ***implement the 2022 Water Quality Grant Program.***

130  
131 Manager Weinandt noted that this program continues to be reviewed by the Citizens  
132 Advisory Committee (CAC) which she appreciates.

133  
134 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

135  
136 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to authorize the District***  
137 ***Administrator to sign the proposed 2022 technical services agreements with the ACD,***  
138 ***Ramsey SWCD, and WCD, in amounts not to exceed \$13,000, \$23,000, and \$13,000***  
139 ***respectively, to provide technical assistance for RCWD's Programs, with any further***  
140 ***nonmaterial changes and on advice of counsel.***

141  
142 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

143  
144 **2. Truth in Taxation Public Meeting**

145 President Preiner stated this agenda item is an opportunity for the public to comment on  
146 the District's 2022 budget and levy. President Preiner gave an overview of the budget  
147 and levy and invited anyone present that would like to comment to please address the  
148 Board at this time stating their name and address for the record.

149  
150 John Waller, 14010 Homestead Avenue, Hugo, noted that he serves as the Washington  
151 County Manager for this Board, but is presently speaking as an individual citizen. He  
152 stated that he has voted 15 times on this issue during his time on the Board. He noted  
153 that he had looked back at his 2007 property taxes and his payable taxes at that time, for

154 the same piece of property, had an estimated market value of \$329,000. Today, his  
155 estimated market value for 2022 is \$298,900. He stated that the taxes he paid back in  
156 2007 was \$2,432 and in 2022 is \$3,536. He stated that he thinks not everyone has  
157 recovered from the depression of 2007-2010 and are still paying a large amount in taxes.  
158 He asked the Board to examine this issue and explained that this is one of the reasons  
159 why he does not vote for general tax increases, because of his personal experience that  
160 the market value does not keep up with the rate of increase in his tax value.

161  
162 District Administrator Tomczik clarified that the District 2022 levy is an increase of .9%,  
163 which is less than 1%. He explained that the District portion of the property tax levy still  
164 equates to less than \$40 on a property assessed at \$200,000.

165  
166 There were no additional public comments.

### 167 168 169 **3. Final Certification of 2022 Tax Levy and Budget**

170 District Attorney Holtman stated that it is his understanding that at least one of the  
171 County auditors requested that the District provide an additional final certification. He  
172 suggested that the Board authorize the Treasurer Pro-Tem or Treasurer to sign any  
173 additional levy certifications requested by the auditors.

174  
175 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt to authorize the***  
176 ***Treasurer or Treasurer Pro-Tem to sign any additional levy certifications that may be***  
177 ***requested by the County auditors.***

178  
179 Manager Waller clarified that this is just to adopt what has already been adopted and  
180 does not denote a change in position on the 2022 Tax Levy and Budget.

181  
182 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

183  
184 District Administrator Tomczik explained that the pdf for page 82 of the packet did not  
185 print correctly and noted that it has been corrected on the website and hard copies are  
186 available.

### 187 188 **4. RCWD Permit Fee Schedule**

189 Permit Coordinator/Wetland Specialist Patrick Hughes gave a brief overview of the  
190 proposed permit fee schedule. He noted that based on the discussion at the recent Board  
191 workshop, staff have updated the fee schedule document to include comments and the  
192 Board's request to further identify that applicants are not paying 100% of the cost, noting  
193 that the District is absorbing some of the cost of review for applications.

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Manager Bradley stated that he had noted a typographical error on page 14 of the HEI report that should have been \$3,000 not \$4,000 and asked if that has been corrected in what is being presented.

District Administrator Tomczik stated that the document has been corrected, was posted on the website, and is also available in hard copy.

***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt Resolution 2021-25: Adopting Revised Permit Fee Schedule.***

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby revises the District’s existing permit fee schedule by approving the attached "RCWD Permit Fee Schedule," which supersedes and replaces the preexisting fee schedule;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the change is effective as to all applications not deemed complete within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes §15.99 as of the end of December 31, 2021.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Manager Waller – Aye***
- Manager Weinandt – Aye***
- Manager Bradley – Aye***
- Manager Wagamon – Absent***
- President Preiner – Aye***

***Motion carried 4-0***

**5. Anoka County Boundary Change Petition, Resolution for Submittal to the Board of Waters and Soil Resources**

District Technician Catherine Nester gave an overview of the Anoka County Boundary Change petition. She explained that a petition has been drafted to adjust the boundary in the northern portion of Anoka County and has received written statements of concurrence from each affected city and watershed management organization. She noted that there was an error in the map book on page 109, Exhibit G. She stated that the current legal boundary is not shown on the figures and is only shown in the legend. She noted that District Engineer Otterness has corrected figures on his thumb drive for reference, and these figures will be incorporated into the petition submittal. She

232 explained that the District has been working on this boundary change effort since April of  
233 2019.

234  
235 Manager Bradley asked what would be left because this will take care of Anoka County  
236 and Washington County.

237  
238 District Administrator Tomczik noted that because of the odd shape of the District, the  
239 subject of the current petition is the outside western edge of the boundary, but there is  
240 a portion of Anoka County that is on the inside of the District's shape that will be checked  
241 as well as Ramsey County in the next phase of this boundary correction effort.

242  
243 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Waller, to adopt Resolution 2021-***  
244 ***26: Approving Boundary Change Petition To Adjust The RCWD Boundary Within Anoka***  
245 ***County.***

246  
247 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Board President to sign the  
248 attached boundary change petition, with any non-substantive revisions and on advice of  
249 counsel, on behalf of the RCWD as petitioner under Minnesota Statutes §103B.215;

250  
251 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that on advice of counsel and the RCWD engineer, the Board  
252 President may adjust the petition at any time before it is acted on to reflect any further  
253 tax parcel changes, provided the petition addresses those changes according to the  
254 criteria in the HEI Memorandum;

255  
256 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the RCWD administrator may take all steps necessary or  
257 convenient to complete the boundary change in accordance with Minnesota Statutes  
258 §103B.215.

259  
260 President Preiner asked if residents will be notified of the boundary change.

261  
262 District Administrator Tomczik explained that the District has communicated with  
263 each of the municipalities and they may choose to notify their citizens of this  
264 change.

265  
266 District Engineer Otterness noted that there is no statutory requirement to notify  
267 individual landowners, but as indicated by District Administrator Tomczik, the  
268 District is working with the cities who wish to notify those landowners as a  
269 courtesy.

270

271 **ROLL CALL:**  
272 ***Manager Waller – Aye***  
273 ***Manager Weinandt – Aye***  
274 ***Manager Bradley – Aye***  
275 ***Manager Wagamon – Absent***  
276 ***President Preiner – Aye***

277  
278 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

279  
280 **6. League of Minnesota Cities Liability Coverage Waiver Form**

281 District Administrator Tomczik explained that this is a request from the District’s insurer,  
282 Minnesota League of Cities, that annually comes before the Board. The District is asked  
283 to decide whether it will waive statutory tort liability limits. He explained that in recent  
284 years, the Board has decided to waive this liability limit to the extent of the District’s  
285 coverage.

286  
287 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to WAIVE the monetary***  
288 ***limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04 to***  
289 ***the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.***  
290 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

291  
292 **7. Houston Engineering, Inc. Additional Services Request 500-year Modeling**

293 District Administrator Tomczik stated the Board touched on this at the recent workshop  
294 and shared some of the potential advantages for this modeling. He noted that it is a  
295 relatively inexpensive addition to the previous Task Order.

296  
297 Manager Bradley asked if there is also a separate Task Order to map the 500-year events  
298 unrelated to the \$38,100 and asked if the Board is also acting on that today.

299  
300 District Administrator Tomczik stated that the Board is not acting on that today and  
301 clarified that the District has an annual update to its model. He noted that there was a  
302 previous grant with the DNR and FEMA in which the District completed the 500-year  
303 model. He stated that the intent now is to map those in order to make them available to  
304 the communities and will also have the opportunity to use that information in a grant  
305 application to the MPCA.

306  
307 Manager Bradley asked if the \$38,100 is related to the grant application.

308  
309 District Administrator Tomczik stated that it is not and explained that the \$38,100 is the  
310 total cost of the Task Order. He explained that this addition of \$6,900 in additional scope

311 services request is included, there will only be a \$2,400 increase in the total task order  
312 because HEI has not utilized the full budgeted amount for the original Task Order.

313  
314 District Engineer Otterness explained that the original Task Order was for \$35,700, and as  
315 alluded to by District Administrator Tomczik, HEI came in about \$4,500 under budget on  
316 the completion of the task order. He stated that they are asking to add about \$6,900  
317 worth of scope, but because there is already \$4,500 left in the budget, it will really just be  
318 an additional \$2,400 beyond the original scope. He stated that HEI is asking that the  
319 budget be bumped up by \$2,400 to include the total scope that will be added. He noted  
320 that this is indicated on page 236 of the packet.

321  
322 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Preiner, to approve HEI***  
323 ***Additional Services Request for Task Order 2021-004 for the District Wide Modeling***  
324 ***Program in a total amount not to exceed \$38,100; and authorizes the board president***  
325 ***to sign the task order.***

326 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

327  
328 **8. RCWD Cafeteria Plan**  
329 District Administrator Tomczik explained that the Flexible Benefit Plan will no longer be  
330 supported by Redpath and Companies and the District will need to select an alternate  
331 company.

332  
333 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to authorize the RCWD***  
334 ***administrator, on advice of counsel, to adopt Further benefit plan documents.***

335  
336 Manager Bradley noted that the word 'Further' has a capital 'F' because it is a business  
337 entity.

338  
339 Manager Waller stated that he is hopeful this will be a much better process for staff.

340  
341 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

342  
343 **9. 2022 Rice Creek Watershed District Board Calendar**  
344 District Administrator Tomczik reviewed the Board calendar for 2022 and noted the  
345 adjustments that had been made.

346  
347 President Preiner stated that she would also like to suggest that the Truth-in-Taxation  
348 meeting in December be held at 6:00 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m.

349

350 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the 2022***  
351 ***calendar, as presented, with the additional revision to move the December 14, 2022***  
352 ***Truth-in-Taxation meeting to 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.***  
353

354 **10. Sunram Construction, Inc. Final Pay Request for Lower Rice Creek Stabilization Project**  
355 **& Presentation**

356 Lake and Stream Specialist Matt Kocian explained that this item is to close out the Lower  
357 Rice Creek Stabilization project and noted that the grant provided by BWSR expires at the  
358 end of 2021. He introduced Jessica Olson from Barr Engineering and asked her to share  
359 some details of the project. He noted that this project was conceived as a way to mitigate  
360 sedimentation in Lower Rice Creek and downstream to Locke Lake and explained how  
361 erosion of the streambank as the primary source of sediment had been identified. He  
362 stated that both Barr Engineering and Sunram Construction have done a great job on this  
363 project.

364  
365 Jessica Olson, Barr Engineering, gave a brief presentation that highlighted some of the  
366 key points of the project, and shared photos of the finished project and the design  
367 elements that were included in the project. She expressed her appreciation to Sunram  
368 Construction and Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian who have been fantastic to work with  
369 throughout the entire process.

370  
371 Manager Weinandt asked about the status of the buckthorn removal and if it was part of  
372 the contract.

373  
374 Ms. Olson stated that it was part of the design and a crew went in last winter and removed  
375 a lot of the buckthorn, which has made a big difference.

376  
377 Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian reviewed the financial details and budget summary for  
378 the project. He also noted the really great partnerships that were formed with the City  
379 of Fridley and Anoka County Parks on this project. The ability to complete the work under  
380 budget allowed the District also to do work at additional streambank locations.

381  
382 Manager Waller asked about the total grant amount for this project.

383  
384 Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian explained that the grant was for a bit over \$568,000.

385  
386 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve final payment***  
387 ***to Sunram Construction, Inc. for the Lower Rice Creek Stabilization Project, in the***  
388 ***amount of \$34,426.67.***  
389

390 Manager Weinandt asked what happened to the portion of the budget that was unused.

391

392 Lake and Stream Specialist Kocian explained that it is essentially proportioned, so the  
393 Clean Water Fund Grant is a 25% match, 75% grant. He noted that whatever is remaining,  
394 about 25% of that is savings to the District and 75% would be returned to the State.

395

396 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

397

398 **11. December 22, 2021 Check Register – Resolution Authorizing Treasurer Approval**

399 District Administrator Tomczik stated this resolution authorizes the Treasurer to review  
400 and approve payment of the December 22, 2021 check register because the Board will  
401 not be holding a second meeting this month.

402

403 ***Motion by Manager Waller, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt Resolution 2021-***  
404 ***27: Authorization For Payment Of December 2021 Check Register.***

405

406 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorize the District Treasurer  
407 to review and approve payment of the December 22, 2021 check register in an amount  
408 not to exceed \$400,000 for operating expenses, and \$150,000 surety returns.

409 **ROLL CALL:**

410 ***Manager Waller – Aye***

411 ***Manager Weinandt – Aye***

412 ***Manager Bradley – Aye***

413 ***Manager Wagamon – Absent***

414 ***President Preiner – Aye***

415 ***Motion carried 4-0.***

416

417 **12. Salary Study Gallagher**

418 District Administrator Tomczik noted the Board received a hardcopy of the Gallagher  
419 Salary Study at its December 6, 2021 workshop meeting. At the workshop, Gallagher  
420 provided a presentation to the Board and discussed the salary structure study and  
421 position slotting and answered questions from the Board. There have been no changes  
422 to the Gallagher memo since the workshop. The Gallagher memo has also been posted  
423 on the website and is available at the meeting today. There are no concerns by staff.

424

425 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Bradley, to adopt the December***  
426 ***6, 2021 Gallagher Salary Structure update and Position Slotting and incorporate the***  
427 ***resultant 2021 and 2022 tables into the District’s Policy and Procedure Manual,***  
428 ***Employee Handbook section.***

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Manager Waller stated that he will support this, but he is not happy with the process that is used for this study. He stated that this only has six organizations, which is a very small survey sample. He stated that he also does not think this does a lot of critical thinking about the impact that COVID has had in the last few years on the working conditions, and how that may have impacted the salary structure. He stated that, for example, working from home has resulted in a great deal of actual savings for employees. He shared examples from his sister, who works for the State and no longer travels to St. Paul every day, which has meant a tremendous time savings with regard to her commute, nor is she paying for the expenses involved in that travel. He stated that this has resulted in about a \$4,000 to \$5,000 increase in what she can keep in her pocket and he feels this kind of thing needs to be considered because it is an actual change in working conditions and he does not believe that information was considered in this study.

***Motion carried 4-0.***

**13. Long Lake Sediment Basin Maintenance Lease Agreement**

Project Manager Axtell noted that a draft lease has been prepared for four acres of contiguous property adjacent to the sediment basin located on Ramsey County parkland. It would begin on April 1, 2022 and run for what is expected to be a minimum of six months through September 30, 2022 for a total cost of \$85,500. He noted that there are month-to-month provisions in the lease that would allow the District to extend the operation, if necessary.

Manager Bradley asked if the name of the lessor is public.

Project Manager Axtell explained that it would be public, as soon as the motion is made by the Board.

***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve the attached Property & Use Lease Agreement with Murlowski Properties, Inc., authorizing the Administrator to execute the document, with any non-material changes and upon advice of counsel.***

***Motion carried 4-0.***

**14. Administrator Review**

Manager Bradley stated that by unanimous consent, the Board had convened in closed session at the recent workshop, to evaluate the performance of the District Administrator. Following discussion, the Board agreed to a 3.5% salary increase based on merit, and a 2.25% adjustment of \$2,786 as a result of the Gallagher 2021 salary scale

469 structure recommendation. He stated that those increases result in an overall increase  
470 of \$6,844, or the equivalent of 5.9% to take effect on January 1, 2022 and noted that the  
471 new total yearly salary will be \$122,804.

472  
473 ***Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to authorize an increase***  
474 ***in salary for District Administrator Tomczik to \$122,804, effective January 1, 2022.***

475  
476 Manager Waller reiterated his opinion that the Board needs to do some critical thinking  
477 about this and believes the adjustment coming every two years is too short of a time  
478 frame. He stated that the merit adjustment is a subjective judgement. He stated that  
479 considering the short amount of time District Administrator Tomczik has been in this  
480 position, this is a tremendous salary increase from where it started. He stated that the  
481 Board is also not taking into account the things that are able to be 'pocketed' as a result  
482 of the changes in the work conditions, as noted earlier.

483  
484 Manager Bradley stated that this is a complex process and the Board also did not take  
485 into consideration the annual inflation rate of 6.9%. He noted that with this adjustment  
486 the Administrator's salary is still below the median. He stated that the main thing the  
487 Board is trying to do is be competitive to protect against people attempting to hire  
488 qualified individuals away from the District. He noted that the District has lost a few  
489 employees that were hired away from the District and this is intended so District  
490 Administrator Tomczik is not lost.

491  
492 Manager Waller stated that he also does not want to lose District Administrator Tomczik,  
493 but he also does not want to pay salaries that are beyond what the taxpayer should  
494 support.

495  
496 ***ROLL CALL:***  
497 ***Manager Waller – Nay***  
498 ***Manager Weinandt – Aye***  
499 ***Manager Bradley – Aye***  
500 ***Manager Wagamon – Absent***  
501 ***President Preiner – Aye***  
502 ***Motion carried 3-1.***

503  
504 President Preiner noted that she is not opposed to taking a look at some of the things  
505 brought up by Manager Waller and suggested that it be discussed during the year and not  
506 at the time of salary decisions.

507

508 Manager Waller stated that he is just trying to make sure that there is some critical  
509 thinking that goes into this type of decision and reiterated his concerns with the small  
510 sample that was used for the Gallagher survey.

511

512 **15. Check Register Dated December 8, 2021, in the Amount of \$49,421.34 Prepared by**  
513 **Redpath and Company**

514 *Motion by Manager Bradley, seconded by Manager Weinandt, to approve check*  
515 *register dated December 8, 2021, in the Amount of 49,421.34 as prepared by Redpath*  
516 *and Company.*

517 *Motion carried 4-0.*

518

519 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION**

520 **1. Jensen Letter Tabled from 11/10/2021 Meeting**

521 Project Manager Axtell noted that this item was tabled from the November 10, 2021  
522 Board meeting in order to allow time to read the letter that was presented the morning  
523 of the November Board meeting. He stated that since that time, the District has  
524 submitted its permit amendment application to the DNR. He stated that this letter was  
525 provided to the DNR and the District asked if any additional information was required.  
526 The DNR gave a verbal response that there are a few small items that need to be  
527 addressed. He stated that this information was prepared by HEI and submitted to the  
528 DNR, as requested. He noted that the District extended invitations to the cities of  
529 Birchwood Village, White Bear Lake, and Mahtomedi as well as the DNR to engage in the  
530 bigger picture discussion about the Priebe Lake Outfall project with a meeting expected  
531 to be held in early 2022.

532

533 **2. District Engineer Update and Timeline**

534 Manager Weinandt asked about the monthly progress report, actual and estimated costs,  
535 and asked for clarification regarding the assistance for the Anoka County Boundary  
536 petition and whether it came in over budget.

537

538 District Engineer Otterness explained that HEI did run over on that issue because there  
539 was additional engagement that was required with some of the entities that was not  
540 included in the Task Order. He stated that HEI has not yet prepared an Additional Services  
541 request for that work and will be working with District Administrator Tomczik on those  
542 details.

543

544 District Administrator Tomczik noted that there was a lot of back and forth discussion  
545 with some of the other watershed districts, as well as a meeting with the State regarding  
546 the correct reading of the statute and how its proper application and administration.

547

548 **3. Staff Reports**  
549 Manager Weinandt commended staff for the output that they have been able to do  
550 during 'normal' times, but especially during the current 'abnormal' times. She stated that  
551 despite the comments made by Manager Waller regarding the savings staff has had  
552 because they work at home, she feels it has been a challenge to complete this work  
553 remotely. She stated that she thinks they have had an amazing set of accomplishments  
554 for 2021.

555  
556 President Preiner stated that staff also did a great job presenting at the MAWD  
557 conference.

558  
559 Manager Waller agreed that staff gave tremendous presentations at the MAWD  
560 conference. He expressed his appreciation for the work that staff has put in this past year  
561 and wished them a happy and safe holiday season.

562  
563 **4. December/January Calendar**  
564 Reviewed.

565  
566 **5. Administrator Update**  
567 District Administrator Tomczik noted Anoka County Administrator Rhonda Sivarajah  
568 reached out to him and they have exchanged e-mails. He intends a continued open  
569 communication with Anoka County staff and Board. He clarified as to the HEI additional  
570 services request memo, the original Task Order was \$35,700 and the addition is for \$2,400  
571 which brings it to a total of \$38,100.

572  
573 **6. Managers Updates**  
574 There were none.

575  
576 **ADJOURNMENT**

577 ***Motion by Manager Weinandt, seconded by Manager Waller, to adjourn the meeting.***  
578 ***The motion carried 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.***

579  
580