

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Board Room
Coon Creek Watershed District Offices
Monday, October 26, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Board of Managers:

Jim Hafner, President; Jason Lund, Vice President; Mary Campbell, Treasurer; Dwight McCullough, Member at Large; Nathaniel Schneider.

Note: Individuals with items on the agenda or who wish to speak to the Board are encouraged to be in attendance when the meeting is called to order.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Announcements
4. Open Mic

*Members of the public at this time may address the Board, for **up to three minutes**, on a matter not on the Agenda. Individuals wishing to be heard must sign in with their name and address at the door. Additional comments may be accepted in writing. Board action or discussion should **not** be expected during the presentation of public comment/open mic. Board members may direct staff to research the matter further or take the matter under advisement for consideration at a future Board meeting.*

CONSENT ITEMS

The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member, staff member or a member of the audience.

5. Approval of Minutes
6. Bills/Accounts Payable

POLICY ITEMS

7. Award Work Economic Analysis

PERMIT ITEMS

8. Harmony Estates 4th Addition
9. North Metro Storage

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Water Quality Model Update (ABM)
11. MS4 General Permit Reissuance Update
12. MN Watershed Annual Conference
13. District Administrator Annual Review
14. Watershed Management Videos

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

15. 2026-2027 Winter Outlook

ADJOURN

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS' MEETING

The Board of Managers of the Coon Creek Watershed District held their regular meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026, at the Coon Creek Watershed District Office.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Board Members Present: Jason Lund, Mary Campbell, and Dwight McCullough
Board Member attending via zoom: Nathaniel Schneider due to communications issue.

Board Member absent: Jim Hafner

Staff Present: Jon Janke, Tyler Thompson, Erin Margl, Corinne Elfelt, Michelle Ulrich and Hattie Hillukka

2. Approval of the Agenda

Board Member Campbell moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Board Member Lund. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Lund – Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

3. Announcements

No Announcements

4. Open Mic/Public Comment

No one was present for comment

CONSENT ITEMS

5. Approval of minutes

6. Receive Administrator's Report

7. Advisory Committee Report

8. Bills/Accounts Payable

Claims totaling \$71,697.31 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval.

Vendor	Amount
V0008--US BANK	18,873.92
V0010--A1 FLOOR AND CARPET CARE	1,119.30
V0026--CITY OF COON RAPIDS	2,480.00
V0068--PLM LAKE AND LAND MGT CORP	7,435.68
V0111--WELL GROOMED LAWNS INC	728.00
V0128--YTS COMPANIES LLC	8,170.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	437.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	57.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	228.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	152.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	152.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	1,715.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	209.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	418.00
V0221--ABDO LLP	3,333.33
V0221--ABDO LLP	1,245.50
V0242--METRO I NET	7,330.00
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	331.00
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	692.95
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	900.00
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	37.10
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	1,158.35
V0362--PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	9,064.43
V0363--MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1,365.00
V0452--GREENHAVEN PRINTING	165.00
V0453--FAMILY PROMISE	3,899.75
	71,697.31

Board Member Campbell moved to approve the Consent Items. Seconded by Board Member McCullough. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, Lund – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Campbell – Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

POLICY ITEMS

9. Award Work Office Rear Parking

This item was presented by Operations and Management Coordinator Tyler Thompson. He stated at the July 2025 Board meeting the Board authorized staff to seek quotes for the rear parking lot addition referred to as the auxiliary rear parking. The auxiliary parking layout was selected and designed to provide 11 additional parking spaces for current and near future needs while maintaining the flexibility to expand parking, storage, and/or landscaping further as needed in the future. The layout takes vehicle maneuverability and snow removal into consideration. The design uses materials that allow rainfall to permeate through

the surface and infiltrate into the ground. This avoids adding any impervious surface to the property.

From September 11, 2026, through October 2, 2026, a solicitation for quotes was released to a select list of 7 qualified contractors. The current design that was released for quotes has been approved for construction through the City of Ham Lake Planning Commission and City Council and 2 contractors submitted quotes with 2 additional materials options. The quotes came back nearly double what is currently budgeted.

Quote Results:

Contractor	Base Quote (Pavers + Stormcrete)	Alternate #1 (Pavers)	Alternate #2 (Stormcrete)
MN Pavers, LLC	\$347,875.00	\$232,375.00	\$430,000.00
BE Landscape Designs	\$494,544.00	\$192,744.00	\$752,554.00

District Administrator Jon Janke added that this agenda item is simply on the quote itself and there can be discussion about what options we have for the rear lot in the future, but the item is strictly regarding the quotes. Additionally, the cost is significantly higher than our available budget. Even if we were able to secure additional funding, the quotes would still exceed the \$175,000 threshold, triggering the requirement for a public bid.

Staff do not have a recommendation, but one option is to reject the quotes and follow up with the Board for another option and cautioned awarding this is as it requires a Public Bid.

Some discussion was held regarding the netting for the golf course and Mr. Thompson said that is now in a different category and will be addressed elsewhere. Also, some discussion was held regarding the product that would be used to do the project and that it's a superior product and labor-intensive work which really adds to the cost.

Board Member McCullough motioned to approve option #3 to reject all quotes at this time. Seconded by Member Schneider. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Campbell– Aye, Lund – Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

10. Award Work Economic Analysis

Mr. Janke explained the purpose of this item is to award work for an economic analysis from a consultant. The District has budgeted funds for an Economic Analysis to support long-term planning, funding, implementation, and public cost communication. The project is intended to provide practical decision-support tools for evaluating long-term funding needs, implementation pacing, public cost, financing mechanisms, and the value of District programs and projects. Future implementation needs remain significant, and the Board will benefit from decision support tools that can be updated as assumptions and available information change. District staff continue to manage routine budgeting, forecasting, and planning.

The Board discussed the proposals.

Board member McCullough motioned to table this until all Board Members are in attendance. Seconded by Member Lund. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Lund – Aye Campbell – Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. District Rule Update

Watershed Development Coordinator Erin Margle explained the District adopted its current rules on October 10, 2022, with an effective date of January 1, 2023.

The intent of this update to the District Rules is to provide clarification on standards that have caused confusion during the permitting process and address any gaps that staff have identified since the current rules have been in place.

At the June 22, 2026, Meeting the Board directed staff to submit the proposed amendments to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the transportation authorities for a 45-day review and comment period.

During the 45-day agency review period, comments were received from Anoka County Highway Department. Those comments and the District's respective responses are in the Staff Report in the Board Packet.

Based on the findings and exhibits presented in the Staff Report, the staff recommendation was to Receive the Draft Revised District Rules, order a public hearing on the proposed rule revision for October 26, 2026, and direct staff to publish the notice of public hearing.

Board Member Lund motioned to Receive the Draft Revised District Rules. Board Member Campbell motioned to order a public hearing on the proposed rule revision for October 26, 2026, and direct staff to publish the notice of public hearing. Seconded by Member Schneider. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Lund– Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

12. Watershed Management Videos

The Board discussed the video series that is available through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that helps managers understand their role on the Board. At previous Board Meetings, Member Hafner explained that as time allows the Board may view a video at a Board Meeting. Due to the length of this meeting, the Board chose not to view one of the videos.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Lund moved to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Seconded by Board Member Campbell. Roll call vote taken pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.02: Schneider – Aye, Lund – Aye, McCullough – Aye, Campbell – Aye. The motion carried with four (4) yeas (Board Members Lund, Campbell, McCullough and Schneider) and no nays.

President

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 6
ITEM: Bills to Be Paid

FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted
POLICY IMPACT: Policy

REQUEST
Approve bills

BACKGROUND

Claims totaling \$155,587.92 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval.

Vendor	Amount
V0054--MICHELLE J ULRICH PA	2,102.50
V0110--RESPEC COMPANY LLC	9,351.25
V0120--PARENT CUSTOM HOMES LLC	2,171.25
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	260.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	195.00
V0138--RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	195.00
V0195--STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	13,360.00
V0195--STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	16,199.00
V0195--STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	62,544.25
V0197--VANDERBILT, CHASE	38.24
V0299--MP+G MARKETING SOLUTIONS LLC	7,224.55
V0348--BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	26,321.27
V0350--FIRST UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	748.45
V0351--DELTA DENTAL OF MN	1,958.93
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	331.00
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	288.46
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	1,158.35
V0360--PAYLOCITY	594.61
V0362--PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	9,070.79
V0363--MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1,365.00
V0366--KRAUSE, EMMA	110.02
	155,587.92

Item 6: Bills to be Paid Page 2 of 2

Company name: Created on:	Coon Creek Watershed District 10/21/2026									
	Vendor name	Bll number	Date	Fund name	Department name	Account	Capital Project ID	Grant ID	Transaction amount	Memo
0973569-001NOV26	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Administration	21050			131.25	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Administration	21050			427.36	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	60715			32.11	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60715			33.66	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	60715			26.39	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
	FIRSTUNIMLIFEINSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001NOV26	10/21/2026	General Fund	Administration	60715			95.68	NOV26 LTD LIFE INS
Sum for 0973569-001NOV26									748.45	
10232026	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	60718			150.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Administration	60718			450.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60718			105.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Public & Governmental Relations	60718			25.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	60718			435.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
	MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	10232026	10/23/2026	General Fund	Planning	60718			200.00	10232026 MFSF PYRL
Sum for 10232026									1,365.00	
1JIDYSF	HEALTH EQUITY INC	1JIDYSF	10/14/2026	General Fund	Administration	60713			331.00	OCT14 DPC DEDUCT
Sum for 1JIDYSF									331.00	
26 OCT EE REIMB	KRAUSE, EMMA	26 OCT EE REIMB	10/15/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61475			71.78	26 EE REIMB WRC MILEAGE & PARKING
	KRAUSE, EMMA	26 OCT EE REIMB	10/15/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61476			38.24	26 EE REIMB WRC MILEAGE & PARKING
	VANDERBILT, CHASE	26 OCT EE REIMB	10/15/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61476			38.24	26 EE REIMB WRC PARKING
Sum for 26 OCT EE REIMB									148.26	
2.61002E+11	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	60722			26.28	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60722			25.62	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Planning	60722			15.52	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Administration	21050			26,307.41	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Administration	60722			41.06	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	261002103797	10/14/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	60722			5.38	NOV26 BCBS MEDICAL VISION
Sum for 261002103797									26,321.27	
2625565	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625565	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ25-510	G26-002-M	502.00	FRQJ227709152 CD39 FRQ/GRANT ADM 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625565	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ25-510	G26-002	12,858.00	FRQJ227709152 CD39 MODEL DEV 9/26
Sum for 2625565									13,360.00	
2625566	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625566	10/5/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	63246			16,199.00	FRQJ227707626 PERMIT PROG 9/26
Sum for 2625566									16,199.00	
2625820	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ26-317		2,522.50	FRQJ227708772 D37 PLAN IMPL 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ26-316		3,826.50	FRQJ227708772 INFILTRATION STUDY 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ24-524	G25-002-M	11,903.00	FRQJ227708772 SAND CRK ACP CRSG 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ25-303		2,546.00	FRQJ227708772 SAND CRK ACP ASSESS 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ25-305		17,521.75	FRQJ227708772 CHINL GEO ANALYSIS 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Administration	63246			9,873.00	FRQJ227708772 GENL ENGR 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ26-315	G26-001-M	1,275.00	FRQJ227708772 ACP ENHANCE PH 11/9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	63246	FRQJ25-406		791.50	FRQJ227708772 OM GENL 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ25-510	G25-001-M	4,219.50	FRQJ227708772 BMD GENWATER BMP 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ25-509		1,045.00	FRQJ227708772 CCCR 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ26-304		3,902.50	FRQJ227708772 D60 SUB PLAN IMPL 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	63246	FRQJ26-408		3,962.50	FRQJ227708772 SOT PLCT 9/26
	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	2625820	10/5/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	63246	FRQJ24-524		120.00	FRQJ227708772 SAND CRK ACP CRSG 9/26
Sum for 2625820									62,544.25	
B025341	RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	B025341	10/7/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61549	FRQJ26-504		260.00	WOB025341 MONITORING
Sum for B025341									260.00	
B025342	RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	B025342	10/7/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61549	FRQJ25-502		195.00	WOB025342 CHLORIDES
Sum for B025342									195.00	
B025356	RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES INC	B025356	10/19/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	61549	FRQJ26-504		195.00	WOB025356 MONITORING
Sum for B025356									195.00	
CNS0002295576	DELTA DENTAL OF MN	CNS0002295576	10/20/2026	General Fund	Administration	21050			1,958.93	NOV26 DENTAL INS
Sum for CNS0002295576									1,958.93	
FB4UE26	HEALTH EQUITY INC	FB4UE26	10/23/2026	General Fund	Water Quality	60713			144.00	10232026 HE-HSA DEDUCTIONS
	HEALTH EQUITY INC	FB4UE26	10/23/2026	General Fund	Public & Governmental Relations	60713			73.07	10232026 HE-HSA DEDUCTIONS
	HEALTH EQUITY INC	FB4UE26	10/23/2026	General Fund	Planning	60713			144.23	10232026 HE-HSA DEDUCTIONS
	HEALTH EQUITY INC	FB4UE26	10/23/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	60713			265.00	10232026 HE-HSA DEDUCTIONS
	HEALTH EQUITY INC	FB4UE26	10/23/2026	General Fund	Administration	60713			532.05	10232026 HE-HSA DEDUCTIONS
Sum for FB4UE26									1,158.35	
RINALSURVEYFMT	MP+G MARKETING SOLUTIONS LLC	RINALSURVEYFMT	10/10/2026	General Fund	Public & Governmental Relations	61549	FRQJ24-610		7,224.55	RINAL3RD FMT MARKET RESEARCH CONSULT
Sum for RINALSURVEYFMT									7,224.55	
INV09261017	RESPEC COMPANY LLC	INV09261017	10/15/2026	General Fund	Administration	63010			9,351.25	FRQJ2735.24013 GIS SERVICES SEPT26
Sum for INV09261017									9,351.25	
INV4238912	PAYLOCITY	INV4238912	10/20/2026	General Fund	Administration	63052			594.61	HOM PYRL FEES OCT26
Sum for INV4238912									594.61	
LEGAL SEPT 26	MICHELLE JURICH PA	LEGAL SEPT 26	10/9/2026	General Fund	Administration	63453			2,102.50	LEGAL SEPT 26
Sum for LEGAL SEPT 26									2,102.50	
PAN 24-038	PARENT CUSTOM HOMES LLC	PAN 24-038	10/26/2026	Escrow Fund	Administration	24210			2,150.00	ESCROW/REF-ADOLFSON RIVERBANK
	PARENT CUSTOM HOMES LLC	PAN 24-038	10/26/2026	General Fund	Watershed Development	53191			21.25	REVIEW REF-ADOLFSON RIVERBANK
Sum for PAN 24-038									2,171.25	
RT541OM	HEALTH EQUITY INC	RT541OM	10/14/2026	General Fund	Administration	60713			288.46	OCT14 DPC DEDUCT
Sum for RT541OM									288.46	
SOMPER000872350	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER000872350	10/23/2026	General Fund	Administration	21050			9,070.79	
Sum for SOMPER000872350									9,070.79	
Sum Total									155,587.92	

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Request to Award Work for Economic Analysis

AGENDA: Policy
BUDGET: \$125,000

ACTION REQUESTED

Award Economic Analysis contract.

BACKGROUND

The District has budgeted funds for an Economic Analysis to support long-term planning, funding, implementation, and public cost communication. The project is intended to provide practical decision-support tools for evaluating long-term funding needs, implementation pacing, public cost, financing mechanisms, and the value of District programs and projects.

The work originated from the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan process, which identified larger and more complex long-term implementation and funding needs than the District has historically managed. The analysis is intended to improve the information available to the Board and staff as funding, project costs, and implementation assumptions change over time.

At the May 26, 2026, Board meeting, the Board authorized staff to solicit proposals for the Economic Analysis and return to the Board with proposal results and a recommended consultant selection. Following Board authorization, staff distributed the Request for Proposals to 10 consultants. Proposals were due September 29, 2026.

At the October 12, 2026 Board meeting, the Board reviewed the proposals and tabled action until all Board members are in attendance.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Project budget \$125,000

Request for Proposal The attached RFP was distributed to 10 consultants.

Base Scope of work includes project initiation and data review, long-term funding need model, implementation pacing and cost of delay, levy and taxpayer impact analysis, funding and financing mechanisms, and public value, funding gap, and Board decision support.

Optional Add Alternates includes a local willingness to pay survey, parcel level property value analysis, detailed flood risk reduction value analysis, precipitation and flood risk cost scenario, and post-2045 stewardship model.

Basis of Award proposals were evaluated based on qualifications, project understanding, proposed approach, deliverables, schedule, cost, and overall value to the District. The District is not required to select the lowest cost proposal.

Value of Analysis District staff will continue to manage routine budgeting, forecasting, and planning. The Economic Analysis is intended to complement existing staff tools by bringing in outside expertise for long-term decisions involving implementation pacing, public cost, taxpayer impacts, external funding needs, and financing options. Future implementation needs remain significant, and the Board will benefit from decision support tools that can be updated as assumptions and available information change.

PROPOSALS

Consultant	Base Scope Cost	Optional Add Alternates	Summary
Ehlers	\$65,100	Not priced	Complete proposal. Within budget. Uses a 20-year financial management plan and editable funding model as the central tool to address the full Base Scope.
Stantec Consulting Services	\$124,932	Provided planning level cost ranges	Complete proposal. Within budget. Includes an integrated interdisciplinary approach combining financial modeling, implementation pacing, taxpayer impacts, funding strategy, public value, and Board decision support.

EVALUATION

Proposals were reviewed using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP.

Evaluation Criteria	Staff Evaluation Summary
Project understanding and approach	Both proposals are responsive. Ehlers centers the work on the financial management plan and funding model, then uses that tool to address the remaining Base Scope tasks. Stantec provides a more detailed task-by-task approach and stronger alignment with the decision-support purpose of the RFP.
Experience, qualifications, references, and samples	Both firms appear qualified. Ehlers demonstrates strong public finance and financial management planning experience. Stantec demonstrates broader economic, funding, and watershed-related experience.
Deliverables, model, scenarios, and Board materials	Both proposals appear capable of producing the required Base Scope deliverables. Stantec provides more detail, higher level of effort, more developed scenario testing, and stronger model

	adaptability. Ehlers provides a lower-cost approach centered on the financial management plan and funding model, with the remaining deliverables developed from that tool.
Schedule and project management	Both proposals provide acceptable schedule and project management approaches. Stantec proposes a larger team and higher level of effort, which may provide more flexibility during implementation. Staff will confirm key staff availability and roles before contract execution.
Cost and overall value	Ehlers proposed \$65,100. Stantec proposed \$124,932, including estimated travel expenses. Ehlers provides a substantially lower-cost proposal and would preserve more budget capacity. Stantec uses nearly the full project budget, but staff review found added value in scope depth, model adaptability, watershed alignment, and Board decision-support deliverables.

Evaluation consideration The primary tradeoff is cost and demonstrated scope depth. Ehlers provides a responsive, substantially lower-cost proposal centered on public finance, financial management planning, and the funding model. Stantec provides a higher-cost proposal, but staff review found that it demonstrates a stronger understanding of the District's intended use of the Economic Analysis, a more detailed approach to each Base Scope task, greater level of effort, and stronger alignment with watershed management, scenario analysis, public value, and Board decision-support needs. Based on the evaluation criteria and staff review, Stantec is recommended as the best overall value for the District.

OPTIONS

1. Award the Economic Analysis contract to Ehlers
2. Award the Economic Analysis contract to Stantec Consulting Services
3. Table action until a future meeting with statement of reason and need
4. Reject all proposals

RECOMMENDATION

Award Economic Analysis contract to Stantec Consulting Services.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FROM: Jon Janke
Coon Creek Watershed District
13632 Van Buren St NE
Ham Lake MN 55304

SUBJECT: Coon Creek Watershed District Economic Analysis

The Coon Creek Watershed District (District) is seeking proposals from qualified firms or consultant teams to provide economic analysis services for the District. Proposals must be received by **12:00 pm (Noon) on September 29, 2026**. Email is preferred. Delivered or mailed proposals are also acceptable.

Please email technical questions, inquiries, and proposals to Jon Janke, District Administrator, at jjanke@cooncreekwd.org or deliver or mail to:

Coon Creek Watershed District
Attn: Jon Janke
13632 Van Buren Street NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

RFP Timeline:

9/22/26

9/24/26

9/29/26 12:00 pm CST

10/12/26

October 2026

Spring 2027

Technical questions and inquiries due
District response to questions

Proposals and materials due

Estimated Board consideration of consultant selection

Estimated project kickoff

Target substantial completion

Organizational Background:

The Coon Creek Watershed District is a special purpose unit of government with taxing authority established in 1959 by public petition to address flood and water resource related issues. The District is managed by a five member Board of Managers and operates from the District office in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

The District is responsible for watershed management across approximately 107 square miles in central Anoka County. District responsibilities include water quality, flood risk reduction, public drainage, wetlands, groundwater, regulation, public service, capital project implementation, and related long term watershed management activities.

The District has historically funded many capital projects primarily through its own levy. That operating model is changing. Current and future implementation needs are larger, more complex, and increasingly dependent on multiple funding sources, including District levy, grants, intergovernmental cost sharing, partner participation, potential financing mechanisms, and coordinated project delivery.

The District has an existing budgeted project titled Economic Analysis. The budgeted description identifies valuation, willingness to pay, and financing mechanisms as intended study elements. The budget justification is to achieve and maintain the District mission long term. On May 26, 2026, the Board authorized staff to solicit proposals for the Economic Analysis and return to the Board with proposal results and a recommended consultant selection.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the Economic Analysis is to develop a practical, defensible, and usable analysis of the District's long term funding and financing needs. The study should provide economic information and decision support tools that can be used during budget development, capital planning, District and partner funding discussions, grant strategy, legislative funding discussions, and public communication.

The analysis is intended to help the District compare long term funding and implementation scenarios and understand how those scenarios may affect future costs, taxpayer impacts, funding needs, and Board decision making.

Summary of Requested Services:

The District is requesting proposals for a Base Scope and separately priced Optional Add Alternates. The Base Scope is intended to produce a usable economic and financial decision support tool. The Optional Add Alternates may be considered if they are useful, cost effective, and do not weaken the core work.

Detailed descriptions of the Base Scope, Optional Add Alternates, and expected deliverables are included in Attachment A.

The Base Scope includes:

1. Project initiation and data review.
2. Long term funding need model.
3. Implementation pacing and cost of delay.
4. Levy impact and taxpayer impact analysis.
5. Funding and financing mechanisms.
6. Public value, funding gap, and Board decision support.

The Optional Add Alternates include:

1. Local willingness to pay survey.
2. Parcel level property value analysis.
3. Detailed flood risk reduction value analysis.
4. Precipitation and flood risk cost scenario.
5. Post 2045 stewardship model.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be concise. Firms may use their standard proposal format, provided the proposal includes enough information for the District to evaluate the following:

1. Firm or consultant team qualifications and relevant experience.
2. Project understanding and proposed approach for completing the Base Scope.
3. Recommended refinements to the Base Scope or sequencing of Optional Add Alternates, if any, with explanation.
4. Key personnel, roles, and subconsultants, including who will lead the funding model, financing analysis, taxpayer impact analysis, economic value assessment, and project management.
5. Examples of similar work and references, preferably including public sector clients.
6. Sample work products or representative excerpts, if available. If confidential client work cannot be shared, provide a description of similar deliverables.
7. Proposed schedule, meetings, deliverables, staff review periods, and anticipated completion date.
8. Project management approach, communication expectations, meeting needs, data request process, review periods, and District staff involvement assumptions.
9. Cost proposal using Attachment B or an equivalent format that provides the same information.
10. Assumptions, exclusions, reimbursable expenses, and work that would require additional authorization.

The District is open to proposals from individual firms or consultant teams. Proposers should clearly identify the role of each firm and key staff member.

Cost Proposal Requirements

Proposers should provide a cost proposal that allows the District to compare Base Scope cost, optional task pricing, staffing assumptions, and exclusions across proposals. Proposers should use the cost proposal table in Attachment B or provide substantially equivalent information.

The cost proposal should include:

1. Total not to exceed cost for the Base Scope.
2. Cost by Base Scope task.
3. Separately priced Optional Add Alternates.
4. Hourly rates for proposed staff.
5. Estimated hours by staff role and task.
6. Brief cost assumptions or notes necessary to understand the proposal.
7. Assumptions, exclusions, and reimbursable expenses.
8. Identify any assumptions about District staff completing work, preparing analysis, compiling data, or otherwise reducing consultant effort or cost.

Evaluation Criteria

The District will evaluate proposals based on qualifications, project understanding, proposed approach, deliverables, schedule, cost, and overall value to the District. The District is not required to select the lowest cost proposal.

The District will consider the following criteria when evaluating proposals:

1. Project understanding and approach.
2. Relevant experience and qualifications.
3. Quality and usefulness of proposed deliverables.
4. Ability to produce an editable funding model, clear scenario outputs, assumptions documentation, and Board usable materials.
5. Schedule and project management approach.
6. Cost, budget clarity, hourly rates, staffing plan, assumptions, and exclusions.
7. References and sample work products.
8. Overall value to the District.

The evaluation criteria are intended to support staff review and recommendation to the Board. The Board retains discretion to accept, reject, or modify a recommendation, negotiate scope and cost, or decline to award a contract.

The District may conduct interviews with one or more proposers. The District may request clarification, revised scopes, or revised fee proposals before making a recommendation to the Board.

Contract Award

This RFP does not authorize a consultant contract or commit the District to proceed with the work. Staff will return to the Board with proposal results, scope considerations, and a recommended consultant selection before contract award.

The selected consultant will be required to enter into a written professional services agreement acceptable to the District. The final contract scope, schedule, compensation, insurance requirements, ownership of work product, and other terms will be negotiated before execution.

Additional Terms:

Public Data and Confidentiality. Proposals submitted to the District may be subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Proposers should clearly identify any data they believe to be trade secret or otherwise protected from disclosure and provide the legal basis for that designation. The District cannot guarantee that all information marked confidential will be withheld from public disclosure.

Conflict of Interest. Applicants should identify any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest in servicing the District and explain how those conflicts would be managed and mitigated to support the best interests of the District.

Reservation of Rights. This RFP does not commit the District to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a proposal, or contract for services. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive minor irregularities, informalities, or discrepancies, negotiate with any qualified consultant or firm, request clarifications or revised proposals, or cancel the RFP.

Technical Questions and Inquiries. Technical questions and inquiries must be submitted in writing by the deadline listed in the RFP Timeline. Responses to questions may be compiled and distributed to known proposers and posted with the RFP materials, as needed.

Work Product. All final work products, models, data summaries, tables, graphics, presentations, and reports prepared under the contract will become the property of the District, subject to final contract terms.

Subconsultants. Subconsultants may be used if identified in the proposal and approved by the District. The prime consultant will remain responsible for all work performed by the consultant team.

Submission

Submit proposals electronically as a PDF by 12:00 pm (Noon) on September 29, 2026. A separate Excel file may be submitted for the detailed budget if useful. Proposals may also be delivered or mailed to the District address listed above.

Questions and proposals should be directed to Jon Janke, District Administrator, at jjanke@cooncreekwd.org or 763-755-0975.

Regards,

Jon Janke
District Administrator
jjanke@cooncreekwd.org
763-755-0975

Attachment A: Scope of Work and Expected Deliverables

The following scope describes the District's anticipated Base Scope and Optional Add Alternates. Proposers may recommend refinements if they believe a different approach would better meet the District's purpose and desired outcomes.

District Involvement

The District expects this project to be completed through close coordination between District staff and the consultant. District staff will make available existing plans, budgets, levy history, capital improvement information, project cost information, grant and partner funding information, tax base information, historical context, and other readily available data needed to support the analysis. District staff will also participate in project meetings, assist in identifying key resource management and implementation assumptions, including TMDL/WRAPS assumptions, capital planning assumptions, and project pacing assumptions, and provide feedback on draft deliverables. The consultant is expected to use that information to develop the funding model, economic analysis, implementation scenarios, findings, considerations, and final work products.

Base Scope of Work

Task 1: Project Initiation and Data Review

1. Meet with District staff to confirm the project purpose, intended use, schedule, scope, deliverables, available data, District and consultant roles, staff involvement assumptions, and known constraints.
2. Develop an initial data request and assumptions framework that identifies information to be provided by the District, information to be developed by the consultant, key decisions or assumptions requiring District confirmation, and any data limitations that may affect the analysis.
3. Review relevant District materials, including comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, budgets, levy history, tax capacity and parcel data, TMDL and WRAPS assumptions, project cost estimates, grant and partner funding assumptions, fund balance, and cash flow requirements.
4. Identify the key assumptions that will drive the analysis, including where data are strong, where assumptions are weak, and where scenarios or ranges will be needed rather than precise forecasts.

Task 2: Long Term Funding Need Model

1. Develop a transparent, editable, planning level funding model for the next 20 years.
2. Separate capital implementation costs from program support, operations and maintenance, staffing or consultant support, and reasonable future uncertainty allowances.
3. Include annual funding need, inflation and construction escalation, District levy assumptions, grant and partner funding assumptions, debt or financing assumptions where appropriate, use of available fund balance while maintaining required cash flow thresholds, and post implementation operations and maintenance assumptions.
4. Provide the District with an editable funding model, such as an Excel workbook, with assumptions, calculations, scenario inputs, and summary tables or dashboard style outputs suitable for staff and Board review.
5. Where practical, organize the model and summary outputs to align with the District's existing PlanIT capital planning software.

Task 3: Implementation Pacing and Cost of Delay

1. Evaluate implementation pacing scenarios such as current trajectory, steady implementation, phased growth, delayed implementation, constrained funding, and debt supported implementation where appropriate.
2. Quantify how project costs change if implementation is delayed by 5, 10, or 15 years under reasonable inflation and construction escalation assumptions.
3. Help answer the practical question: If the District does not fund or implement the work now, what does that cost later?

Task 4: Levy Impact and Taxpayer Impact Analysis

1. Develop a practical method for estimating and communicating District levy impacts under the funding and implementation scenarios developed in Tasks 2 and 3.
2. Identify useful ways to explain levy impacts to the Board and public, such as total levy change, estimated impact on representative residential properties, impacts by major property class, and funding allocation by major cost category.
3. Evaluate how changes in property value, tax capacity, property class, tax base growth, and levy amount affect year-to-year taxpayer impact estimates.
4. Prepare example tables, graphics, or other communication tools that accurately explain District levy impacts without overstating precision or implying that representative examples reflect all taxpayers.
5. Identify the strengths, limitations, and appropriate uses of different taxpayer impact communication methods, including representative property examples, cost allocation graphics, property class summaries, geographic summaries, or other approaches the consultant recommends.

Task 5: Funding and Financing Mechanisms

1. Evaluate potential funding and financing mechanisms, including District levy, grants, intergovernmental cost sharing, partner contributions, state bonding or legislative appropriations, loans, bonds, special assessments, charges, special taxing districts, phased funding, pay as you go capital funding, project specific funding agreements, and use of available fund balance while maintaining required cash flow thresholds.
2. For each mechanism, identify typical use, advantages, disadvantages, administrative burden, statutory, programmatic, or policy considerations requiring further review, political risk, implementation complexity, and suitability for different project types.
3. Define which tools fit which circumstances rather than selecting a single funding mechanism or making final policy decisions.

Task 6: Public Value, Scenario Comparison, and Board Decision Support

1. Provide a practical summary of economic value concepts that are relevant to District services, including willingness to pay literature, property value relevance, floodplain and drainage preventative value, grant leverage, partner coordination, and public benefit.
2. Compare how different combinations of District levy, grants, partner funding, financing, and implementation pacing affect taxpayer impacts, remaining external funding needs, and Board decision points.
3. Identify practical external funding needs or targets that can support grant, legislative, District, and partner conversations.
4. Prepare Board usable materials that summarize funding scenarios, taxpayer impacts, implementation pacing, financing mechanisms, external funding needs, and key decision points.

Optional Add Alternates

The Optional Add Alternates are not assumed to be required to complete the Base Scope. The Base Scope should be completed using available District information, available literature, planning-level assumptions, and professional judgment. However, proposers should identify if they believe any Optional Add Alternate is necessary to complete or materially improve the Base Scope, explain why, and describe whether it should be completed before, during, or after the Base Scope.

Optional Task A: Local Willingness to Pay Survey. Resident, stakeholder, or statistically valid contingent valuation survey. The consultant should explain the proposed method, sample size, confidence level, limitations, cost, schedule, and usefulness for levy, funding, or communication decisions.

Optional Task B: Parcel Level Property Value Analysis. Analysis of whether water quality, proximity to water, flood risk, or drainage conditions have measurable effects on local property values. This may require parcel data, sales data, water proximity data, water quality data, floodplain or inundation data, and regression or hedonic modeling.

Optional Task C: Detailed Flood Risk Reduction Value Analysis. Estimate the dollar value of flood risk reduction associated with District floodplain, drainage, modeling, infrastructure, and maintenance work. This may include comparing current or proposed District actions against delayed, reduced, or reactive management scenarios using flood depth grids, structure inventories, depth damage relationships, infrastructure vulnerability data, emergency response cost assumptions, and scenario modeling.

Optional Task D: Precipitation and Flood Risk Cost Scenario. Evaluate, at a planning level, how changing precipitation patterns, updated rainfall frequency data, future design storm assumptions, pending Atlas 15 information, and increased flood risk could affect future District costs, infrastructure needs, maintenance demands, and long term funding scenarios. This task may rely on literature review, available regional information, and clearly stated assumptions rather than new modeling.

Optional Task E: Post 2045 Stewardship Model. Evaluate in more detail how the District's role may shift from project delivery toward inspection, monitoring, maintenance, asset management, enforcement, adaptive management, and protection of prior investments.

Expected Deliverables

1. Project kickoff meeting and refined work plan.
2. Data request and assumptions memorandum or equivalent summary.
3. Editable 20-year funding model with documented assumptions and scenario inputs.
4. Funding, financing, and implementation pacing scenario summary.
5. Taxpayer impact and levy impact summary.
6. Funding and financing mechanisms matrix.
7. Scenario comparison and external funding needs summary.
8. Public value and economic context summary.
9. Draft report or technical memorandum for staff review.
10. Final report or technical memorandum appropriate for public review.
11. Board presentation materials.
12. Electronic copies of all final source files, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, and any GIS or data files created for the project, as applicable.

Attachment B: Cost Proposal Table

Proposers should complete the following table or provide substantially equivalent information. Additional narrative may be included to explain assumptions, exclusions, staffing, schedule, or optional tasks.

Scope Task	Estimated Hours	Estimated Cost	Notes / Assumptions
Task 1: Project Initiation and Data Review			
Task 2: Long Term Funding Need Model			
Task 3: Implementation Pacing and Cost of Delay			
Task 4: Levy Impact and Taxpayer Impact Analysis			
Task 5: Funding and Financing Mechanisms			
Task 6: Public Value, Scenario Comparison, and Board Decision Support			
Base Scope Total Not to Exceed Cost			

Optional Add Alternate Costs

Optional Task	Estimated Hours	Estimated Cost	Notes / Assumptions
Optional Task A: Local Willingness to Pay Survey			
Optional Task B: Parcel Level Property Value Analysis			
Optional Task C: Detailed Flood Risk Reduction Value Analysis			
Optional Task D: Precipitation and Flood Risk Cost Scenario			
Optional Task E: Post 2045 Stewardship Model			

Hourly Rates and Staffing

Name / Role	Firm	Hourly Rate	Estimated Hours

Reimbursable Expenses, Assumptions, and Exclusions

Item	Description / Amount
Reimbursable expenses	
Major assumptions	
Exclusions	

RESPONSES TO TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

FROM: Jon Janke
Coon Creek Watershed District
13632 Van Buren St NE
Ham Lake MN 55304

SUBJECT: Coon Creek Watershed District Economic Analysis
Responses to Technical Questions

The Coon Creek Watershed District received technical questions regarding the Economic Analysis RFP. Responses are provided below for the benefit of firms receiving the RFP. These responses are intended to clarify the RFP and do not change the proposal deadline or the submittal instructions.

Proposals remain due by **12:00 pm (Noon) Central Time on September 29, 2026.**

Question 1. The RFP states Subconsultants can be used. Does the District prefer a proposal that utilizes a subconsultant to address the optional add alternates or a proposal from one consultant that addresses the base scope but not the optional add alternates?

Response: The District does not have a preference for a single-firm proposal or a consultant team. The RFP allows subconsultants because the requested work includes several related areas of expertise, and the District recognizes that some firms may choose to team with others to address the Base Scope or Optional Add Alternates. The District also does not have a preference between a consultant team that addresses the Optional Add Alternates and a single consultant that addresses the Base Scope but not the Optional Add Alternates. Proposers should clearly identify what is included in their proposal, what is excluded, and any assumptions regarding consultant team roles.

Question 2. One of the expected deliverables is a 20-year funding model. Can you please expand on how the timeframe of 20 years was determined? Does the District have a 20-year capital improvement plan? If not, how does the District envision determining years 11-20 capital needs/estimates?

Response: The 20-year timeframe is intended to provide a long-term funding model that generally extends to the District's 2045 water quality planning goal. The District currently has a 10-year capital improvement planning period extending to 2033. The District also has other planning information that identifies remaining water quality needs, general implementation strategies, expected types of future work, and prior project cost information that may help inform later-year estimates. For years 11 through 20, the District is not prescribing a specific method. The District expects the consultant to review available District information, use professional judgment, and recommend an appropriate approach for developing reasonable planning-level funding scenarios. The model is expected to be a decision-support tool, not a final 20-year project-by-project capital improvement plan.

Question 3. The RFP states to provide “Brief cost assumptions or notes to understand the proposal” can you elaborate more fully what you are looking for? Are you looking for examples? Explanation of our pricing methodology?

Response: The District is looking for enough cost detail to understand and compare proposals. A single lump sum cost is not preferred. A cost proposal that identifies itemized costs by major task, associated staff roles, hourly rates, estimated hours, and any assumptions, exclusions, reimbursable expenses, or other costs necessary to understand the proposed price would be sufficient. The District understands that proposers may structure costs differently depending on their proposed approach. Any cost format should clearly explain what is included, what is excluded, and how the proposed cost was developed. The District is not requesting examples of prior pricing.

Question 4. For the Optional Add Alternates, may proposers provide estimated cost and hour ranges where the level of effort is dependent on data availability, selected methodology, stakeholder preferences, or other factors that would be refined during project initiation?

Response: Yes. Proposers may provide estimated cost and hour ranges for Optional Add Alternates where the level of effort depends on data availability, selected methodology, stakeholder preferences, or other factors that would be refined before authorization. The cost format should clearly explain what is included, what is excluded, the assumptions behind the range, and how the proposed cost was developed.

Question 5. The willingness to pay survey in Optional Task A will likely get a better response if it comes from CCWD than from a company that potential respondents are not familiar with. Will CCWD make the outreach to the potential respondents (residents, stakeholders, or a statistically representative sample) for the willingness to pay survey in Optional Task A?

Response: For proposal purposes, proposers should assume that any willingness to pay survey authorized under Optional Task A would be associated with the District, but primarily managed by the consultant. The District may review and approve survey materials, allow use of District name or letterhead where appropriate, and support distribution through appropriate District communication channels. The consultant should assume responsibility for recommending the survey approach, preparing materials, coordinating administration, compiling responses, analyzing results, and preparing findings. Proposers should identify any assumptions regarding District involvement.

Question 6. For Optional Task A, the cost will vary by the type of survey, the format in which it is administered, and the method used to estimate willingness to pay. Does CCWD have a preferred format for how the survey will be administered to respondents? Can we present a range of potential costs with the final costs to be determined with WWCD at the beginning of the task?

Response: The District does not have a preferred survey format at this time. Proposers should recommend the format or formats they believe would best meet the purpose of Optional Task A and should identify the cost, schedule, anticipated response rate, statistical validity, limitations, and District involvement associated with each recommended approach. Proposers may present a range of potential costs for Optional Task A, with final scope and cost to be refined if the District elects to authorize that optional task.

All other RFP terms, deadlines, and submittal instructions remain unchanged.

Permit Application Review Report
Date: 10/21/2026

Board Meeting Date: 10/26/2026
Agenda Item: 08

Applicant/Landowner:

Jeff Entsminger
14916 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake MN 55304

Project Name: Harmony Estates 4th Addition

Project PAN: P-21-161

Project Purpose: 4th phase of the Harmony Estates Development including homes, utilities, road work and stormwater ponds.

Project Location: Westlund Dr, Ham Lake

Site Size: size of disturbed area - 40.16 acres; size of regulated impervious surface – 15.68 acres

Applicable District Rule(s): Rule 2, Rule 3, Rule 4, Rule 5, Rule 6, Rule 7

Recommendation: Approve with 2 Conditions and 4 Stipulations

Description: The application proposes the 4th Addition of the Harmony Estates development. The scope of work includes grading, utilities, road reconstruction and stormwater management features. This work will be added to the existing Permit 2423 for Harmony Estates 3rd Addition. The 4th Addition will disturb 40.16 acres and create 15.68 acres of regulated impervious. The area drains to County Ditch 11. The relevant water resource concerns are Stormwater Management (District Rule 3), Soil & Erosion Control (District Rule 4), Wetlands (District Rule 5), and Floodplain (District Rule 6). See attached Figure 1: Project Location and Figure 2: Site Plan.

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Rule 2.7 – Procedural Requirements

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of \$160,640.00 and execute a signed escrow agreement.

Rule 4.0 – Soils and Erosion Control

2. Update to SWPPP to stabilize soils and soil stockpiles within 24 hours of inactivity.

Stipulations: The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of grading as-builts for the project to confirm adequate floodplain compensatory storage has been provided.
2. The applicant must apply for coverage under the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's

(MPCA's) Construction Stormwater Permit (Permit No: MNR100001).

3. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Table 2, including volume, critical elevations and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.
4. If dewatering is required, provide DNR dewatering permit prior to construction. If a DNR permit is not required, provide well-field location, rates, discharge location, schedule and quantities prior to construction.

Exhibits:

Exhibit Type	Exhibit Author	Signature Date	Received Date
Wetland Delineation	Kjolhaug Environmental Services	04/06/2026	08/10/2026
Wetland Delineation	Earth Science Associates	04/27/2015	04/27/2015
Joint Application	Kjolhaug Environmental Services	03/03/2025	03/05/2025
Stormwater Management Plan	Carlson Engineering	09/24/2026	09/25/2026
SWPPP	Carlson Engineering	09/24/2026	09/25/2026
Construction Plans	Carlson Engineering	10/12/2026	10/12/2026

Findings

Fees and Escrows (Rule 2.7): Because this application is a part of a previous permit, no new permit fees are required.

The applicant will be required to submit a performance escrow in the amount of \$160,640.00. This corresponds to \$4,000/acre of disturbance (40.16 acres of land disturbance proposed).

Stormwater Management (Rule 3.0):

Rule 3.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities creating a cumulative total of 10,000 sf or more of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface.

The Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) of soils on site are HSG A.

Rate Control: Peak stormwater flow rate at the East point of site discharge increases from the pre-development condition for the 24-hour precipitation event with a return frequency of 10-, 25-, and 100- years as shown in Table 1. Rate control for the entire Harmony Estates Development was approved under previous PAN 14-134. The current design is consistent with previous approvals. No adverse impacts from increased rates are anticipated. The project will not impact Drainage Sensitive Use areas. The rate control standard is met.

Point of Discharge	2-year (cfs)		10-year (cfs)		25-year (cfs)		100-year (cfs)	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
West	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.1	7.5	7.4	8.7	8.7
East	0.2	0.2	3.5	3.8	9.0	9.8	23.5	25.3
South	2.8	2.5	11.2	5.7	21.6	9.2	35.7	14.3

Table 1.

Volume Control: The proposed project is new development; therefore, the volume reduction requirement is equal to 1.1 inches over the area of all impervious surface. The amount of proposed impervious required to be treated is 57,281 ft².

The applicant is proposing the Stormwater Management Practices (SMPs) described below:

Drainage Area	Impervious required to be treated (ft²)	Proposed SMP	TP Removal Factor	Required Water Quality Volume (ft³)	Water Quality Volume Provided (ft³)
9S	37,679	Pond 9	0.5	6,908	6,915
8S	19,602	Pond 8	0.5	2,995	4,523
Totals:	57,281			9,903	11,438

Table 2.

Infiltration may not be used as a volume control practice because the practices would need to be placed in areas with less than 3 feet to season saturated soils.

Because the volume reduction standard cannot be met due to these site constraints, the project proposes the use of the stormwater management practices and their corresponding TP conversion factors listed in Table 2. The volume control standard has been met as shown in Table 2.

Water Quality: Stormwater treatment on site must remove at least 80% of the average annual post development TSS per discharge location. The following TSS removal has been provided:

Discharge Point	TSS Removal Provided
South	80

Table 3.

The TSS removal standard is met at each discharge point as shown in Table 3.

Discharges to Wetlands: Stormwater from the proposed project is being discharged into the following wetlands.

Wetland ID	2P
Wetland Type	Slightly Susceptible
Change of Bounce 2-yr (ft)	-0.2
Change of Bounce 10-yr (ft)	-0.4
Change of Inundation on 2-yr (hrs)	0.22
Change of Inundation on 10-yr (hrs)	-0.5
Change of Run out Control (ft)	0

Table 4.

The proposed project exceeds the standard for Wetland 2P for bounce 2-yr/10-yr and inundation 10 yr. This has been reviewed and no adverse impacts are anticipated.

Landlocked Basins: The proposed drainage system does not outlet to a landlocked basin, therefore this section does not apply.

Low Floor Freeboard: The proposed project is new development which includes buildings and habitable structures. Therefore, SMPs must be designed such that the lowest basement floor elevations are at least 2 feet above the 100-yr high water level or 1 foot above the emergency overflow. The lowest basement floor elevation proposed is 895 and 906 NAVD 88. The applicable 100-year high water level is 892.5 and 894.1 ft NAVD 88 and the applicable emergency overflow is 892.5 and 894.2 ft NAVD 88. The freeboard requirement is met.

Maintenance:

Access: Sufficient maintenance access has been provided on the plans for all stormwater management practices.

Easements: All required maintenance easements have been provided on the plans.

Maintenance Agreements: All proposed stormwater management practices will be maintained as part

of standard municipal public work activities. Therefore, no maintenance agreement will be required.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4.0)

Rule 4.0 applies to the proposed project because it is a land disturbing activity that requires a permit under another District rule.

The proposed project drains to County Ditch 11. The soils affected by the project includes Zimmerman and Rifle and have a soil erodibility factor of 0.15 or greater. Disturbed areas are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 hours, as required. The proposed erosion and sediment control plan includes redundant perimeter control, inlet protection, and stabilized construction entrance. The erosion control plan does not meet District requirements because soils and soil stockpiles are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 hours of inactivity. The site does require an NPDES permit. See attached Figure 3: Soils & Erosion Control.

Wetlands (Rule 5.0)

Rule 5.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes activities which result in the filling, draining, excavating or other altering the hydrology of a wetland.

Wetlands were delineated under PAN W26-015 and 14-134. The boundary and type application was reviewed and approved. The Notice of Decisions were issued on 09/18/2026 and 06/15/2021.

The applicant submitted a joint application form, with the 3rd Addition application, requesting a Replacement Plan decision on 03/03/2025. Wetland impacts are proposed through fill in 1 location.

Wetland ID	Impact Type (F/D/E)	Impacts (sf)	Impact Duration (T/P)	Replacement Ratio	Required Mitigation (sf)
1	Fill	6,919	Permanent	2:1	13,838

Table 5.

Impact replacement has been mitigated through the purchase of wetland bank credits from bank 1762. Bank 1762 is within the required bank service area (BSA 7). The Notice of Decision was issued on 03/27/2025. See attached Figure 4: Wetland Impacts.

Floodplain (Rule 6.0)

Rule 6.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities within the boundary of the floodplain, as mapped and modeled by the District.

The regulatory floodplain elevation is 893.4 ft NAVD 88. The application proposes the placement of 24,476 cubic yards of fill within the floodplain. Compensatory storage is required. The proposed project provides 48,802 cubic yards of compensatory storage, which exceeds the required 1:1 ratio and is within the relevant reach.

The culvert is being provided in-kind and adequate compensatory storage is being provided which shows that the embankment can pass the 100-year flood without increasing the elevation of the 100-year flood profile or creating excessive velocities and equivalent hydraulic capacity has been provided. See Figure 4: Floodplain Mitigation.

Drainage, Bridges, Culverts, and Utility Crossings (Rule 7.0)

The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair, or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a bridge profile control or culvert structure on a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse. The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which involve a pipeline or utility crossing of a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse.

The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a conveyance system that extends across two or more parcels of record not under common ownership and has a drainage area of 200 acres or greater. Rule 7.0 does not apply.

Buffers (Rule 8.0)

The proposed project does not include a land disturbing activity on land adjacent or directly contributing to a Public Water, Additional Waters, High or Outstanding Ecological Value Waters, a Public Ditch, or Impaired Waters/waters exceeding state water quality standards. Rule 8.0 does not apply.

Variances (Rule 10.2)

The proposed project is not requesting a variance from the District's rules, regulations, and policies. Rule 10.2 does not apply.

Figure 1: Harmony Estates 4th Addition Project Location



10/21/2026

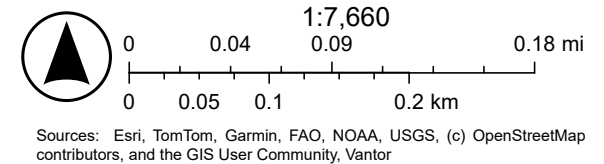


Figure 2: 4th Addition Site Plan

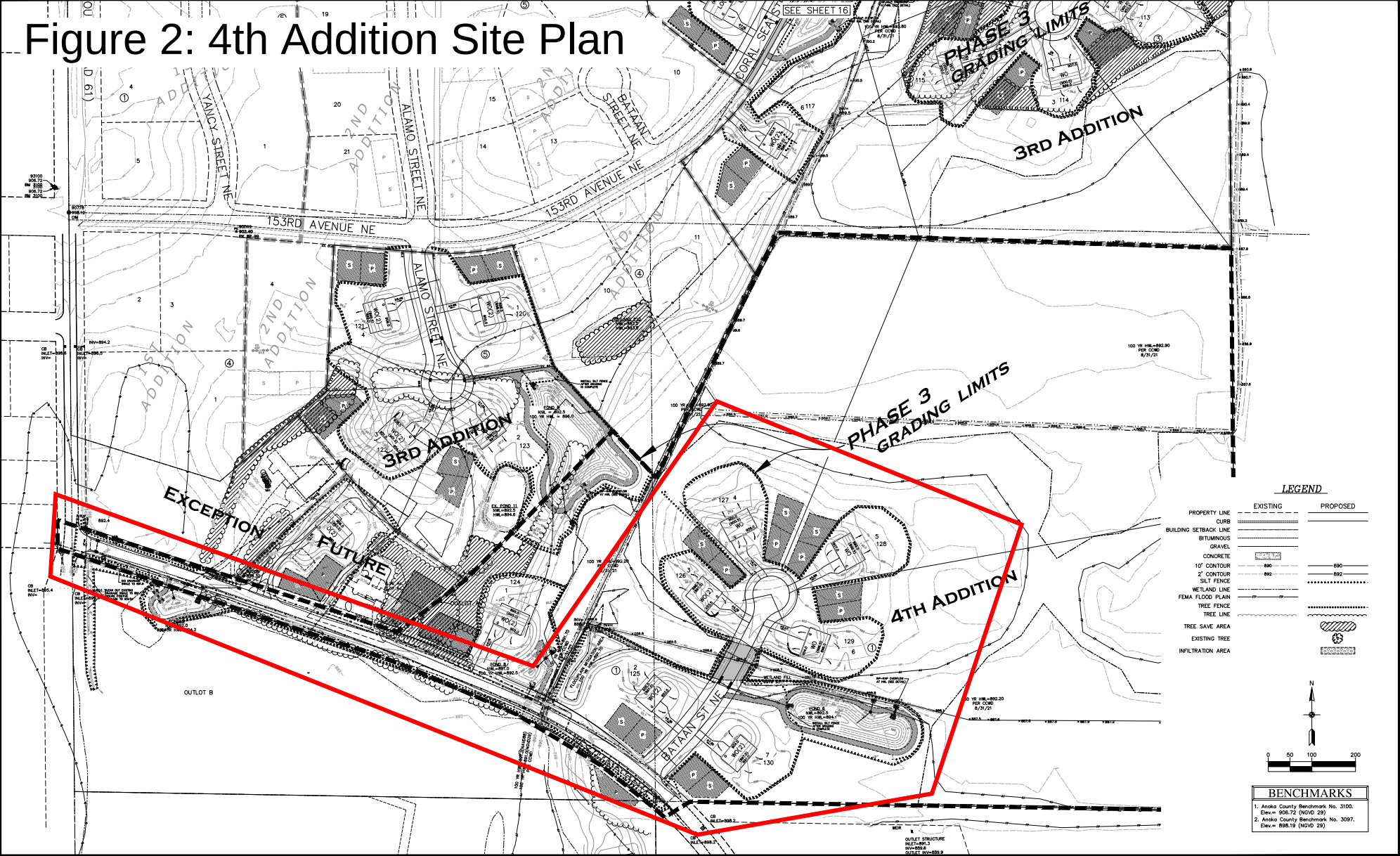
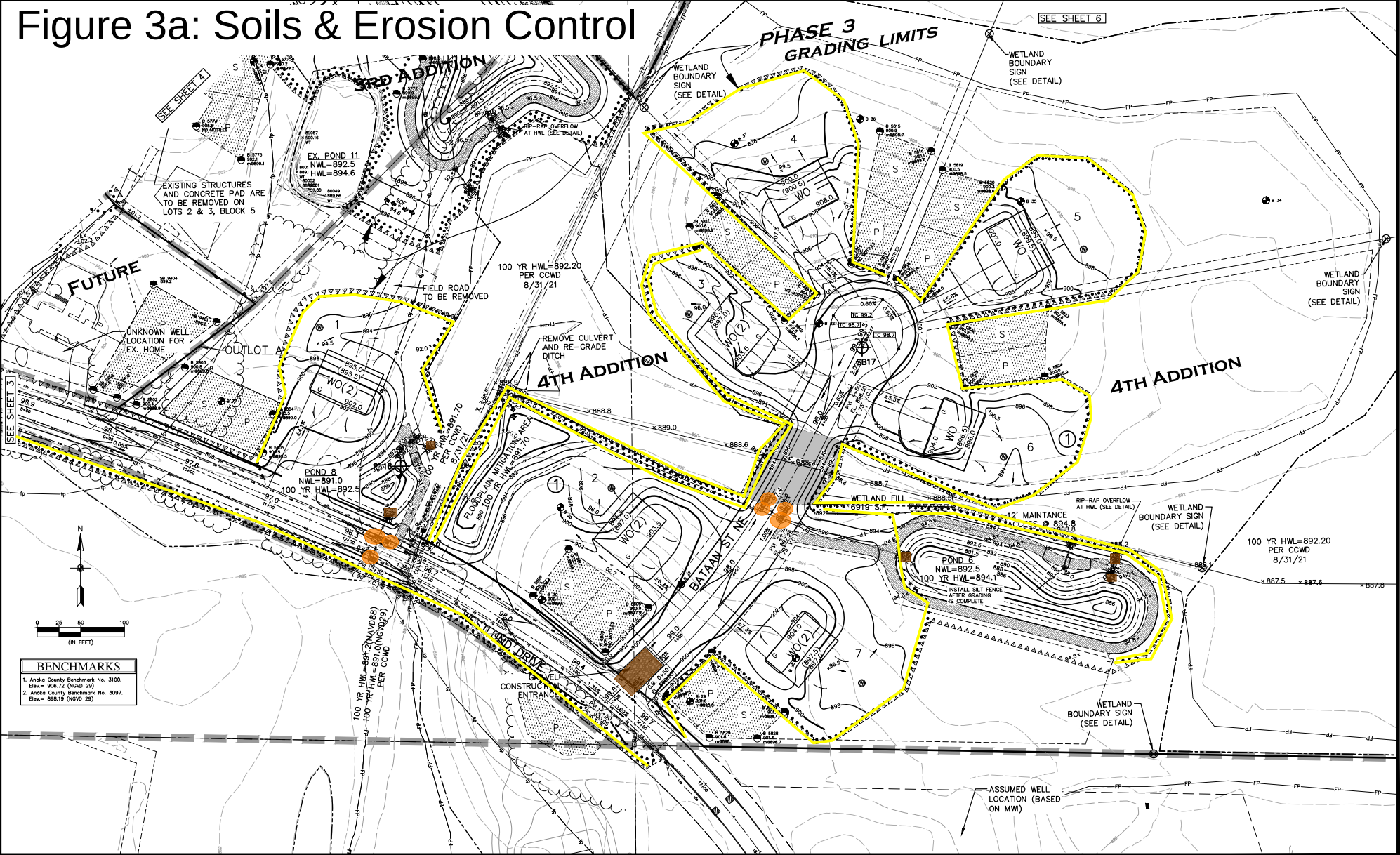
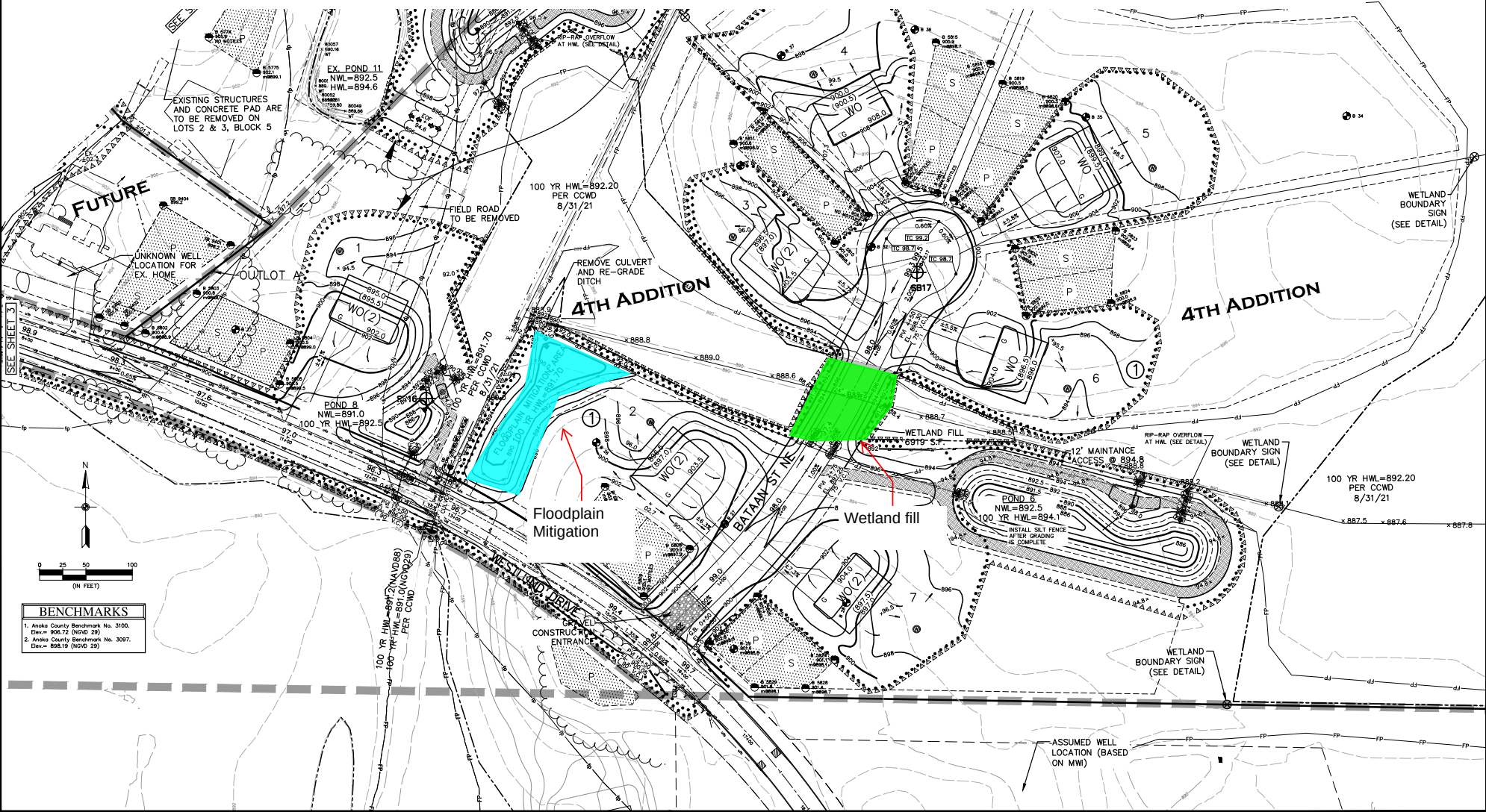


Figure 3a: Soils & Erosion Control



[illegible]

Figure 4: Wetland Fill & Floodplain Mitigation



Permit Application Review Report
Date: 10/21/2026

Board Meeting Date: 10/26/2026
Agenda Item: 09

Applicant/Landowner:

North Metro Storage
Attn: Nathan Hansen
12911A County Road 5
Burnsville, MN 55337

Project Name: North Metro Storage

Project PAN: P-26-033

Project Purpose: storage building additions and stormwater management feature

Project Location: 14205 MN-65, Ham Lake

Site Size: size of parcel - 3.23 acres; size of disturbed area - 2.3 acres; size of regulated impervious surface – 1.25 acres

Applicable District Rule(s): Rule 2, Rule 3, Rule 4, Rule 6

Recommendation: Approve with 4 Conditions and 4 Stipulations

Description: North Metro Storage is proposing an expansion which includes new storage buildings, driving aisles and a stormwater pond expansion. The project will disturb 2.3 acres and create 1.25 acres of new impervious. The parcel drains to County Ditch 59. The relevant water resource concerns are stormwater management (District Rule 3), Soils & Erosion Control (District Rule 4) and Floodplain (District Rule 6). See attached Figure 1: Project Location and Figure 2: Site Plan.

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Rule 2.7 – Procedural Requirements

1. Provide a performance escrow in the amount of \$9,200.00 and execute a signed escrow agreement.
2. Provide additional \$300 floodplain review fee.

Rule 3.0 – Stormwater Management

3. Provide proof of recording of a fully executed Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the perpetual inspection and maintenance of all proposed stormwater management practices after review and approval by the District.

Rule 4.0 – Soils and Erosion Control

4. Update the soils and erosion control plan to include the following:
 - a. include a note to stabilize soils and soil stockpiles within 24 hours of inactivity.

- b. include standard details for concrete washout and inlet protection.

Stipulations: The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of grading as-builts for the project to confirm adequate floodplain compensatory storage has been provided.
2. The applicant must apply for coverage under the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA's) Construction Stormwater Permit (Permit No: MNR100001)
3. If dewatering is required, provide DNR dewatering permit prior to construction. If a DNR permit is not required, provide well-field location, rates, discharge location, schedule and quantities prior to construction.
4. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Table 2, including volume, critical elevations and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.

Exhibits:

Exhibit Type	Exhibit Author	Signature Date	Received Date
Report of Geotechnical Exploration	ITCO Allied Engineering Company	05/06/2016	10/01/2026
Soil Boring	Haugo Geotechnical Services	07/17/2026	10/01/2026
Construction Plans	Site Design LLC	08/03/2026	10/01/2026
Floodplain Figure	Site Design LLC	10/16/2026	10/16/2026
Stormwater Management Plan	Site Design LLC	09/16/2026	10/01/2026
MIDS	Site Design LLC	08/03/2026	10/01/2026

Findings

Fees and Escrows (Rule 2.7): The applicant has submitted a \$5,000.00 review and inspection fee and deposit which corresponds with the sum of fees associated with the following rules. Rule 3.0 (\$3,000) and Rule 4.0 (\$2,000 for 2.3 acres of land disturbance proposed). The applicant will need to provide fees for Rule 6.0 (\$300 for floodplain impact).

The applicant will be required to submit a performance escrow in the amount of \$9,200.00. This corresponds to \$4,000/acre of disturbance (2.3 acres of land disturbance proposed).

Stormwater Management (Rule 3.0):

Rule 3.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities creating a cumulative total of 10,000 sf or more of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface.

The Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) of soils on site are HSG B. Curve Numbers have been shifted down one classification to account for the impacts of grading on soil structure.

Rate Control: Peak stormwater flow rate at each point of site discharge does not increase from the pre-development condition for the 24-hour precipitation event with a return frequency of 2-, 10-, 100- years as shown in Table 1. The project will not impact Drainage Sensitive Use areas. The rate control standard is met.

Point of Discharge	2-year (cfs)		10-year (cfs)		100-year (cfs)	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Northeast	0.46	0.43	1.43	0.78	4.22	1.58
South	0.51	0.48	0.97	0.9	2.79	1.91

Table 1.

Volume Control: The application proposes redevelopment which disturbs more than 50% of the site or reconstructs more than 50% of the existing impervious surface, therefore the volume reduction requirement is equal to 1.1 inches over the area of all impervious surface including existing impervious surface that is not proposed to be reconstructed. The amount of proposed impervious required to be treated is 76,230 ft².

The applicant is proposing the Stormwater Management Practices (SMPs) described below:

Drainage Area	Impervious required to be treated (ft²)	Proposed SMP	TP Removal Factor	Required Water Quality Volume (ft³)	Water Quality Volume Provided (ft³)
New Impervious – Untreated (P-2)	3,049	Untreated	1	280	0
New Impervious (P-1, P-3)	54,886	West Basin - Expansion	0.5	10,062	10,062
Existing Impervious (E-4)	18,295	West Basin - Existing	0.5	3,354	3,354
Totals:	76,230			13,696	13,416

Table 2.

Infiltration may not be used as a volume control practice because the practice(s) would need to be placed in areas with less than three feet of separation from the bottom of the infiltration system to the seasonally saturated soils or the top of bedrock.

Geotechnical information from July 2026 has been submitted which indicates that seasonally high saturated soils are likely at an approximate elevation of 882.7 ft. The bottom of an infiltration system would need to be at elevation 885.7 ft or above. This is infeasible because of existing site grades.

Because the volume reduction standard cannot be met due to these site constraints, the project proposes the use of the stormwater management practices and their corresponding TP conversion factors listed in Table 2. The volume control standard has been met to the maximum extent practicable as shown in Table 2.

Water Quality: Stormwater treatment on site must remove at least 80% of the average annual post development TSS per discharge location. The following TSS removal has been provided:

Discharge Point	TSS Removal Provided
S	84
NE	0

Table 3.

The NE drainage area is the drive entrance which cannot feasibly be routed to the treatment pond. The TSS removal standard is met to the maximum extent practicable at each discharge point as shown in Table 3.

Discharges to Wetlands: Stormwater from the proposed project is not being discharged into any wetlands, therefore this section does not apply.

Landlocked Basins: The proposed drainage system does not outlet to a landlocked basin, therefore this section does not apply.

Low Floor Freeboard: The proposed project is new development which includes buildings and

habitable structures. Therefore, SMPs must be designed such that the lowest basement floor elevations are at least 2 feet above the 100-yr high water level or 1 foot above the emergency overflow. The lowest basement floor elevation proposed is 889.7 ft NAVD 88. The applicable 100-year high water level is at 887.3 ft NAVD 88 and the applicable emergency overflow is at 887.3 ft NAVD 88. The freeboard requirement is met.

Maintenance:

Access: Sufficient maintenance access has been provided on the plans for all stormwater management practices.

Easements: All required maintenance easements have been provided on the plans.

Maintenance Agreements: The proposed stormwater management practices will not be maintained as part of standard municipal public work activities. Therefore, a maintenance agreement that meets District standards will be required.

Soils and Erosion Control (Rule 4.0)

Rule 4.0 applies to the proposed project because it is a land disturbing activity that requires a permit under another District rule.

The proposed project drains to Ditch 59. The soils affected by the project include Lino and Zimmerman and have a soil erodibility factor of 0.15 or greater. Disturbed areas are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 hours, as required. The proposed erosion and sediment control plan includes perimeter control, stabilized construction entrance, inlet protection, and street sweeping. The erosion control plan does not meet District requirements because concrete washout and inlet protection standard details have not been provided, and soils and soil stockpiles are not proposed to be stabilized within 24 hours of inactivity. The site does require an NPDES permit. See attached Figure 3: Soils & Erosion Control.

Wetlands (Rule 5.0)

The proposed project does not include activities which result in the filling, draining, excavating, or otherwise altering the hydrology of a wetland. Rule 5.0 does not apply.

Floodplain (Rule 6.0)

Rule 6.0 applies to the proposed project because it includes land disturbing activities within the boundary of the floodplain, as mapped and modeled by the District.

The regulatory floodplain elevation is 888.6 NAVD 88. The application proposes the placement of 696 cubic yards of fill within the floodplain. Compensatory storage is required. The proposed project provides 730 cubic yards of compensatory storage, which exceeds the required 1:1 ratio and is within the relevant reach. See attached Figure 4: Floodplain Impact/Mitigation.

Drainage, Bridges, Culverts, and Utility Crossings (Rule 7.0)

The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair, or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a bridge profile control or culvert structure on a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse. The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which involve a pipeline or utility crossing of a creek, public ditch, or major watercourse.

The proposed project does not include land disturbing activities which construct, improve, repair or alter the hydraulic characteristics of a conveyance system that extends across two or more parcels of record not under common ownership and has a drainage area of 200 acres or greater. Rule 7.0 does not apply.

Buffers (Rule 8.0)

The proposed project does not include a land disturbing activity on land adjacent or directly contributing to a Public Water, Additional Waters, High or Outstanding Ecological Value Waters, a Public Ditch, or Impaired Waters/waters exceeding state water quality standards. Rule 8.0 does not apply.

Variances (Rule 10.2)

The proposed project is not requesting a variance from the District's rules, regulations, and policies. Rule 10.2 does not apply.

Figure 1: North Metro Storage Project Location



10/20/2026

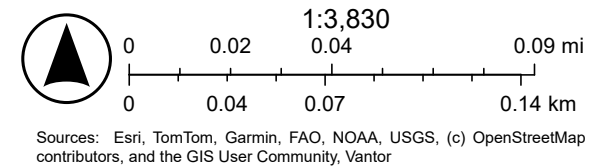
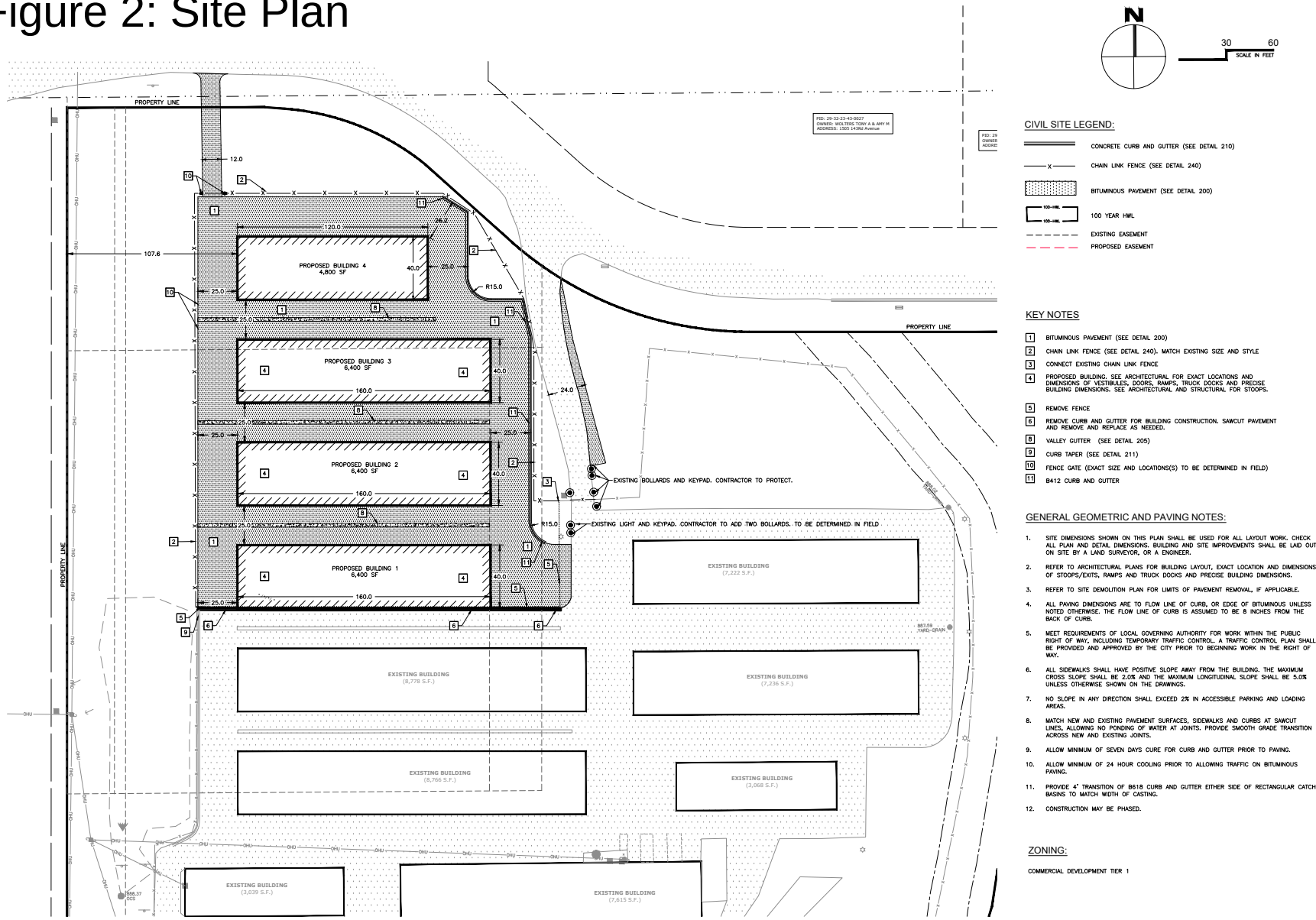


Figure 2: Site Plan



CIVIL SITE LEGEND:

- CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER (SEE DETAIL 210)
- CHAIN LINK FENCE (SEE DETAIL 240)
- BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT (SEE DETAIL 200)
- 100 YEAR HWL
- EXISTING EASEMENT
- PROPOSED EASEMENT

KEY NOTES

- 1 BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT (SEE DETAIL 200)
- 2 CHAIN LINK FENCE (SEE DETAIL 240), MATCH EXISTING SIZE AND STYLE
- 3 CONNECT EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE
- 4 PROPOSED BUILDING, SEE ARCHITECTURAL FOR EXACT LOCATIONS AND DIMENSIONS OF VESTIBULES, DOORS, RAMPS, TRUCK DOCKS AND PRECISE BUILDING DIMENSIONS. SEE ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL FOR STOOPS.
- 5 REMOVE FENCE
- 6 REMOVE CURB AND GUTTER FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. SAWCUT PAVEMENT AND REMOVE AND REPLACE AS NEEDED.
- 8 VALLEY GUTTER (SEE DETAIL 205)
- 9 CURB TAPER (SEE DETAIL 211)
- 10 FENCE GATE (EXACT SIZE AND LOCATIONS(S) TO BE DETERMINED IN FIELD)
- 11 B&I CURB AND GUTTER

GENERAL GEOMETRIC AND PAVING NOTES:

- 1. SITE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN SHALL BE USED FOR ALL LAYOUT WORK. CHECK ALL PLAN AND DETAIL DIMENSIONS, BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS SHALL BE LAID OUT ON SITE BY A LAND SURVEYOR, OR AN ENGINEER.
- 2. REFER TO ARCHITECTURAL PLANS FOR BUILDING LAYOUT, EXACT LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS OF STOOPS/EXITS, RAMPS AND TRUCK DOCKS AND PRECISE BUILDING DIMENSIONS.
- 3. REFER TO SITE DEMOLITION PLAN FOR LIMITS OF PAVEMENT REMOVAL, IF APPLICABLE.
- 4. ALL PAVING DIMENSIONS ARE TO FLOW LINE OF CURB, OR EDGE OF BITUMINOUS UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. THE FLOW LINE OF CURB IS ASSUMED TO BE 8 INCHES FROM THE BACK OF CURB.
- 5. MEET REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITY FOR WORK WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, INCLUDING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL. A TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN SHALL BE PROVIDED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK IN THE RIGHT OF WAY.
- 6. ALL SIDEWALKS SHALL HAVE POSITIVE SLOPE AWAY FROM THE BUILDING. THE MAXIMUM CROSS SLOPE SHALL BE 2.0% AND THE MAXIMUM LONGITUDINAL SLOPE SHALL BE 5.0% UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON THE DRAWINGS.
- 7. NO SLOPE IN ANY DIRECTION SHALL EXCEED 2% IN ACCESSIBLE PARKING AND LOADING AREAS.
- 8. MATCH NEW AND EXISTING PAVEMENT SURFACES, SIDEWALKS AND CURBS AT SAWCUT LINES, ALLOWING NO PONDING OF WATER AT JOINTS. PROVIDE SMOOTH GRADE TRANSITION ACROSS NEW AND EXISTING JOINTS.
- 9. ALLOW MINIMUM OF SEVEN DAYS CURE FOR CURB AND GUTTER PRIOR TO PAVING.
- 10. ALLOW MINIMUM OF 24 HOUR COOLING PRIOR TO ALLOWING TRAFFIC ON BITUMINOUS PAVING.
- 11. PROVIDE 4" TRANSITION OF B&I CURB AND GUTTER EITHER SIDE OF RECTANGULAR CATCH BASINS TO MATCH WIDTH OF CASTING.
- 12. CONSTRUCTION MAY BE PHASED.

ZONING:

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT TIER 1

SITE PLAN

NORTH METRO STORAGE

14205 MN-65
HAM LAKE, MN 55304

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

C2.0

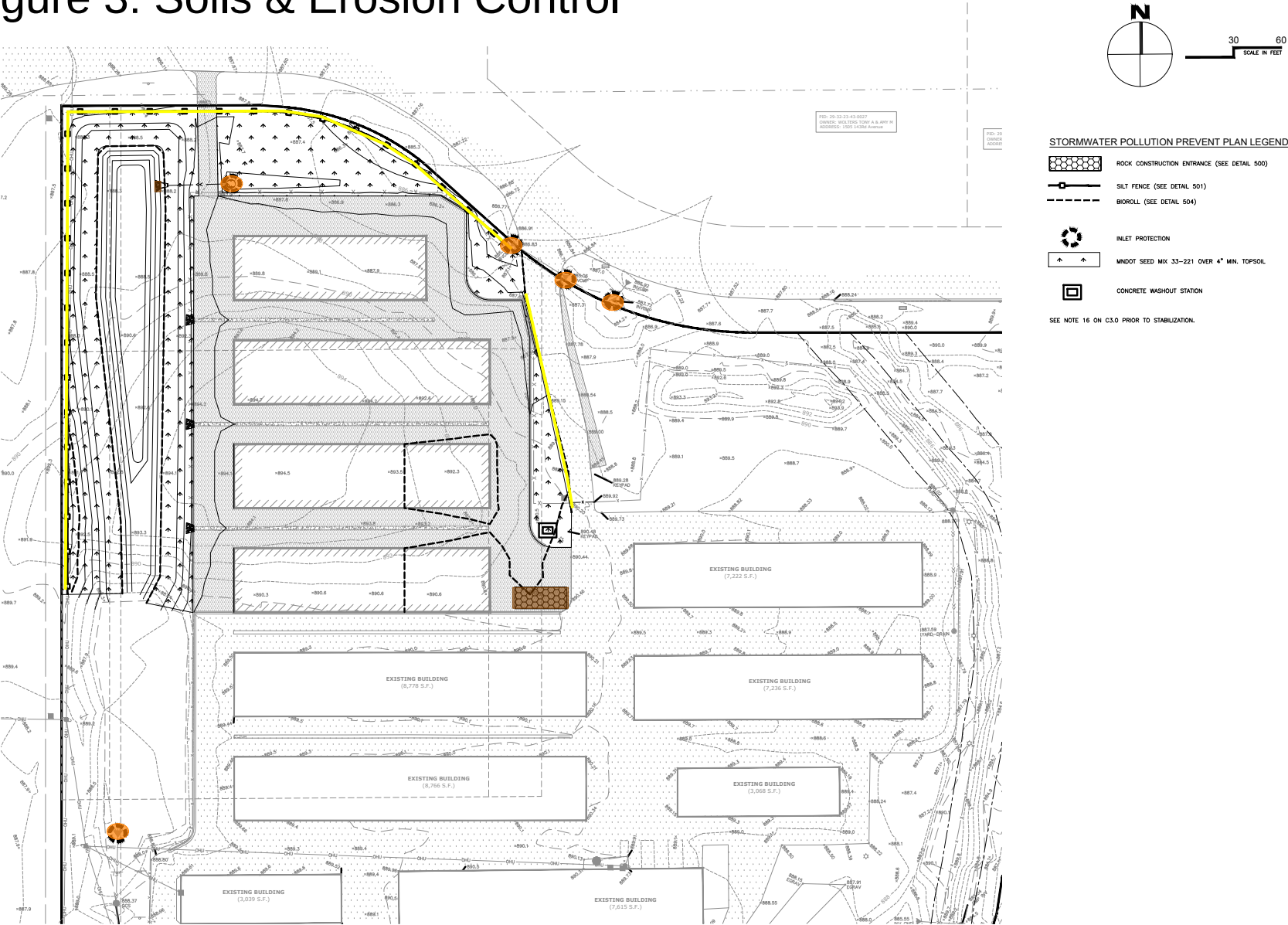
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

NAME: ELI RUPNICHOW
SIGNATURE:
DATE: 2026.08.03
LIC. NO.: 46481



Figure 3: Soils & Erosion Control



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP) C5.0

NORTH METRO STORAGE

14205 MN-65
HAM LAKE, MN 55304

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

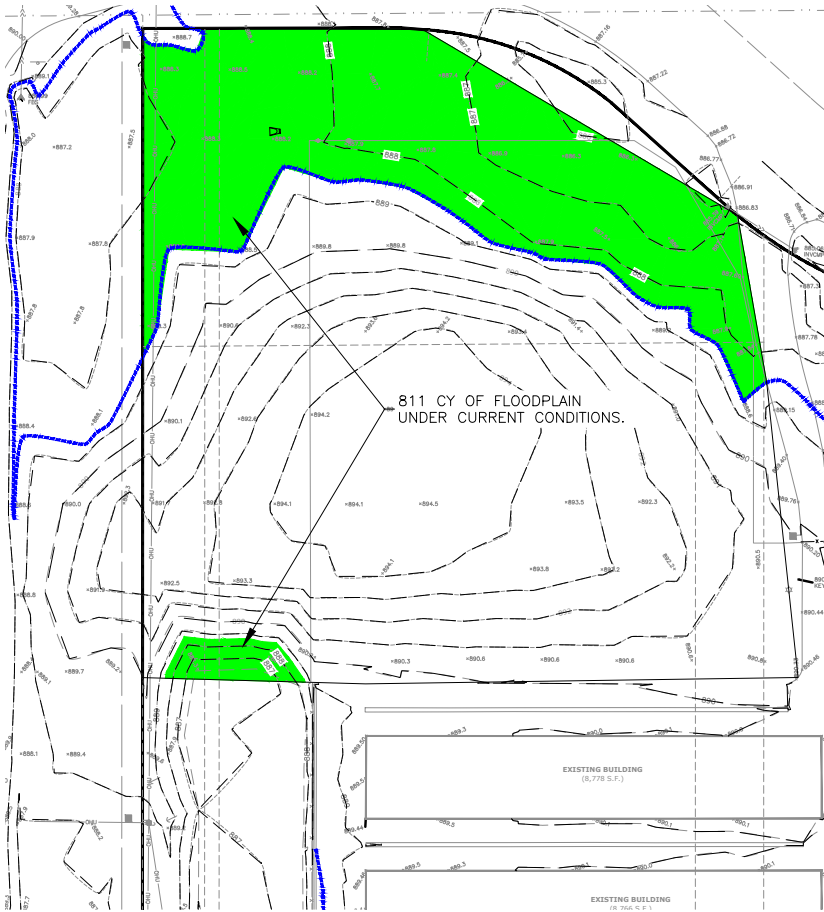
NAME: ELI RUPNOW

SIGNATURE:

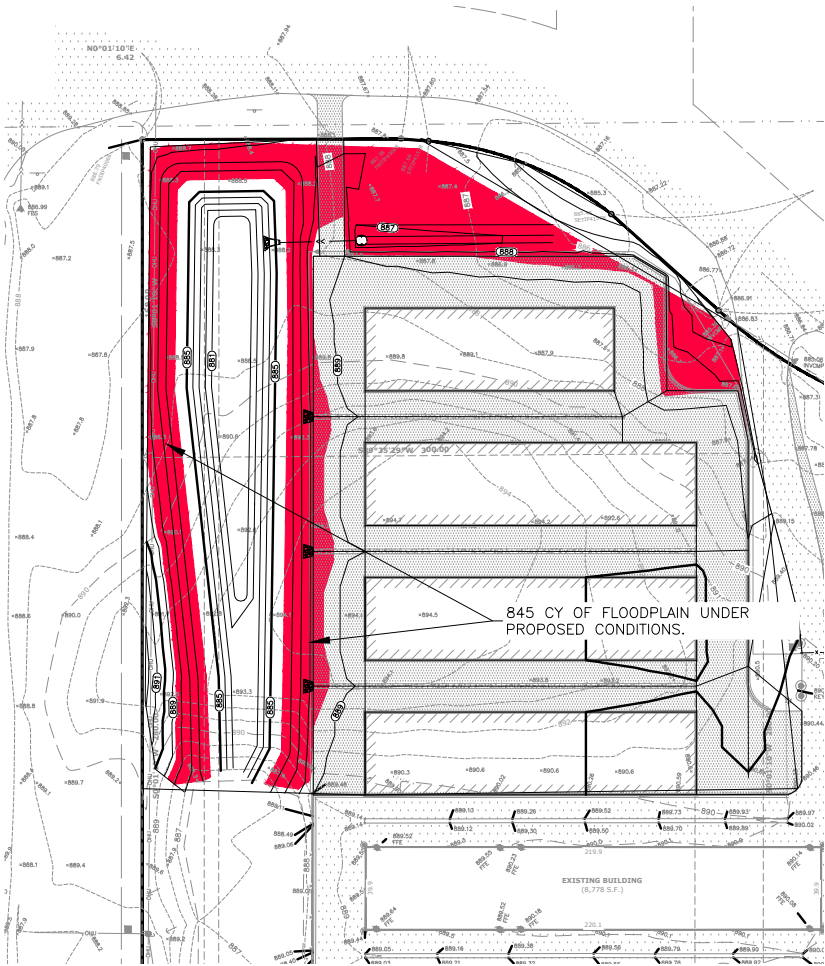
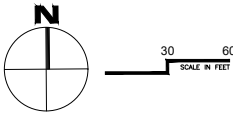
DATE: 2026.08.03

LIC. NO: 46481

Figure 4: Floodplain Impact



EXISTING FLOODPLAIN: 811 CY OF STORAGE



PROPOSED FLOODPLAIN: 845 CY OF STORAGE

EXISTING FLOODPLAIN FILL: 696 CY

PROPOSED FLOOD PLAIN CUT: 730 CY

NET INCREASE IN FLOODPLAIN 34 CY

FLOODPLAIN EXHIBIT

EX-3

NORTH METRO STORAGE

14205 MN-65
HAM LAKE, MN 55304

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

NAME: ELI RUPNOW

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 2026.08.03

LIC. NO: 46481

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 10
ITEM: Water Quality Model

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

None

PURPOSE

Provide update on the results of the Districtwide water quality modeling effort.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

The background and methodology of the Districtwide water quality model was presented at the 9/28/2026 Board meeting and is summarized below.

In 2025, funds were budgeted to pursue development of a water quality model to simulate sediment and nutrient loading across the District and evaluate progress towards achieving the required pollutant total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) established in 2016.

Modeling is a powerful tool to simulate continuous data with expanded spatial coverage compared to discrete field-collected data.

Previously, water quality modeling efforts were conducted in a piecemeal manner as part of rotating subwatershed assessments. District staff recognized challenges with this approach including lack of agreement between disjointed models and inefficient workflows. It was determined that a comprehensive, Districtwide effort would result in more useful data products, cost-savings, and better integration of monitoring data.

In early 2025, Stantec was tasked to first evaluate available water quality model methodologies and to provide a recommended approach to best meet stated objectives. Six options were compared with a final recommendation of the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT). A strength of SWAT is that it models landscape and watershed processes to simulate pollutant transport in both surface and groundwater and can predict impacts of changing land cover and management practices across a range of land uses.

Development of a Districtwide SWAT model was initiated in June 2025 with completion of a calibrated, validated model by December. The model was tested against and fitted to field-collected data at 11 long term stream monitoring sites. The validated model was then used to generate a variety of data products including updated flow and pollutant loading summary figures for all impaired streams and major tributaries as well as a variety of geospatial products such as pollutant loading heatmaps. A summary report of methods, results, and major findings was finalized in September 2026. This report includes a 10-year evaluation of progress towards achieving required pollutant load reductions since approval of the CCWD TMDL study by US EPA in 2016. Overall, this work showed significant progress has been made toward pollutant load reductions and provided updated reduction benchmarks, while also laying the foundation for better targeted projects which will enable the District to achieve its TMDL goals in the most cost-effective manner.

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 11
ITEM: MS4 General Permit Reissuance Update

AGENDA: Discussion

REQUEST

Discuss the proposed MS4 General Permit and anticipated District impacts.

BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of reissuing the statewide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit. CCWD is regulated as a nontraditional MS4 because of its operation of stormwater conveyance and drainage systems.

In November 2020, MPCA issued the current MS4 General Permit which expired November 15, 2025 but remains in effect until the replacement permit is issued.

In early 2026, MPCA circulated an early draft replacement permit for stakeholder review. On February 9, 2026, the Board authorized CCWD to submit comments following review and coordination by District staff, the Technical Advisory Committee, the countywide MS4 taskforce, and MPCA permit staff.

On October 19, 2026, MPCA released the [proposed Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit](#) for formal public comment through November 19, 2026.

On October 28, 2026, MPCA will host a webinar on the proposed permit. District staff are reviewing the proposed permit and will participate in the webinar.

MPCA is currently targeting summer 2027 for reissuance of the new permit.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

District Comments: CCWD submitted comments on the early draft permit. Several comments were addressed or clarified in the proposed permit.

Water Quality Model: One of the District's comments was to recognize the water quality modeling software Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), which we used for the districtwide water quality model, as an approved method for estimating pollutant reductions. The proposed permit now expressly identifies SWAT as an approved method. This provides stronger regulatory support for using the modeling work in future TMDL and MS4 compliance activities.

Unresolved Comments: Some District comments remain unresolved in the proposed permit, including public education documentation requirements and review of construction contractor self-inspection records.

District Impacts: Preliminary review indicates the primary effects on the District will likely involve additional staff time, documentation, inspections, coordination, and compliance administration. Potential areas include public education documentation, illicit discharge inspections, construction inspection and complaint response procedures, PFAS pesticide documentation, TMDL BMP inventories and pollutant reduction documentation, and updates to the District's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP).

Implementation: Existing permittees would be required to submit an updated SWPPP application within 150 days after final permit issuance.

Public Comment: The proposed permit remains open for public comment through November 19, 2026. Staff will continue reviewing the permit and participate in MPCA's October 28 webinar before the comment period closes.

RECOMMENDATION

None

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 12
ITEM: MN Watersheds Annual Conference

AGENDA: Discussion

REQUEST

Review and discuss Board member attendance at the 2026 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference.

BACKGROUND

Minnesota Watersheds is the statewide member organization representing watershed districts and watershed management organizations. For CCWD, it provides a collective voice on legislative, regulatory, funding, and policy issues that affect watershed organizations statewide, while also supporting coordination, shared learning, and training among members.

The 2026 Annual Conference will be held December 2-4 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. Activities include Wednesday workshops and regional caucuses, Thursday technical and management sessions, trade show and awards banquet, and the annual business meeting on Friday. The conference schedule is attached.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Board Attendance: Board members may attend all or part of the conference based on interest and availability. Identifying attendance will allow staff to coordinate registration, lodging, and transportation. If attendance creates a quorum, appropriate public notice will be provided.

Legislative Process: Earlier this year, the Board reviewed the 2026 Minnesota Watersheds resolutions process and elected not to submit a new District resolution. Member resolutions establish policy positions, and annual legislative priorities are considered through the association process, including the annual business meeting.

Project of the Year Finalist: The District nominated the Woodcrest Biochar Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter for the 2026 Minnesota Watersheds Project of the Year Award. The project has been selected as a finalist, with the award announced during the Thursday evening banquet.

RECOMMENDATION

None

Conference SCHEDULE

DEC
2-4,
2026

December

GRAND VIEW LODGE
Nisswa, Minnesota

Wednesday, Dec. 2 *Note: Shuttle Runs 6 am - 11 pm*

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
7:30 am	Registration and Welcome	Gull Lake Center
8 am	Workshop Wednesday	
8 am - 3 pm	Minnesota Watersheds Drainage Workshop	Norway Center
8 am - 2:30 pm	Watershed Management Workshop	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret
8 am - 2:30 pm	Staff Technical Training Workshop	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom A
8 am - 2:30 pm	Staff Administrative Training workshop	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom B
11:30 am	Lunch Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
3:30 - 5 pm	Regional Caucuses	
	Region I Caucus	Norway Center Boardroom
	Region II Caucus	Gull Lake Center — Lake Hubert
	Region III Caucus	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret
6 - 9 pm	Trade Show Opening Night	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
6 - 9 pm	Night at the Movies	Gull Lake Center — Lake Itasca

Thursday, Dec. 3 *Note: Shuttle Runs 6 am - 11 pm*

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
8 am - 1 pm	Visit the Trade Show	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
8:30 am - 4 pm	Concurrent Sessions	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret and Lake Itasca
11:45 am	Lunch	Norway Center and Main Lodge — Heritage Room
12:45 - 1 pm	Prize Winner Announcements	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
6 - 9 pm	Social Hour, Banquet and Awards	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom

Friday, Dec. 4

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
8 - 11 am	Business Meeting	Norway Center
11 am - noon	Minnesota Watersheds Board Meeting	Norway Center Boardroom



2026

Wednesday WORKSHOPS

The Minnesota Watersheds Drainage Workshop will focus on managing risk in drainage systems. Sessions include risk in repair petitions, risk in repairs and drainage projects, risk in contracting, and risk in real-world drainage projects. A case law update will be given. Attendees will also test their knowledge in session entitled Are You Smarter Than a Drainage Professional?

The Watershed Management Workshop will cover the purposes, powers, and governance structures of WDs and WMOs; planning, implementation, and evaluation in watershed management; transparency and statutory requirements; working relationships of boards and staff; and real-world examples of on-the-ground projects and board involvement in the process. We encourage board and staff to attend this workshop.

The Staff Administrative Training Workshop is geared toward watershed administrators and will cover stream restoration and public water permitting, self-insurance pools, document accessibility, and a session on navigating the legislative session.

The Staff Technical Training Workshop is meant for watershed staff and will focus on BWSR grants management, funding opportunities for watershed projects, AI for watershed communications, cybersecurity for watershed staff, and includes a watershed project sharing session.

Please note that the agendas for these sessions are being developed and are subject to change.

**CHOOSE THE
WORKSHOP that
fits your focus**

Wednesday

OPTION
ONE

THE MINNESOTA WATERSHED DRAINAGE WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm NORWAY CENTER

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

- 7:30 am REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 8 am WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS, *Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resources*
- 8:05 AM **Risk in Repair Petitions** *Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Chad Martini, Stearns County*
Submitting a petition to repair or redetermine benefits on a drainage system is relatively straightforward. Understanding the financial implications of a petition, however, can be much more challenging. This is especially true when system records are incomplete and assessed benefits are limited. This presentation will explore potential financial liabilities that may be triggered by a petition and discuss strategies for helping petitioners understand cost obligations before and during drainage proceedings.
- 8:30 am **Risk in Regulatory Requirements: Repairs** *Adam Nies, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Tom Schmidt, Rice Creek Watershed District* — Drainage system repairs can trigger a surprisingly wide range of local, state, and federal regulations. Anoka County Ditch 53-62 provides an interesting case study of a seemingly simple repair effort that required navigation of a complex web of regulatory requirements.
- 9:15 am **Risk in Regulatory Requirements: Drainage Projects** *Chuck Brandel, ISG*
This session will examine the differences between repair and improvement project permitting requirements, the technical information needed to support permit applications, and considerations for changing direction when project conditions differ from original assumptions.
- 10 am **Risk of Legal Precedent: Case Law Update** *John Kolb, Rinke Noonan*
Recent court decisions can significantly influence how drainage authorities approach their responsibilities. This session reviews key legal developments and their implications for drainage admin and project implementation.
- 10:30 am **Risk of Humiliation** *Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resources*
Think you know Minnesota public drainage? Test your knowledge of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E in this episode of Are You Smarter Than a Drainage Professional? To give you a little help, our classroom of drainage experts will even let you peek at their answers. Just hope they are right!
- 11:30 am LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*
- 12:30 pm **Risk in Contracting: Three-Party Agreements and Roles** *Chad Engels, Moore Engineering, Inc. & Lukas Croaker*
Construction contracts define the responsibilities and protections of drainage authorities, engineers, and contractors. This session will discuss contract structures, participant roles, and key considerations for protecting each parties interests throughout the construction phase of the project.
- 1 pm **Risk in Contracting: Construction Administration** *Chuck Brandel, ISG*
Effective construction administration requires a clear understanding of the responsibilities of engineers, owners, contractors, and subcontractors. This session will discuss project observations, documentation, communication, and areas where risk may arise during construction.
- 1:30 pm **Risk in Contracting: Change Order Process** *James Guler, Moore Engineering, Inc.*
What is the change order process? This session will explain when change orders are appropriate, how they are evaluated, and the potential impacts they can have on project costs, schedules, and risk management.
- 1:45 pm **Risk in Contracting: BWSR Contracts** *Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resource*
You may work in the world of Chapter 103E, but funding partners outside the drainage system often do not. Clear communication regarding contract authority, funding agreements, and cost-share expectations is critical. This session will highlight common questions, potential pitfalls, and best practices for ensuring all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.
- 2 pm **Risk in Real-World Drainage Activities** *Moderator: Jacob Rischmiller, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Panelists: Chad Engels (Moore Engineering, Inc.), Chris Otterness (Houston Engineering, Inc.), Chuck Brandel (ISG)* — Experience is often the best teacher. In this interactive consultant panel, participants will examine real-world drainage challenges and discuss solution options, associated risks, and practical considerations under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.
- 3 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm

GULL LAKE CENTER | LAKE MARGARET

SUBJECT: Understanding the Purpose, Responsibilities, and Impact of Watershed Governance

INSTRUCTORS: Julie Westerlund, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Louis Smith, Smith Partners, PLLP, Dan Money, Two Rivers Watershed District, Michelle Overholser, Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, Mike Isensee, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

7:30 am REGISTRATION

8 am **Welcome and Introductions**

To help guide the day's discussion, presenters will begin by learning more about attendees and their interests. Participants should be prepared to share the organization they represent, their role within that organization, and questions they have about watershed management. This interactive discussion will help instructors tailor the workshop to attendees' needs and interests.

8:30 am **Why Watersheds? Purposes, Powers, and Governance Structures**

Why were watershed organizations created and what legal authorities do they have? This session will explain the similarities and differences in watershed management governance structures. An overview will be given of how watershed districts throughout Minnesota operate under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D and how metro watershed districts and watershed management organizations operate under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.

9:45 am BREAK

10 am **Why Watershed Management? Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation**

Planning, implementation, and evaluation are the foundation of effective watershed management. This session will explore why watershed plans are important, how they guide organizational priorities, and the respective roles board members and staff play in developing, implementing, and assessing watershed projects and programs.

11:30 am LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*

12:30 pm **Why Transparency? Statutory Requirements**

Transparency is essential to effective watershed governance and public trust. Watershed boards are subject to laws and policies that govern how meetings are conducted, how decisions are made, and how information is shared with the public. This session will provide an overview of the Open Meeting Law, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and other governance requirements that help ensure accountability and public access.

1:30 pm **Why Working Relationships? Watershed Boards and Staff**

Successful watershed organizations are built on strong working relationships. Effective leadership, communication, and teamwork between board members and staff are critical to achieving organizational goals. This session will examine the distinct roles and responsibilities of boards and staff and discuss strategies for productive and professional relationships.

2 pm **What's Working? Real-World Examples**

Learning from experience is one of the best ways to understand watershed governance. In this session, administrators from the Two Rivers, Yellow Medicine River, and Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed Districts will highlight successful projects and describe their boards' involvement throughout the process, from initial concept and planning to implementation and evaluation. Attendees will gain practical insights into how effective governance contributes to successful outcomes.

3 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday

OPTION
THREE

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm GULL LAKE CENTER | BALLROOM A

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

- 7:30 am **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING**
Check in, connect with colleagues, and enjoy coffee before the program begins.
- 8 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks** *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District*
- 8:05 am **Stream Restoration and Public Water Permitting: Finding a Clearer Path** *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District; Jon Janke, Coon Creek Watershed District; Mori Maher, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District* — Stream restoration projects can improve water quality, reduce erosion, and restore habitat, but navigating public waters permits can add uncertainty to project design, budgets, and schedules. This session will explore the Minnesota DNR stream restoration permitting work group's efforts and Minnesota Watersheds' legislative initiative to improve permit efficiency. Participants will learn about current efforts and opportunities to help shape future improvements.
- 9:15 **Self-Insurance Pool: A Health Insurance Approach to Consider?** *Joni Giese, Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District* — Due to the great work of Minnesota Watershed's lobbyist during the 2026 legislative session, watershed districts and watershed management organizations can now join with other cities, counties, and school districts to jointly insure for employee health benefits! But what are self-insurance pools and how do they work? Staff from Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District have been investigating the feasibility of joining a self-insurance pool for health benefits and will share their current understanding of how self-insurance pools are structured, along with potential benefits and drawbacks when considering whether to join a self-insurance pool.
- 10:15 pm **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:30 pm **Document Accessibility** *TBD*
Creating accessible documents is essential for ensuring information is available to all audiences and for meeting legal accessibility requirements. This session will provide practical guidance on creating accessible Word documents, PDFs, presentations, and digital materials. Attendees will learn common accessibility standards, how to identify and correct accessibility issues, and simple techniques to improve readability and usability for individuals using assistive technologies. Participants will leave with tools and best practices they can immediately apply to their organization's communications and public-facing documents.
- 11:30 pm **LUNCH** — *Provided with Registration*
- 12:30 pm **Navigating the Legislative Session** *Kevin Matzek, Lockridge Grindal Nauen*
With Minnesota Watersheds expanded lobbying efforts, legislative platform, and updated resolutions process, questions have emerged regarding the role of watershed administrators in legislative advocacy. This interactive question-and-answer session will provide clarity on expectations, opportunities for engagement, and effective participation during the legislative session.
- 2:30 - 3 pm **Wrap Up & Next Steps** *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District*
Attendees will review key takeaways from each session, identify areas requiring additional information or clarification, and discuss possible follow-up actions.
- 3 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday

OPTION
FOUR

STAFF TECHNICAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

8 am - 2:30 pm

GULL LAKE CENTER | BALLROOM B

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

7:30 am

REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

Check in, connect with colleagues, and enjoy coffee before the program begins.

8 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS *Ashlee Ricci, Ramsey-Washington-Metro Watershed District*

8:05 am

BWSR Grants Management *Luke Olson, Board of Water and Soil Resource*

Administering a BWSR grant can be complex. This session will explore a grantee's responsibilities from award through final closeout, including project implementation requirements, financial management, record retention, reporting expectations, and post-grant assurances. Attendees will gain practical guidance on maintaining compliance and successfully managing grant-funded projects.

9 am

Funding Opportunities for Watershed Projects *Courtney Phillips, Shell Rock River Watershed District*

This session will provide an overview of funding sources available to watershed organizations, including the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), state bonding opportunities, and dedicated sales tax funding. Attendees will learn strategies for identifying, pursuing, and leveraging funding opportunities to support watershed priorities.

15-MINUTE BREAK

10:15 am

AI for Watershed Communications: Create Better Content, Faster, While Maintaining Trust

Valerie Franklin Lockhart, Executive Director, Minnesota Technology Network

Artificial intelligence can help watershed organizations create clearer, more consistent public communications while reducing the time staff spend drafting social media posts, flyers, brochures, newsletters, project updates, and educational materials.

In this practical session, participants will learn how to use AI as a communications assistant rather than simply a content generator. We'll explore real-world watershed examples, including how to turn technical information into accessible public-facing content and efficiently adapt one message for multiple audiences and formats.

Participants will also learn the CCC prompting framework — Context, Constraints, and Calibration — a simple method for getting more accurate, useful, and organization-appropriate results from AI tools.

The session will also take a practical look at AI policy and governance, including protecting sensitive information, verifying AI-generated content, maintaining human oversight, addressing copyright and imagery concerns, and establishing clear expectations for staff use. Participants will leave with practical techniques they can use immediately and a framework for using AI more responsibly and consistently within their organization.

11:30 pm

LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*

12:30 pm

Cybersecurity for Watershed Staff *Christian Torkelson, League of Minnesota Cities*

Cybersecurity threats continue to evolve and pose risks to organizations of all sizes. This session will cover common cyber threats, employee best practices, risk mitigation strategies, and practical steps watershed organizations can take to safeguard sensitive data, financial information, and operational systems.

1:30 pm

Watershed Project Sharing Session *Kyle Axtel, South Washington Watershed District; Jon Roeschlein and Steve Zeece III, Sauk River Watershed District; Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River Watershed District*

This interactive session highlights successful watershed projects and lessons learned from across the state. Presenters will share project goals, implementation strategies, challenges, outcomes, and key takeaways. Attendees will have opportunities to ask questions, exchange ideas, and discuss real-world applications that can be adapted to their own organizations.

2:30 pm

Adjourn

Thursday

CHOOSE YOUR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PICK ONE
FOR EACH TIME
slot and fill up
your day

8:30 - 8:50 am

OPTION 1 ☐ **"We Should" to "Here's How" Practical Diversity and Equity Actions for Watershed Management**

What began as a call to action at the 2021 Minnesota Watersheds Conference has evolved into the Watershed Equity Alliance (WEA). While the group did not yet have a name or formal structure for the first few years, its mission was clear: to create space for watershed professionals to share experiences, expand our knowledge, and advocate for incorporating equity into watershed management. This presentation will reflect on the evolution from a small group of professionals working to create change into an established alliance supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) across Minnesota's watershed management community. Presenters will explore how members have learned from one another and translate those lessons into both small and large organizational changes. The presentation will highlight scalable DEIA actions developed through the WEA and examples of how member organizations have adapted and implemented these practices. Five years of shared learning demonstrate how collaboration can transform individual experiences into practical resources and meaningful, sustainable change.

OPTION 2 ☐ **We Can Have All Three: Flow, Habitat, and Beavers**

The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and Andy Riesgraf, M.S. Certified Beaver Management Professional, will present nature-based approaches to managing the outlet of Big Marine Lake and the restoration of Mill Stream through Burriss Park in Marine on St. Croix. At the lake outlet, the district is implementing nonlethal beaver flow devices to maintain flows through large wetland complexes while allowing beavers to remain part of the landscape. In another location, the district is integrating beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures as part of a designated trout stream restoration design for a short, ecologically degraded reach affected by low-head dams and altered channel conditions. The presentation will examine how these approaches can reduce annual maintenance costs, improve habitat and stream function, reduce heavy equipment disturbance, and respond to community priorities.

9 - 9:20 am

☐ **A Tornado Hit a District Lake — Now What?**

On the evening of July 6, 2026, a tornado carved a seven-mile long, half-mile wide path through Becker County, Minnesota. That path included the popular Big Floyd Lake in the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD). Three people were injured, 100 homes damaged, numerous boats, pontoons, docks and lifts were tossed, and established oak trees and other vegetation was destroyed. Staff from the PRWD will tell the story of the immediate aftermath, coordination of local groups, and all the soggy details of the cleanup efforts in the lake.

☐ **From Salt to Strategy: A Watershed Approach to Chloride Reduction**

Chloride management remains a persistent challenge in urban watersheds because of diffuse sources, legacy loading, and limited treatment effectiveness. Watershed districts are well positioned to advance watershed-scale reduction through monitoring, planning, outreach, and implementation. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) is developing a Chloride Reduction Strategy (CRS) that uses modeling and monitoring to prioritize coordinated, long-term management actions.

Developed alongside RWMWD's 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan, the CRS integrates chloride reduction into communications and engagement, monitoring, stewardship grants, regulatory programs, and projects/research. As a living strategy, it combines prevention, mitigation, and behavior change across public and private sectors and will evolve as new data and implementation options become available. This presentation will show how chloride loading analysis and priority mapping are combined with strategic implementation actions that help translate chloride assessment into action.

GULL LAKE CENTER

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

*Mary Fitzgerald,
Ramsey-Washington
Metro WD; Elizabeth
Boor, Nine Mile Creek
WD; Emily Heinz,
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
WD; Lindsay Schwantes,
Capitol Region WD*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

*Mike Isensee,
Carnelian-Marine-
St. Croix WD and
Andy Riesgraf,
Beaver Innovations*

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

*Shanna Bach,
Josh Beranek,
Pelican River WD*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

*Ashlee Ricci,
Ramsey-Washington
Metro WD and
Tyler Olsen, Barr
Engineering Co.*

9:30-9:50 am**□ What to do When FEMA Changes My Floodplain?**

An explanation about the process of how and why FEMA changes floodplains along with how the Wild Rice Watershed District and the communities of Halstad, Hendrum, and Perley dealt with changes to the floodplain to address resultant mandatory floodplain insurance requirements.

□ The Road to Chloride Reduction: Building a Strategy for Lasting Change

Chloride reduction is a complex, multifaceted challenge that requires more than individual actions - it requires a strategy for prioritizing resources, coordinating efforts, measuring progress, and creating opportunities for innovation. The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has been actively working to reduce chloride through projects, partnerships, education, and policy efforts. While this work has made meaningful progress, our experience has shown that strategic planning can make good work even better by helping us prioritize actions, establish accountability, and focus resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Capitol Region Watershed District and the Clean Water Council will demonstrate what strategic planning can look like in action. CRWD will share updates from its chloride action plan, including how it is prioritizing district actions, informing legislative efforts, and supporting innovative approaches such as a chloride grant program. The CWC will highlight statewide policy and guidance efforts that can create greater consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. Together, these examples show how strategic planning and policy can build existing efforts and turn individual actions into coordinated, measurable, and lasting progress.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tara Jensen, Wild Rice WD and Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, Inc.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Elizabeth Boor, Nine Mile Creek WD; Sarah Wein, Capitol Region WD; and Jessica Wilson, Clean Water Council

10 -10:20 am**□ Improving Habitat Restoration in Drainage Water Management**

Most of the drainage systems within the state were constructed in the early 1900s to promote settlement and agriculture. While many of these systems were successful, there are challenges presented by the existing land use and limitations of the original ditch design. These challenges often include degraded habitat on natural landscapes, undersized capacity of entire systems, or localized drainage issues. In the Roseau River Watershed, there are multiple projects underway within the Lost River State Forest and the Roseau River WMA which serve to improve these conditions, providing benefits to private land while enhancing natural habitats affected by drainage. These projects focus on improving drainage system efficiency by restoring hydrology to natural landscapes, improving water quality, and reducing burden on drainage systems and the affected private lands. The application of these principles can be implemented statewide to improve efficiency of legal drainage systems for greater use and resiliency.

□ Wake Boat Impacts on Alum Effectiveness in a Residential Minnesota Lake

Alum treatments are used to reduce internal phosphorus (P) loading in lakes by binding sediment P and limiting release under anoxic conditions. However, the stability of alum-treated sediments in lakes with high sediment disturbance is still uncertain. Recent research has shown that wake boats may redistribute or mix sediments. Lotus Lake, a deep lake in Chanhassen, MN, has undergone two alum applications (2018 and 2024) and experiences substantial wake boat activity during peak season. These conditions provided an opportunity to evaluate impact on alum treatment effectiveness.

Sediment cores were collected across treatment zones in spring and fall 2025. Vertical sediment cores were analyzed for total aluminum distribution within the top 25 cm, sediment phosphorus fractionation, and anoxic sediment phosphorus release rates. Distinct differences were observed in the aluminum distribution between spring and fall cores. Higher aluminum concentrations were observed within surficial sediments in spring compared to fall cores though despite these differences, hypolimnetic P concentrations and anoxic release rates remained significantly reduced relative to pre-treatment conditions. While this study adds to the growing understanding of wake boat impacts using real-world evidence, more analysis is needed to quantify long-term effects on sediment inactivation treatments.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River WD and Torin McCormack, HDR, Inc.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Terry Jeffery, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD and Kate Lucas, \Barr Engineering

10:30 - 10:50 am

▣ Stabilizing the Clearwater River

A collaborative effort between the Red Lake Watershed District, Houston Engineering, Inc., and Minnesota DNR identified a project to reduce severe degradation within a 2.3 river mile stretch of the Clearwater River that stems back to a channel straightening project performed in the 1950s. Although the straightening project reduced overland flooding in the area, the steeper grade line and reduction in channel length resulted in erosion eight to ten feet in depth within the channel. The collaborative team analyzed geomorphology, hydraulics, and countless alternatives to determine the final design. The final design includes the installation of five new rock riffles, one rock arch rapids, and modifying two existing riffles to enhance the severely degraded channel, reducing velocity and facilitating fish passage. The project also includes stabilizing nine locations of streambank with bioengineering practices. Construction is nearly complete and we look forward to sharing this success story.

▣ What the Plants Are Telling us: Ecological Health as a Watershed Management Lens

What can rare aquatic plants reveal about the systems we manage? At Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD), the answer is reshaping watershed management.

BCWD's recently completed fifth-generation watershed management plan elevates ecological health from a supporting consideration to a central organizing principle. Developed with an engaged advisory community, the plan integrates restoration of water resources and natural systems, protection of the uplands that sustain them, and stormwater infrastructure designed to deliver co-benefits for water quality, habitat, carbon sequestration, and community resilience. The process produced an unexpected discovery: soft-water plant communities among the rarest in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Minnesota. Their presence, sustained by distinctive surface-water chemistry and hydrology, revealed connections between water, landscape, and the biological communities that depend on them - and provided new insight into which resources are most important to protect.

Join BCWD and EOR to explore ecological health not simply as a management objective, but as a lens for understanding watershed function and shaping measurable, actionable priorities for long-term stewardship.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tammy Audette, Red Lake WD; Tony Nordby, HEI; and Michael Kelly, DNR

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Karen Kill, Brown's Creek WD and Jimmy Marty, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc.

11 - 11:20 am

▣ Friends Don't Let Friends Over-Model

Projects often face pressure for increasingly complex technical analyses, particularly when reviewing regulatory impacts. On the Whetstone River, the challenge was not whether a larger, more sophisticated model could be built, but whether the significant investment in complicated analysis would improve the decision-making process. Restoration objectives need to be balanced with downstream flood risk, dam operations, infrastructure constraints, regulatory requirements, and stakeholder concerns extending beyond the project footprint.

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District with its consultant, Houston Engineering, Inc., worked with multiple state and federal agencies to identify the decisions that needed to be made, then selected the minimum level of analysis necessary to answer those questions. The result was a submittal that addressed regulatory concerns while avoiding unnecessary complexity, cost, and uncertainty.

Attendees will learn practical lessons for defining project objectives, working with regulators, communicating uncertainty, and matching technical analyses to project risks and decision-making needs.

▣ The Land of 10,000 Lakes and 34,000 Miles of Shoreline: Making Shoreline Protection Work for Landowners and Local Governments

Minnesota continues to lose natural shoreline despite the existence of shoreline protections, technical guidance, and permitting programs. The challenge is not simply a lack of regulation. Through the Minnesota Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee, state and local partners identified recurring barriers, including inconsistent guidance and administration, limited local technical capacity, fragmented jurisdiction, and landowners receiving assistance only after damaging alterations occurred.

This session will share those findings and the practical solutions advanced through four 2026 resolutions adopted by Minnesota Watersheds: dedicated local technical assistance, common training and evaluation standards, updated public guidance, and improved regulatory and permitting-process coordination. Using real-world examples of local watershed permitting and shoreline management, the presentation will explore how these changes could help preserve natural shorelines and increase the use while expanding

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Amber Doschadis, Upper Minnesota River WD and Lisa Odens, Houston Engineering, Inc.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Tom Langer and Mike Isensee, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD

landowner access to native shoreline restoration and bioengineered applications practices. Participants will leave with practical examples of how shoreline protection can become easier to understand, more consistently administered, and more workable for landowners, contractors, and local governments.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm Lunch and Networking

LOCATION:
Main Lodge
Dining Room

1 - 1:20 pm

□ From Education to Celebration: Untangling Public Perception in a Dam Modification Project

Buck's Mill Dam on the Pelican River presented intertwined safety, ecological, fish-passage, and community challenges. The modification project sought to improve fish passage and dam safety while preserving seasonal lake water levels, requiring the team to address technical knowledge gaps, public concerns, and residents' attachment to the site. Construction was supported by a deliberate communication and engagement strategy. A multi-stakeholder advisory committee identified concerns early and shaped outreach while regular updates kept the public informed before, during, and after construction. The team monitored local email threads, social media groups, and newspapers, and held one-on-one and small-group conversations to explain tradeoffs in accessible language. Educational materials clarified fish-passage function and expected water-level behavior. A partnership with the Becker County Museum connected engineering, ecology, and local history through interactive exhibits. The approach aims to strengthen understanding and trust while offering a replicable model for using cultural institutions in water resource education and celebrating community ownership of project outcomes.

LOCATION:
Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:
Shanna Bach, Pelican River WD and Garrett Monson and Lauren Weller, Moore Engineering, Inc.

□ Engaging Owners in BMP Maintenance

It's not uncommon that someone buys a new property with a permanent BMP and has no idea it's there - much less how to maintain it. Staff inspections can be helpful in identifying issues and making the owner aware of the BMP, but don't bridge the gap in understanding how it functions and what maintenance needs to be done. We'll look at some successes CLFLWD has had in engaging owners in managing their BMPs and what can be done, with a special focus on small businesses and residential homeowners.

LOCATION:
Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:
Victoria D'Amico, Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD

1:30-1:50 pm

□ Persistence Pays Off: Fountain Lake Dredging Moves to Completion

The Shell Rock River Watershed District's Fountain Lake Restoration Project reflects a long-term, multi-phase effort to improve one of southern Minnesota's most visible and economically important water resources. Fountain Lake, located in Albert Lea, has been impaired by nutrient enrichment, poor water clarity, sediment resuspension, and degraded aquatic habitat, with a 2012 TMDL identifying internal phosphorus loading from accumulated sediments as a major driver. Since dredging began in 2018, SRRWD has advanced the project through persistence, partnerships, state funding, and local option sales tax support. The first two phases included construction of a confined disposal facility and removal of approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment. With an additional \$9 million from the Minnesota Legislature, the final phase will remove about 600,000 cubic yards from Main Bay and portions of Bancroft Bay. Attendees will learn how dredging, permitting, vegetation management, and habitat enhancement support improved water quality, fisheries, and long-term lake health.

LOCATION:
Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:
Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River WD and Julie Blackburn, ISG

□ LIDAR Analysis Targets, Near Channel Erosion Sources, and Results in Prescriptive BMP Implementation

Modeling and terrain analysis enhancements were made possible by the recent release of a second generation of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic mapping. Sand Creek has been impaired for high total suspended solids (TSS) and turbidity since 2002, and watershed monitoring data confirmed that monitored stream segments exceed the TSS standard by two to eight times. Work completed for the Sand Creek watershed used both sets of LiDAR mapping and stream monitoring data to target specific sources of near-channel erosion and prioritize exact locations for implementing improvement options. This presentation will demonstrate how GIS terrain analysis and watershed monitoring and modeling results were combined to quantify near channel erosion volumes, develop statistical relationships with TSS and prioritize specific sites that have delivered the highest levels of excess runoff and sediment load. The results were checked for agreement with past geomorphic surveys and are getting used for management plan updates.

LOCATION:
Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:
Melissa Bokman Ermer, Scott WMO and Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering Co.

2 - 2:20 pm

□ Partnership Through Permitting: A Model for Minnesota Watersheds

An inherent challenge sits at the interface of land use and water, where development decisions shape hydrology and water quality. How the land-use community experiences watershed permitting can shape outcomes beyond the regulatory process, but when watersheds engage after land-use decisions are fixed, friction arises and opportunities for collaboration narrow.

Recurring policy proposals, including recent efforts to consolidate watershed authority, highlight the importance of an innovative regulatory approach that demonstrates how permitting can protect water resources while supporting broader community goals.

MCWD's Land & Water Partnership framework advances this approach. With permitting as a primary implementation arm, MCWD engages early, provides technical assistance, and builds relationships to achieve outcomes beyond compliance.

Drawing on interviews with developers, cities, and metro watersheds, this session will examine the inherent tensions of regulatory programs, explore partnership case studies, and offer Minnesota watersheds a practical model for building relationships, protecting water, and demonstrating public value.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

James Wisker, Veronica Sannes, and Abigail Couture, Minnehaha Creek WD and Louis Smith, Smith Partners

□ Finding Your Bearings: Creating a New Baseline of Project Inspection Data to Support Project Performance

Watersheds need projects to function as designed to be successful in protecting water, and functioning projects and partnerships rely on solid information and an understanding of current conditions. With over 180 stormwater projects across 24 years of partner grants in the community, in 2026 the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) began a journey to understand how built projects are functioning. Through reviewing past project BMPs and populating a geospatial database to track visual inspections, MWMO has garnered insights into the status and function of our partners' projects. This required simplification of subjective data collection, connectivity between various programs, and legwork by staff to get the job done. As MWMO continues to work to support long-term performance and understanding of project impacts, staff anticipate going deeper and further into monitoring approaches to point towards how past projects can be sustained for performance for our partners, communities, and the Mississippi River.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Adam Flett and Emmy Baskerville-Doeckel, Mississippi WMO

2:30 - 2:50 pm

□ Fundamental Principles, Complaint Procedures, and Indemnification in Watershed Governance

Public administrators who serve Minnesota watershed organizations operate in a complex governance environment. They are employees or officers of a public entity, but they also work closely with an appointed Board of Managers that sets policy, approves budgets, adopts rules, and supervises the overall direction of the district. This relationship can create difficult questions when an administrator has a human resources complaint, becomes the subject of litigation for work performed on behalf of the district, or needs clarity about how internal governance policies should be applied. A well-designed governance framework should answer these questions before conflict arises. It should provide a clear complaint pathway, a fair process for response and appeal, and an accurate explanation of defense and indemnification obligations. This session will inform board members and administrators how to design and navigate this framework.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

Louis Smith, Smith Partners

□ From Park Improvements to Climate-Resilient Community Infrastructure

The Central Park redevelopment in Hopkins demonstrates how strong local partnerships can transform a traditional park improvement project into a multifunctional investment in community resilience. Led by the City of Hopkins, the project began as an effort to upgrade park amenities. Through relationship-building and collaboration with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, the project expanded to integrate recreation, stormwater management, and climate resilience. The district contributed design expertise, funding, and support in securing a \$5 million grant, helping the city advance a project with benefits far beyond recreation. Emerging from the District's DEIA work, the partnership intentionally focused investment in an area of the watershed more vulnerable to climate-related impacts. The resulting multi-use space provides improved recreational opportunities while reducing flood risk, improving water quality, and mitigating the urban heat island effect. Central Park illustrates how watershed districts can build trusted partnerships that leverage public investments to address environmental vulnerabilities while meeting community priorities.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

Elizabeth Boor, Nine Mile Creek WD

3 - 3:20 pm

□ The Future of One Watershed, One Plan

Very soon, Minnesota will have completed a 10-year transition to statewide watershed-based planning through the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is exploring ideas for continuous improvement of the program as plans enter their second planning and implementation cycle. In this session, BWSR staff will share what they've learned, and ideas for program improvement to strengthen partnerships, accelerate clean water results, and share success stories. This will be an interactive session that will build on a series of summer listening sessions and a survey, continuing the discussion about potential program modifications aimed at streamlining planning, cultivating consistency while maintaining flexibility, and improving how results are communicated.

□ Revealing Opportunity: Turning Watershed Goals into Action in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Sub Watershed

MCWD has learned that effecting meaningful change for water resources, and the communities anchored by them, often require looking beyond its own area of expertise - seeking unique project opportunities on the landscape in partnership with those who transform it.

For over a decade, MCWD has cultivated relationships with its Six Mile Creek - Halsted Bay Sub watershed communities, integrating water resources and land use. By recognizing where watershed goals intersect with community aspirations for sustainable growth, MCWD and its partners unlocked a diverse project portfolio, including habitat restorations, stormwater retrofits, and corridor improvements, while continuing to plan together for the future.

Rather than focus on what watersheds can accomplish alone, this session will explore how identifying shared goals with land-use actors reveals opportunities to advance watershed priorities while achieving broader community objectives. Attendees will gain practical ideas for discovering common ground and turning opportunities into projects that generate meaningful local and downstream change.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

*Julie Westerlund,
Moriya Rufer, and
Maggie Karschnia,
BWSR*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

*Michael Hayman
and Kailey Cermak,
Minnehaha Creek
WD*

3:30-3:50 pm

□ Defining a Watershed's Role on Local Water Management Issues

A watershed organization's role and scope in managing surface water quantity is often misunderstood. Because you have "water" in your organizational name, stakeholders often understand that role extends to ALL surface water issues, when an organization's budget and authorities demand a "regional" prioritization to their mission. In short, it can be hard to say "no" to local landowners who seek relief from their localized, but deeply personal, water management issue. In this presentation, the Rice Creek Watershed District will demonstrate strategies they have used to communicate the sidebars on the district's role in water quantity management and provide secondary but useful assistance on these issues.

□ Balancing Recreational Boating and Lake Health: Empirical Insights for Sustainable Boat Operation

Escalating boat sizes, engine horsepower, and modern wake-enhancing technologies are driving growing concerns over freshwater ecosystem health. In particular, wake boats and the sport of wake surfing have introduced a distinct mode of vessel operation designed to produce large, surfable waves - a practice that has sparked intense environmental and regulatory debate. This presentation synthesizes five years of field-based research evaluating different types of recreational powerboats, their typical modes of operation, and the hydrodynamics they generate. By analyzing and comparing surface wave height, energy, and power, alongside subsurface waves and turbulence, this work provides the empirical foundation needed to establish science-based operational guidance - including setback distance and water depth - to minimize impacts to the shoreline and lakebed.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

*Nick Tomczik, Rice
Creek WD and Chris
Otterness, Houston
Engineering, Inc.*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

*Andy Riesgraf,
UM St. Anthony
Falls Laboratory*

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 13
ITEM: District Administrator Annual Review

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

Initiate the 2026 District Administrator annual performance review.

BACKGROUND

The District Administrator began serving in the position on January 1, 2026.

At the May 26, 2026 Board meeting, the Board appointed President Hafner and Board Member Lund to conduct a six month review. That review has been completed, with no immediate concerns or follow-up actions identified.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Annual Review: The employment agreement provides for an annual performance evaluation, with the intent that the Board President and one other Board Member conduct the evaluation before the end of December each year.

Open or Closed Meeting: Portions of the annual review process may be conducted in closed session consistent with applicable open meeting requirements. A closed session may be appropriate where the discussion involves sensitive performance information or private personnel data that would otherwise be discussed during an open public meeting.

OPTIONS

1. Appoint the Board President and Board Member _____ to conduct the 2026 annual performance evaluation and report back to the Board as appropriate.
2. Table the annual review process to a future meeting.
3. Provide other direction.

RECOMMENDATION

Appoint the Board President and Board Member _____ to conduct the 2026 annual performance evaluation and report back to the Board as appropriate.

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 14
ITEM: Watershed Management Videos

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

None

PURPOSE

Provide Board members with accessible watershed management training resources to strengthen understanding of District roles, responsibilities, and governance and support more informed decision making.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

In December 2025, a video series developed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for members of local government boards and commissions was shared with the Board.

At the January 12, 2026, Board meeting, the Board expressed interest in reviewing the video series at future meetings as time allows. This staff report is intended to serve as a standing reference so the Board may review the videos incrementally over time.

[Who's Who? An Overview](#) {4:29} Minnesota's water management involves multilevel partnerships—federal, tribal, state, and local governments, as well as others. (*Viewed at March 23, 2026 Board meeting*)

[Who's Who? Local Governments](#) {9:15} Minnesota's local governments for water management include municipalities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed authorities, each with unique funding, skills, relationships, and terminology.

[Who's Who? State Agencies](#) {12:00} Minnesota's state water agencies—BWSR, DNR, MDA, MDH, MPCA, and Met Council—collaborate on conservation, regulation, monitoring, grants, and planning for surface/groundwater quality and quantity, often overlapping to support local governments.

[Who's Who? BWSR](#) {5:03} The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), with a 20-member governor-appointed board and 130 staff, partners with locals via grants, conservation easements, wetland regulation, and water plan reviews to protect Minnesota's land, water, and wetlands.

[What is a Watershed?](#) {8:06} A watershed is land that drains to a common water body. Key concepts: land-water connections, nested scales, and relationship to political units for watershed management.

[Watershed Authorities: Types and Statutes](#) {11:57} Minnesota's watershed management authorities include watershed districts, joint powers WMOs, and county-based WMOs—

each shaped by chapters 103B and 103D—to address water issues across natural boundaries.

[Watershed Authorities: Purpose and Power](#) {8:56} Watershed authorities are special purpose units of government with powers including tax levies, planning, rules, and contracts under chapters 103B and 103D.

[Watershed Authorities: Boards and Policies](#) {7:45} Boards are appointed by counties or cities and they have specific their policy-setting duties and governance responsibilities.

[Watershed Authorities: Structure and Roles](#) {10:41} Clearly defined roles for boards, administrators, are important for effective watershed operations.

[Watershed Authorities: Meetings, Committees, and Public Input](#) {11:12} Boards must follow open meeting laws, use advisory/technical committees for input, hold public hearings, and ensure data access.

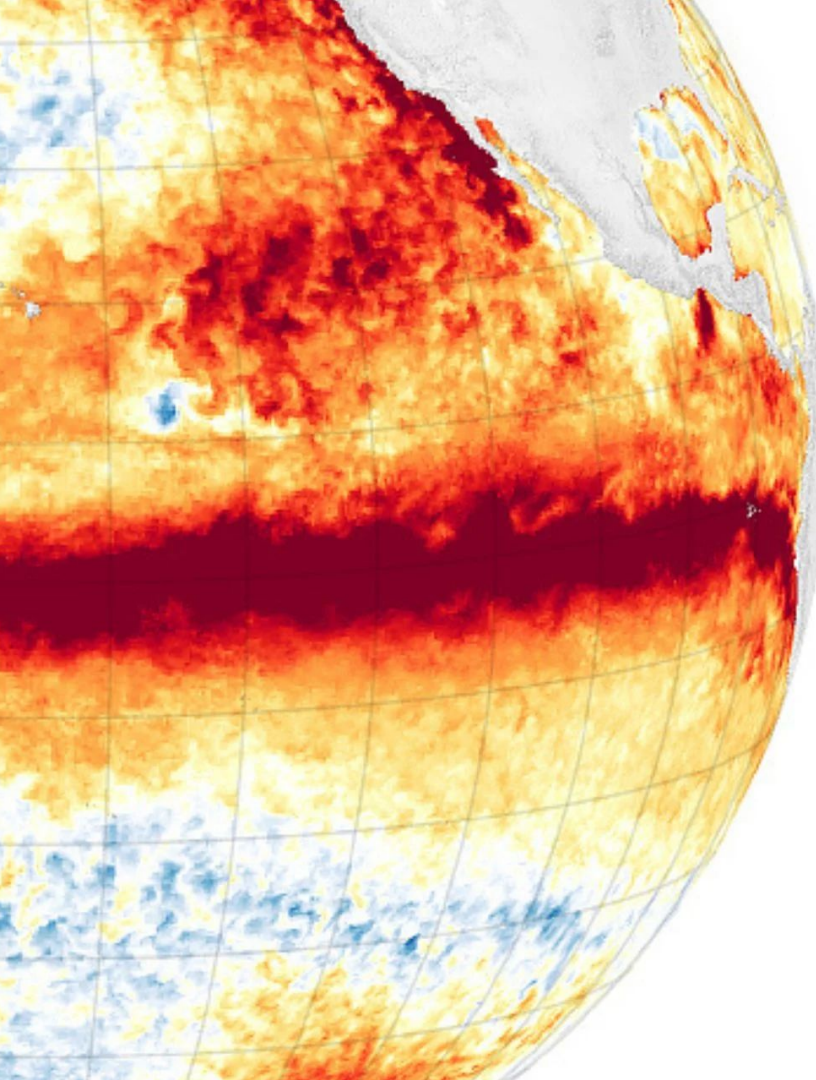
[Watershed Authorities: Budgeting and Finance](#) {10:13} The budget must connect to the watershed plan and be developed with public input, implemented through a statutorily defined fund structure, and audited annually. (*Viewed at May 26, 2026 Board meeting*)

[Watershed Authorities: Planning](#) {12:54} The plan is a process with robust public involvement and a product, based on science, that clearly signals goals and intended actions.

[Watershed Authorities: Implementation](#) {9:54} Watershed authorities execute plans through projects (e.g., flood control, restorations), regulations via permits and rules under and programs like cost-share, outreach, monitoring.

Additionally, the Anoka Conservation District has produced similar videos related to general watershed management.

[ACD Our Watershed and Stormwater Connection](#) {9:56} This video explains complex concepts about watersheds and stormwater in simple terms using engaging animation. It's beneficial for all ages, from an elementary classroom to a city council chamber. Learn what watersheds are, why they are important, and some of the challenges watershed managers face. This ties into stormwater management and what public officials are doing to prevent flooding and improve water quality as well as what we all can do to become part of the solution.

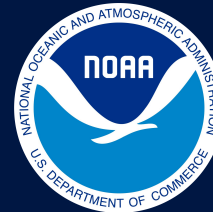


2026-27 Winter Outlook

The El Niño Winter

Michael Griesinger

National Weather Service Twin Cities

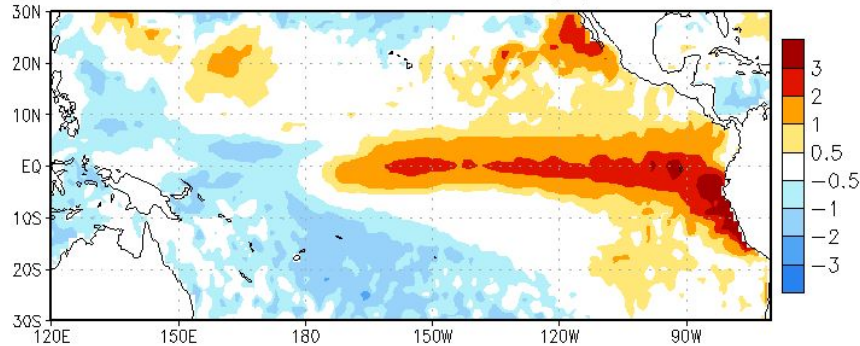


U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

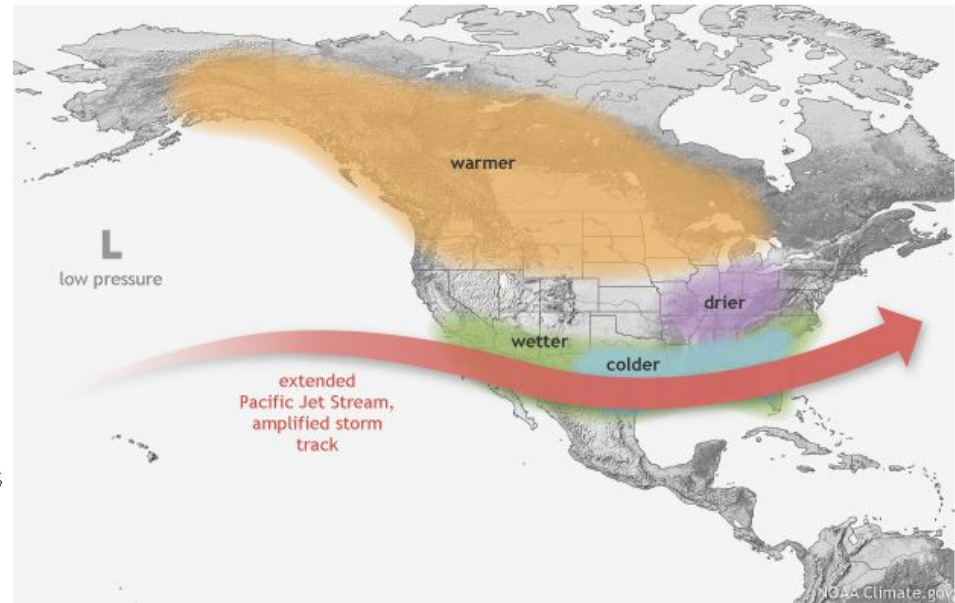
El Niño

- It is strong
- Both the atmosphere and ocean are locked into a classic El Niño pattern
- This will be THE DOMINANT INFLUENCE on weather patterns into next Spring
- Look for highly anomalous amounts of moisture for weather systems to consume

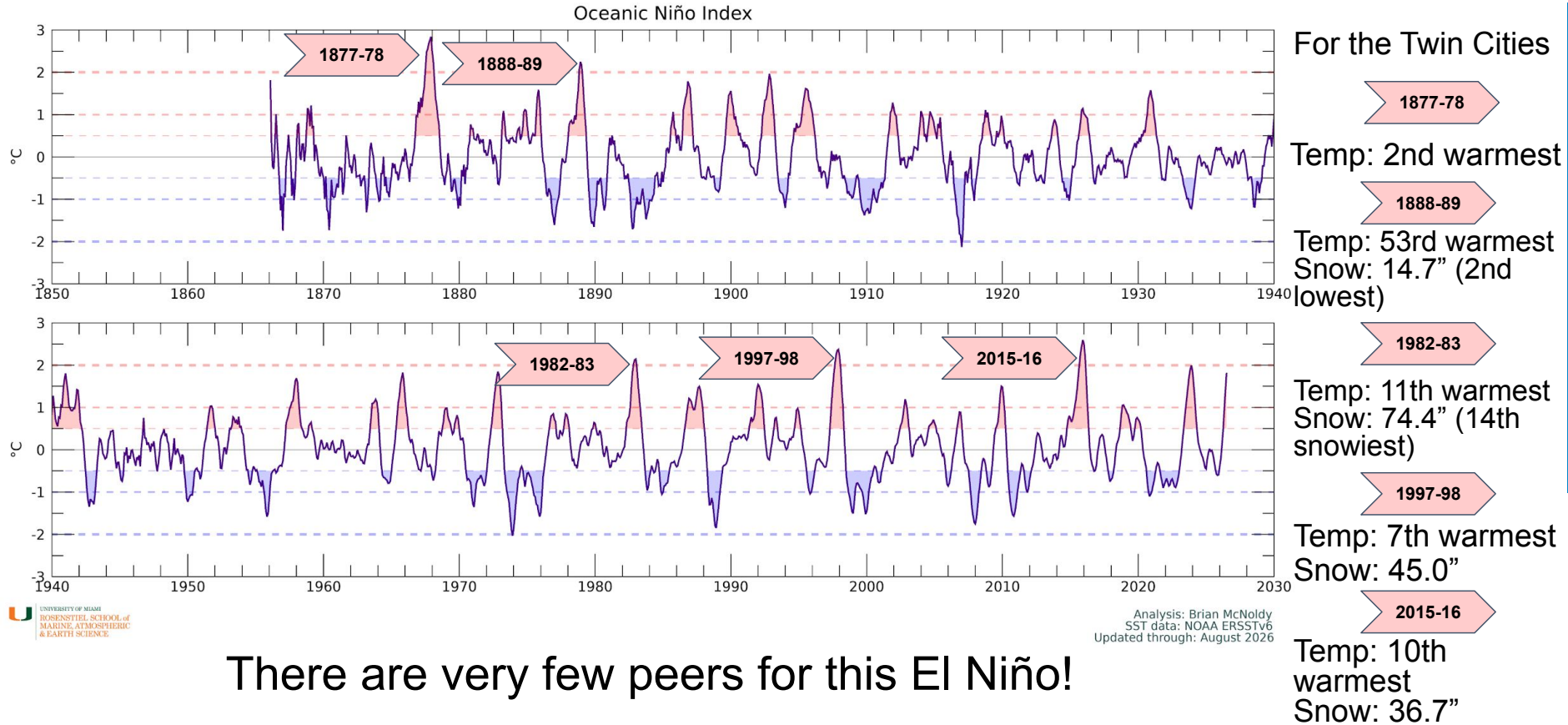
Week centered on 22 JUL 2026
Relative SST Anomalies (°C)



WINTER EL NIÑO PATTERN

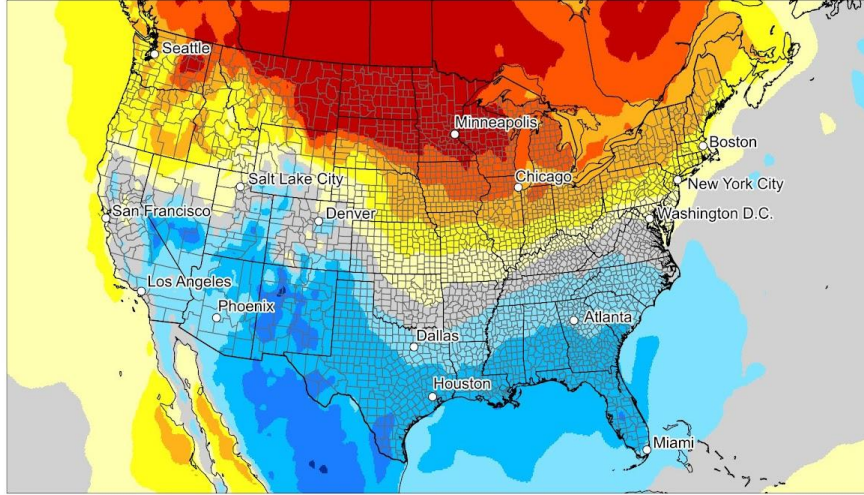


Putting this El Niño into Historical Perspective



Impact of El Niño on Winter

Temperature Departure for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)

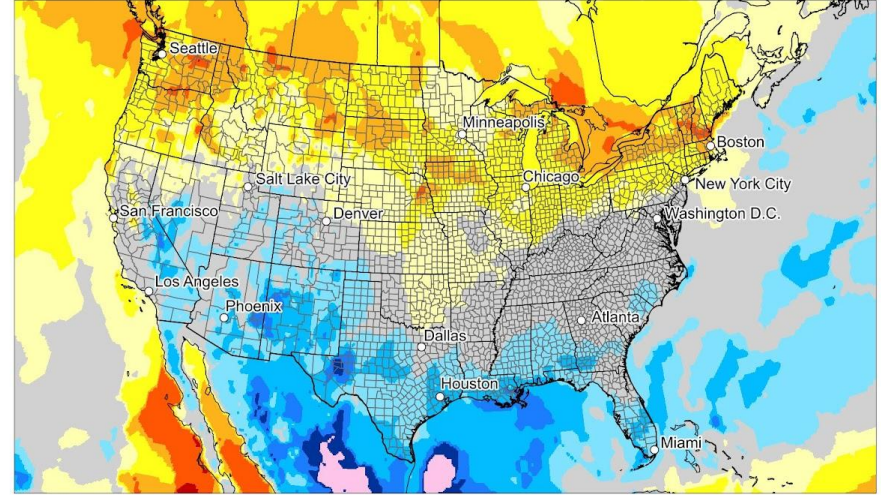


Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024

-2.7F -2.1F -1.5F -0.9F -0.3F 0.3F 0.9F 1.5F 2.1F 2.7F

Departure From (Detrended) Average (F) Since 1950

Temperature Count for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)



Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024

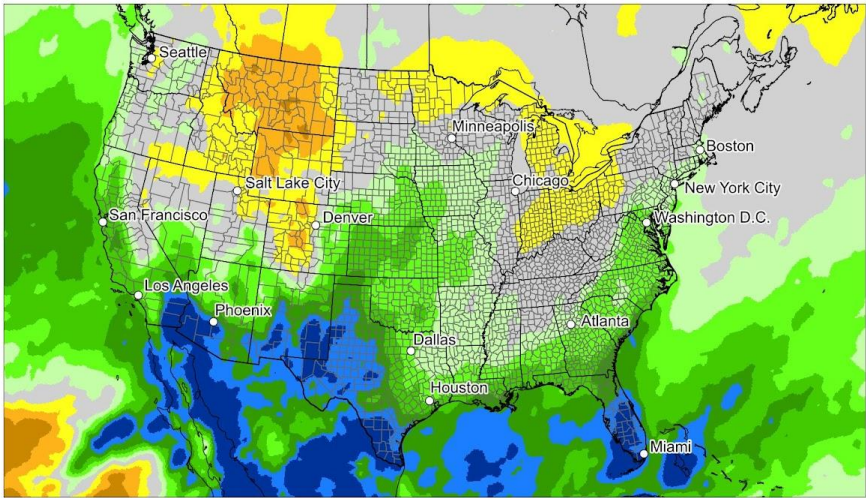
0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7 8 9 10 11

Count of Dec-Feb Periods $\geq +0.0F$ of Detrended Average (Since 1950)

It is the fewer pushes of arctic air that drive the warm temperature anomalies!

Impact of El Niño on Winter

Precipitation Departure for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)

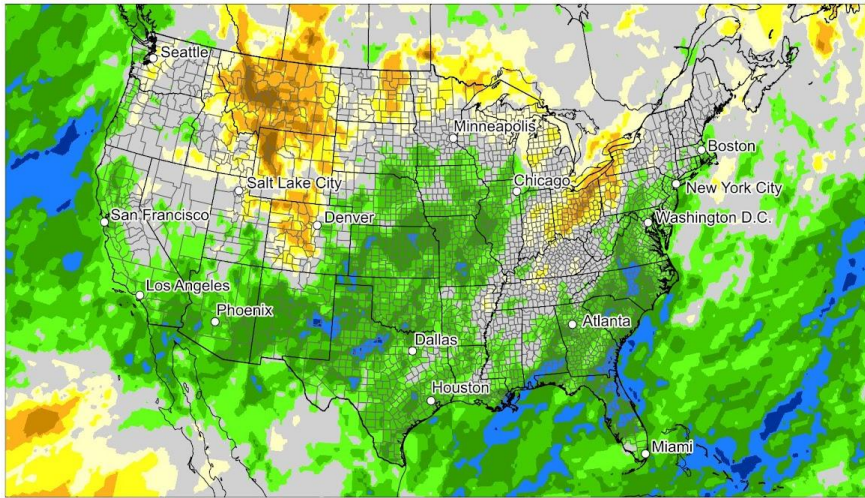


Source: ERA5 Reanalysis Composite of 11 years since 1950. Map by: Brian Brettschneider
Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024

50% 75% 85% 95% 105% 115% 125% 135% 145% 155%

Percent of (Detrended) Average(Since 1950)

Precipitation Count for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)



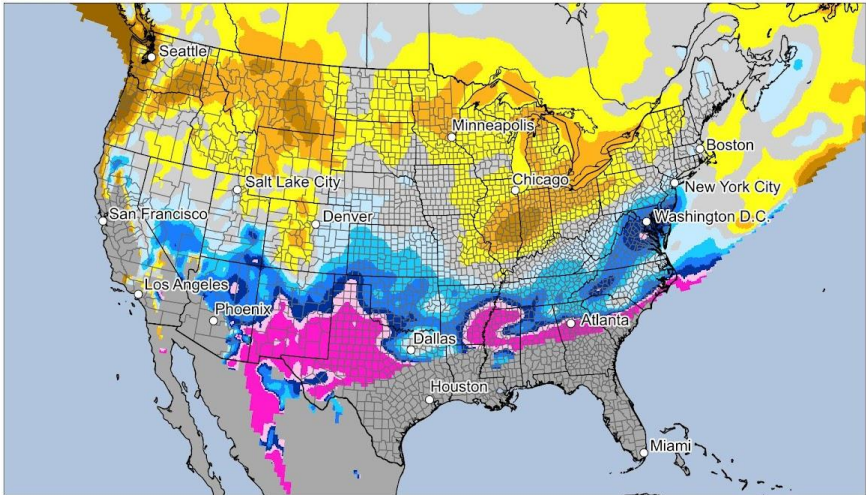
Source: ERA5 Reanalysis Composite of 11 years since 1950. Map by: Brian Brettschneider
Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024

0 1 2 3 4 5-6 7 8 9 10 11

Count of Dec-Feb Periods $\geq +100.0\%$ from Detrended Average (Since 1950)

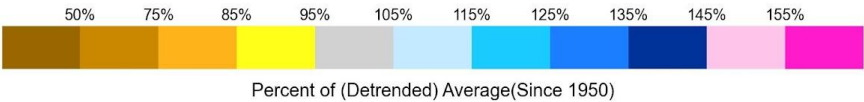
Impact of El Niño on Winter

Snowfall Departure for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)

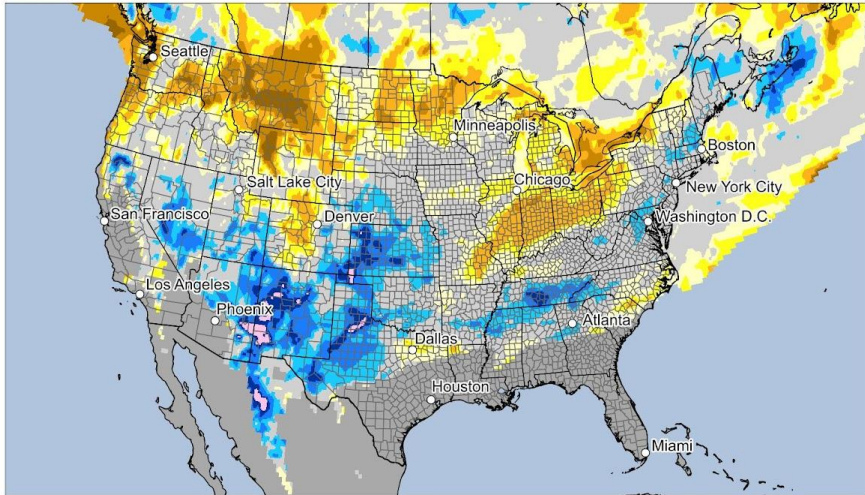


Source: ERA5 Reanalysis Composite of 11 years since 1950. Map by: Brian Brettschneider

Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024

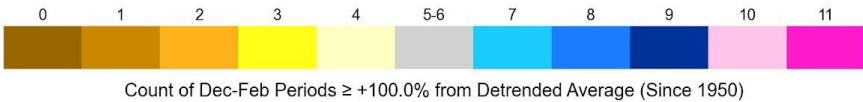


Snowfall Count for Dec-Feb (Str/Very Str Ninos)



Source: ERA5 Reanalysis Composite of 11 years since 1950. Map by: Brian Brettschneider

Years: 1958, 1966, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1998, 2003, 2010, 2016, 2024



It can still snow (a lot) with an El Niño

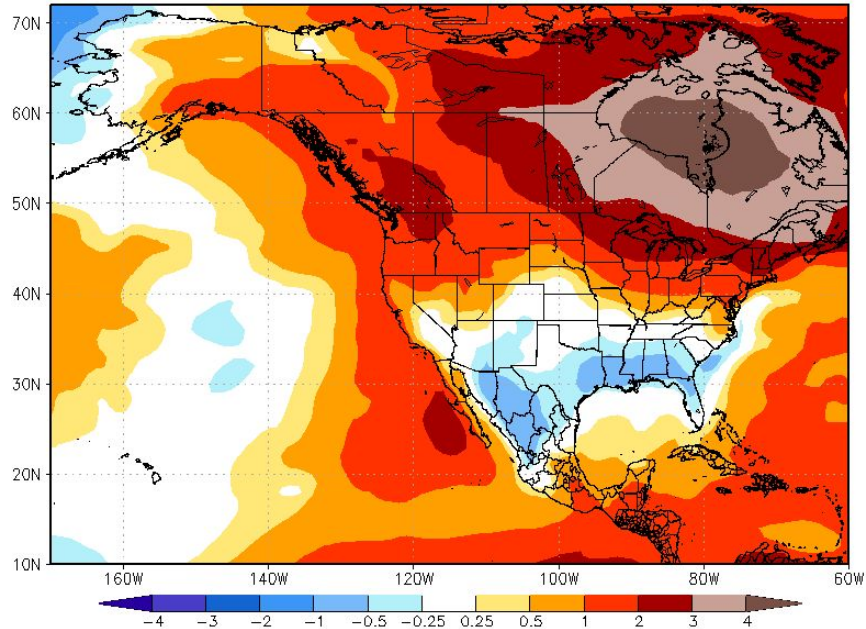
Top Snowfalls for Twin Cities

1.	28.4 inches:	1991 October 31 - November 3 (Halloween Blizzard)	
2.	21.1 inches:	1985 November 29 - December 1 (Thanksgiving Weekend)	
3.	20.0 inches:	1982 January 22 - 23	
4.	17.4 inches:	1982 January 20 - 21	
5.	17.1 inches:	2010 December 10 - 11 (Final "Domebuster")	
6.	16.8 inches:	1940 November 11 - 13 (Armistice Day)	
7.	16.7 inches:	1985 March 3 - 4	
7.	16.7 inches:	1940 March 11 - 14 (tie)	
9.	16.5 inches:	1982 December 27 - 28	strong El Niño
10.	16.0 inches:	1917 January 20 - 21	
10.	16.0 inches:	1999 March 8 - 9 (tie)	
12.	15.8 inches:	2018 April 13-16 (Thunder Blizzard)	
13.	15.3 inches:	1886 November 16-18	
14.	15.1 inches:	2023 January 2-5 (Big Mess)	
15.	14.7 inches:	1985 March 31	
16.	14.3 inches:	1991 November 29 - 30 (Black Friday)	
17.	14.1 inches:	1952 March 22 -23 (tie)	
17.	14.1 inches:	1983 November 27 - December 1 (tie)	
19.	14.0 inches:	1899 March 10-12	
20.	13.8 inches:	2011 February 20-21	
21.	13.6 inches:	1966 March 22-23 (tie)	
21.	13.6 inches:	1983 April 14 (tie)	strong El Niño
23.	13.4 inches:	2023 February 21-23	
24.	13.1 inches:	1983 December 13-15	
25.	13.0 inches:	1907 April 27-28	

- Highlighted snow storms occurred during an El Niño (any strength) winter
 - 8 of the top 25!
- Although it may snow less overall, we can still get “the big one” with an El Niño!

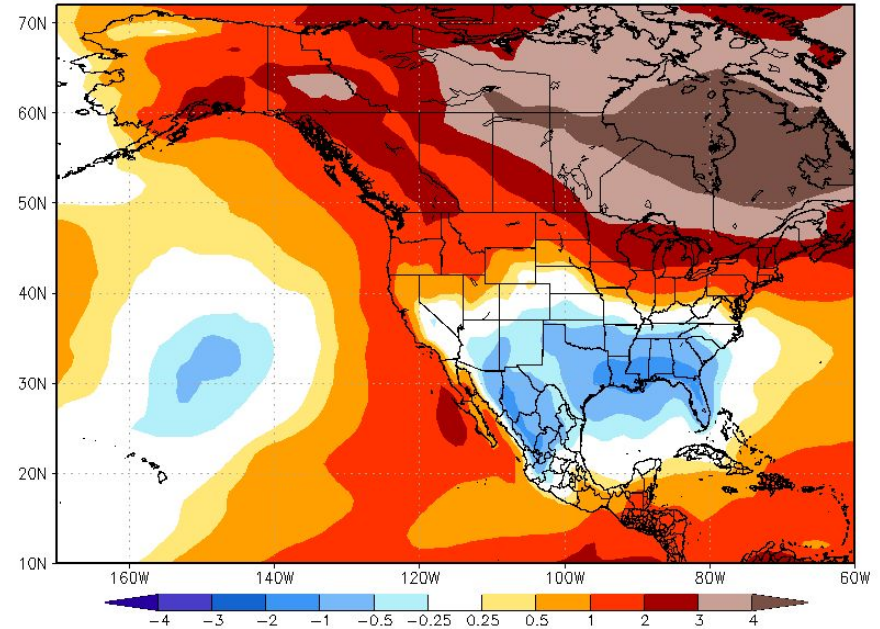
DJF Outlooks (Ensemble Model mean)

NMME Forecast of TMP2m Anom IC=202610 for Lead 2 2026DJF



NMME

IMME Forecast of TMP2m Anom IC=202610 for 2026DJF



IMME

DJF Outlooks (WPC-EPD)

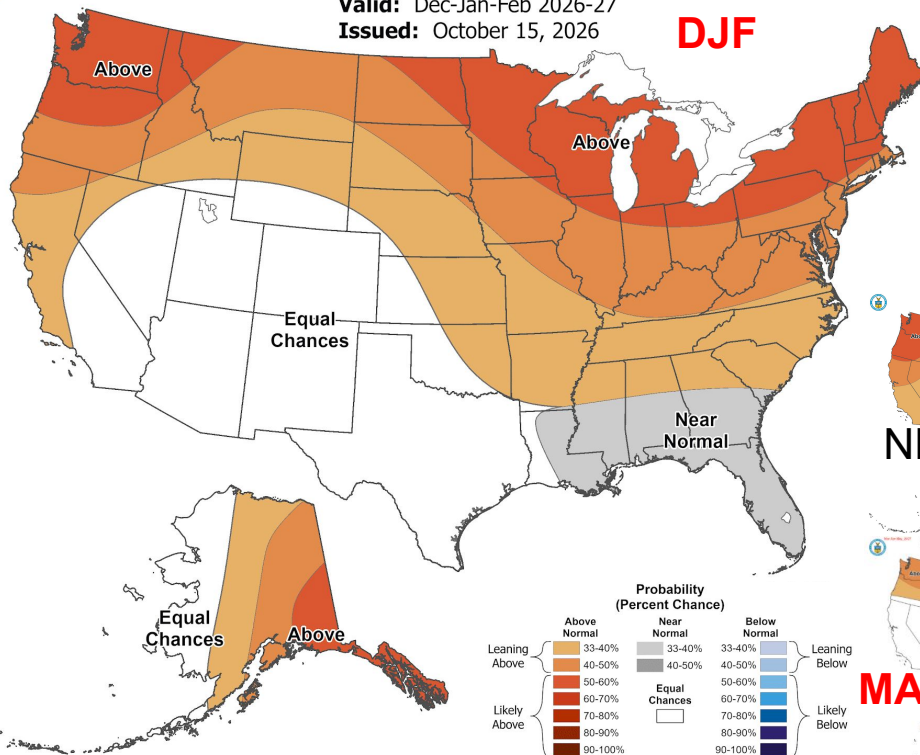


Seasonal Temperature Outlook

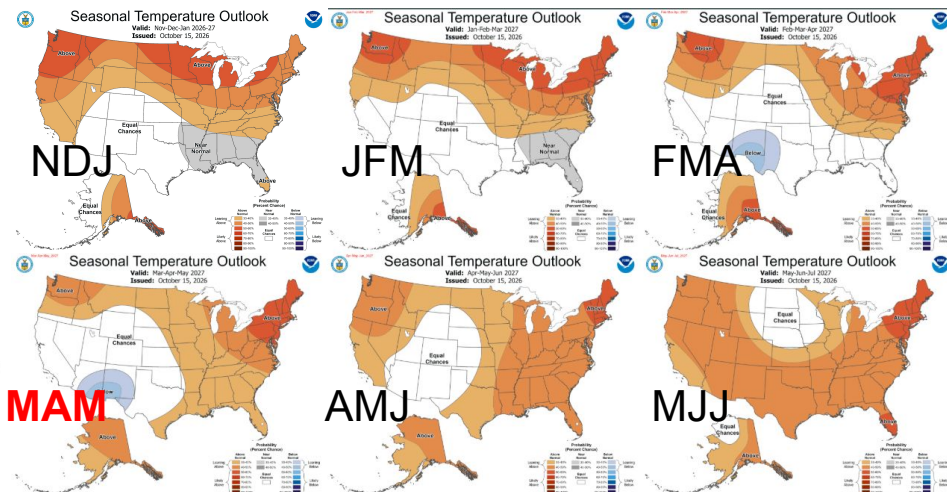
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2026-27

Issued: October 15, 2026

DJF

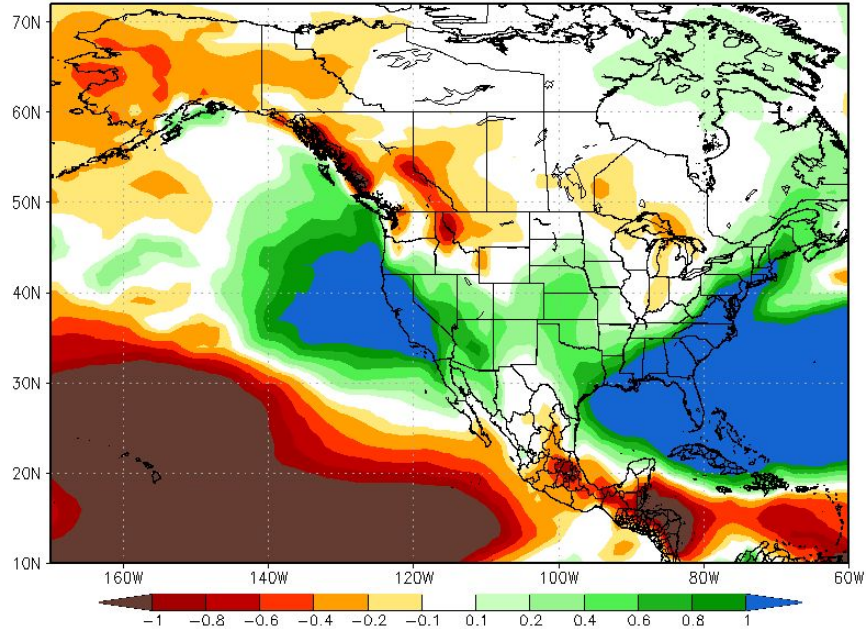


- El Niño!
- Suppressed northern stream leads to fewer Arctic outbreaks across Canada and the northern CONUS
- Anomalous warmth slowly recedes through the Spring



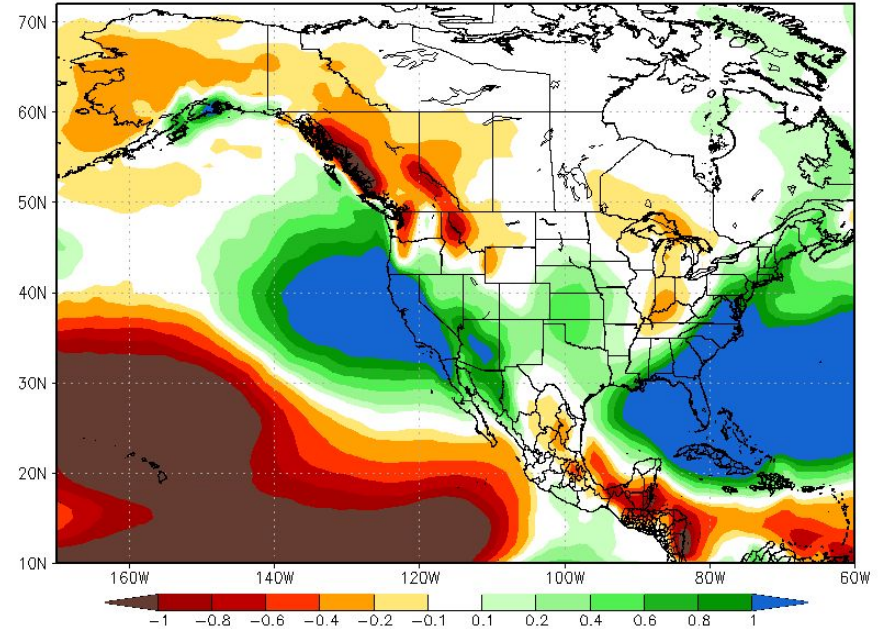
DJF Outlooks (Ensemble Model mean)

NMME Forecast of Prec. rate Anom IC=202610 for Lead 3 2027JFM



NMME

IMME Forecast of Prec. rate Anom IC=202610 for 2027JFM



IMME

DJF Outlooks (WPC-EPD)

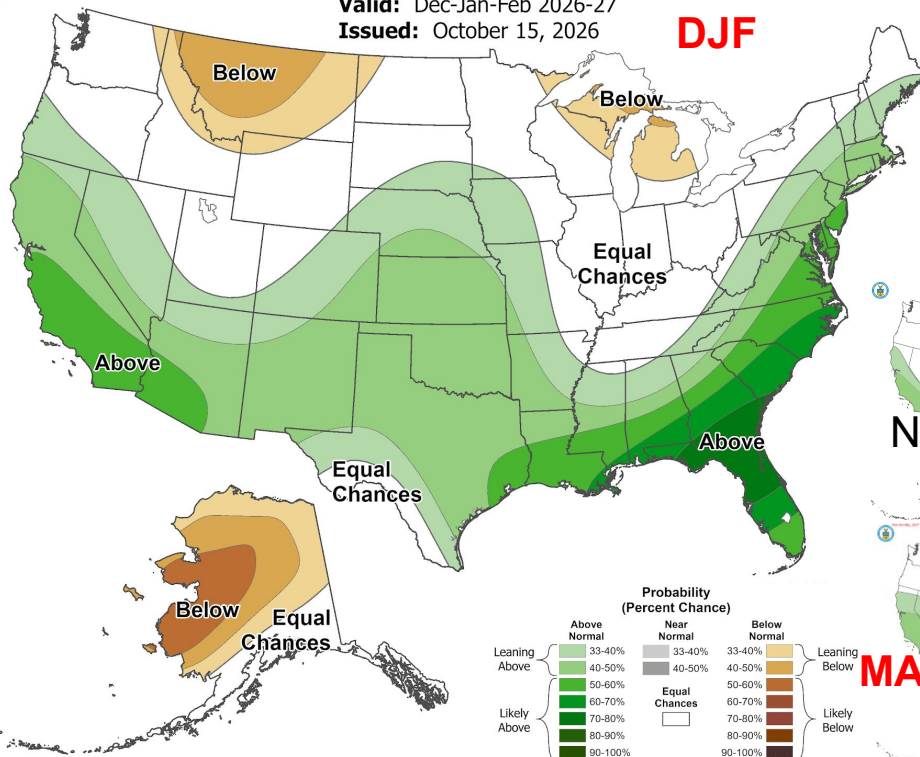


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

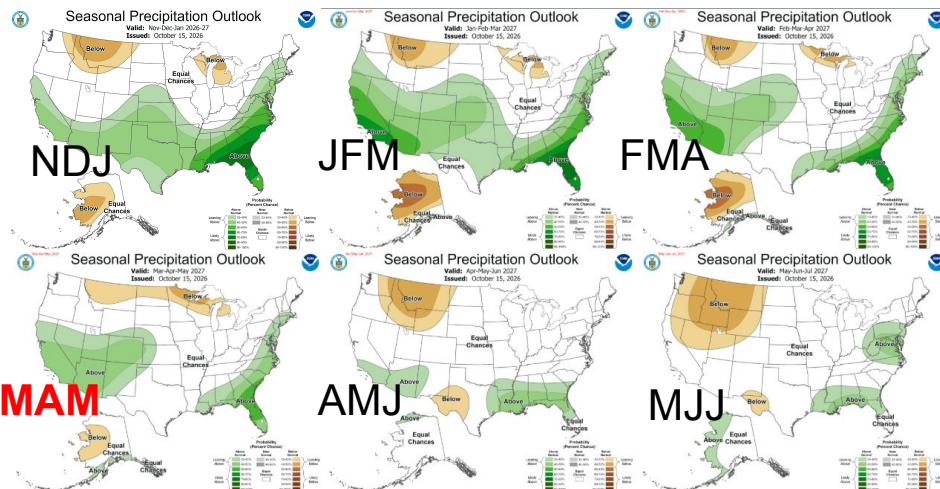
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2026-27

Issued: October 15, 2026

DJF



- More uncertainty with precipitation outlooks
- Given expected warmth and potential for mostly rain events, it is very plausible that we see above normal precipitation with below normal snowfall.
- Uncertainty in precipitation continues into the Spring



Final Thoughts

- High confidence in above normal temperatures this cool season
 - Top 5 warmest winter not an unreasonable expectation
- Get ready for a lot of p-types this winter
- Numerous freeze/thaw cycles
- If we get above normal snowfall, it means we get 2 or 3 big (10+”) snowfall events
- For winter recreation:
 - Expect thinner lake ice than normal
 - Variable snow cover

