Resource Renew
The brand of Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Rob Schilling, Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Carrie Schneider, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz (remote), Ben Mathews (remote), and Nate Johnson (remote)

Staff Present: Carrie Clement, Brandon Kohlts, Cathy Remington, AJ Axtell, Lacie Jurek, Chuck Kimball, Tim Lundell, Grant Brown, and Lauri Amundson

Legal Counsel Present: Dave Oberstar, Fryberger Law Firm

Chair Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

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1. Agenda Review

2. Old Business

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

3.1 **Regular Board Meeting - Mar 23, 2026, Minutes** 7

3.2 **Board Member Vouchers for March** 12

3.3 **Payment Vouchers dated March 18, through April 21, 2026** 14

3.4 Approval of Sanitary Sewer Extension - City of Rice Lake Industrial Development 26
City of Rice Lake Industrial Development

3.5 Approval of Sanitary Sewer Extension - City of Duluth Trinity Road Utilities 39
Trinity Road Sanitary Sewer Extension

The Board moves to recommend approval of the Consent Agenda Items

Moved by: Laura Ness; seconded by: Jim Aird

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion passed. 9-0

4. New Business Items for Discussion and Approval

Operations and Planning

4.1 Approval of Solid Waste Joint Powers Agreement with Carlton County 52
Carlton County Joint Powers Draft Agreement Final Clean April 2026

Brandon Kohlts reviewed the Solid Waste Joint Powers Agreement with Carlton

County.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve the Joint Powers Agreement between WLSSD and Carlton County for the period covering July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2036.

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, Ben Mathews, and Marcia Podratz

Motion Passes 9-0

4.2 Approval of Bid 1512 and Construction Phase Professional Services – Building 8 Third Level HVAC Replacement 59

Brandon Kohlts reviewed project bids and construction phase, professional services for the replacement of the HVAC system serving the office areas on the third floor of Building 8.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve awarding Bid #1512 to The Jamar Company in the amount of $701,893.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve Construction Phase Professional Services to LHB Inc. in the amount of $18,110

This work will be funded from the wastewater capital budget, HVAC Improvements - B8 Third Floor Project #101148.

Moved by: Jim Aird; seconded by: Laura Ness

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.3 **Approval of Professional Services Agreement – Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal and Replacement Project** 61

Brandon Kohlts reviewed the professional services agreement for the underground storage tank removal and replacement located by Building 10.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve entering into an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services for professional services associated with the Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal and Replacement Project, in the amount not to exceed $109,000.

This work will be funded from the approved 2025 wastewater capital budget, Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal and Replacement Project #101167.

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Jim Aird

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.4 Approval of Professional Services – Defoamer System Improvements 63

Brandon Kohlts discussed the professional services agreement for the design of the defoamer system improvement project.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve entering into an agreement with Bolton and Menk Engineering for the professional services associated with the Defoamer System Improvements Project in the amount not to exceed $52,800.

This work will be funded from the approved 2026 wastewater capital budget Defoamer System Improvements (Project #101225).

Moved by: Carrie Schneider; seconded by: Jim Aird

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

Finance

Cathy Remington reviewed the PFA loan applications.

4.5 Approval of Resolution 26-01, PFA Loan Application - Cloquet Pond Rehabilitation 65

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-01, PFA Loan application for the Cloquet Pond Rehabilitation.

Moved by: Laura Ness; seconded by: Jack Ezell

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.6 Approval of Resolution 26-02, PFA Loan Application - East Interceptor Crossbore Rehabilitation 68

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-02, PFA Loan Application for the East Interceptor Crossbore Rehabilitation.

Moved by: Jim Aird; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.7 Approval of Resolution 26-03, PFA Loan Application - Lakeside Interceptor Phase 2 (MNDOT) 71

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-03, PFA Loan Application for the Lakeside Interceptor Phase 2.

Moved by: Jim Aird; seconded by: Jack Ezell

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.8 **Approval of Resolution 26-04, PFA Loan Application - Silverbrook Interceptor Replacement** 74

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-04, PFA Loan Application for the Silverbrook Interceptor Replacement.

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Laura Ness

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.9 **Approval of Resolution 26-05, PFA Loan Application - Woodland Interceptor Rehabilitation** 77

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-05, PFA Loan Application for the Woodland Interceptor Rehabilitation.

Moved by: Nathan Johnson; seconded by: Marcia Podratz

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.10 **Approval of Resolution 26-06, PFA Loan Application - USG Sample Station Rehabilitation** 80

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-06, PFA Loan Application for the USG Sample Station Rehabilitation.

Moved by: Loren Lilly; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.11 **Approval of Resolution 26-07, PFA Loan Application - Effluent Sample Building Replacement** 83

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-07, PFA Loan Application for the Effluent Sample Building Replacement.

Moved by: Jim Aird; seconded by: Marcia Podratz

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, and Ben Mathews

Abstain: Nathan Johnson

Motion Passes 8-0

4.12 **Approval of Liability-Coverage-Waiver-Form** 86

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve completing the

Property Insurance Liability Coverage form by selecting DOES NOT WAIVE the statutory limits.

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, and Ben Mathews

Abstain: Nathan Johnson

Motion Passes 8-0

4.13 Approval of Professional Services - Energy Tax Proposal for CHP 88

The Finance and Personnel Committee recommends that the Board approve the Professional Services for the Energy Tax Proposal for the CHP System to CliftonLarsonAllen in the amount of $52,500.

Moved by: Laura Ness; seconded by: Jack Ezell

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

4.14 Approval of Resolution 26-08, Establishing Executive Director's Salary Based on Annual Performance Evaluation

Board member Jack Ezell discussed the closed Personnel meeting for the Executive Director's salary based on the annual performance evaluation.

The Personnel Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-08, Establishing Executive Director's Salary Based on Annual Performance Evaluation.

Moved by: Carrie Schneider; seconded by: Loren Lilly

Aye: Jack Ezell, Jim Aird, Laura Ness, Loren Lilly, Marcia Podratz, Rob Schilling, Carrie Schneider, Nathan Johnson, and Ben Mathews

Motion Passes 9-0

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Committee of the Whole

5.2 Finance 89

Finance and Personnel Committee - Apr 22, 2026 - Minutes

5.3 Operations and Planning 91

Operations and Planning Committee - Apr 21 2026 - Minutes

5.4 Personnel

5.5 Legislative

5.6 Board Governance

5.7 Board Member Comments

6. Reporting

6.1 Communications

AJ Axtell reviewed the communications at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

6.2 Monthly Financials 94

Financial Statement for March 2026

Cathy Remington reviewed the monthly financials at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

6.3 NPDES 108

March 2026 NPDES Report

Tim Lundell presented the NPDES report for March. There were no sewer releases.

6.4 Executive Director

Carrie Clement acknowledged the District staff for a busy month involving multiple projects and significant coordination efforts.

Lauri Amundson

Recording Secretary

Marcia Podratz

~~Board Secretary, Loren Lilly~~ marcia Podratz, Vice Chair

Board Chair, Rob Schilling

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.