Resource Renew
The brand of Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026
5:00 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Jim Aird

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

Legal Counsel Present: Dave Oberstar, Fryberger Law Firm

Chair Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

1. **Agenda Review**

2. **Old Business**

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

3.1 Regular Board Minutes dated April 27, 2026

Regular Board Meeting - Apr 27 ,2026, Minutes

3.2 Board Member vouchers for April

April Board Voucher

3.3 Payment Vouchers dated April 22, through May 12, 2026.

Board Register 05-12-2026

3.4 **Approval of Swan Lake Road Low Pressure Sanitary Sewer Extension (City of Duluth)**

Swan Lake Road Sewer Extension Application

The Board moves to recommend approval of the Consent Agenda Items

Moved by: Loren Lilly; seconded by: Marcia Podratz

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

Motion passed. 8-0

4. **New Business Items for Discussion and Approval**

Operations and Planning

4.1 Approval of Master Services Agreement Extension - Interceptor Cleaning, Root Cutting, and Televising

Brandon Kohlts discussed extending the master services agreement with Equix

Integrity, Inc. for interceptor cleaning and CCTV work, not to exceed $222,000.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve an extension of the master services agreement Equix Integrity, Inc to perform work in an amount not to exceed $222,000. This agreement is funded from the 2026 "Conveyance - Clean Interceptors" O & M budget line 42000-55580.

Moved by: Marcia Podratz; seconded by: Jack Ezell

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

Motion passed. 8-0

4.2 Approval of Bid #1510 and Professional Services for the East Interceptor Rehabilitation Project

Brandon Kohlts discussed repairs to the East Interceptor cross-bore pipe penetration.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve awarding Bid #1510 to K & H Excavating for the East Interceptor Rehabilitation Project for an amount not to exceed $80,000 and approve entering into a professional services agreement with CDM Smith for construction administration for an amount not to exceed $28,616. This work will be funded from the East Interceptor Rehabilitation Project (101226).

Moved by: Laura Ness; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

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

Motion passed. 8-0

4.3 Approval of Professional Services Agreement - Final Effluent Filtration Improvements Project

Brandon Kohlts discussed the Professional Services for the Final Effluent Filtration Improvements Facility Plan and the administration of a stainless-steel disc filter pilot project.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve entering into an agreement with Donohue and Associates to provide professional services associated with the Final Effluent Filtration Improvements Facility Plan in the amount not to exceed $104,100.

This will be funded from the approved 2026 wastewater capital budget for the Final Effluent Filtration Improvements Project (101142).

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Carrie Schneider

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

Motion passed. 8-0

4.4 Approval of Bid #1511 - Digester #3 Rehabilitation

Brandon Kohlts discussed the construction contract for the rehabilitation of

Digester #3.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve awarding Bid #1511 to Lakehead Constructors, Inc. in the amount of $1,281,826. This work will be funded from the approved 2026 Wastewater Capital Budget - Digester #3 Rehabilitation Project (100879).

Moved by: Carrie Schneider; seconded by: Marcia Podratz

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

Motion passed. 8-0

4.5 Approval of Amendment #1 to Professional Services Agreement for Woodland CIPP Rehabilitation Project

Brandon Kohlts reviewed the additional professional design services for the expanded scope and easement work associated with the project.

The Operations and Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with SEH, Inc., for additional design fees in an amount not to exceed $37,000.
This will be funded by the Woodland Interceptor CIPP Rehabilitation Project (101268).

Moved by: Laura Ness; seconded by: Jack Ezell

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

Motion passed. 8-0

Finance

4.6 Approval of Resolution 26-09, Regarding Secondary Clarifier PFA Loan Amendment and Allonge

Resolution 26-09 - Allonge.

Cathy reviewed Resolution 26-09, for the Secondary Clarifier PFA Loan Amendment and Allonge.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 26-09 regarding Secondary Clarifier PFA Loan Amendment and Allonge.

Moved by: Loren Lilly; seconded by: Marcia Podratz

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

Motion passed. 8-0

Governance

4.7 Recommendation - 2026-2027 Board Officer and Committee Assignments 2026-2027 Board Officers and Committee Assignments.pdf

Carrie Clement discussed the Board Officer and Committee assignments recommended for 2026, and 2027.

The Governance Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed committee assignments and the Board officer positions for the 2026-2028 term.

Moved by: Jack Ezell; seconded by: Laura Ness

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

Motion passed. 8-0

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Committee of the Whole

5.2 Finance

Finance and Personnel Committee May 13, 2026, Minutes

5.3 Operations and Planning

Operations and Planning Committee May 12, 2026

5.4 Personnel

5.5 Legislative

Legislative and Governance Committee - May 14, 2026 , Minutes

5.6 Board Governance

5.7 Board Member Comments

6. Reporting

6.1 Communications

AJ Axtell reviewed the communications from May and discussed the local engagements in which WLSSD participated in April and May.

6.2 **Monthly Financial Statements**

Cathy reviewed the financials for April.

6.3 **NPDES Report**

Tim Lundell reviewed the NPDES report for April. April marks the beginning of the disinfection season. The District reported one release and one bypass to the Duty Officer in April: a release associated with oil in the Bldg. 10 coal room, which was discussed at the Operations and Planning meeting. The other is related to bypass of the effluent filters on April 27.

6.4 Executive Director

Carrie Clement gave an update on the $1.2 Billion bonding bill passed by the state legislature. The Effluent Filtration project was not funded; however, several local projects were including some of our municipal customers. Also included is funding for the clean water state revolving fund. Regulatory updates included the final cumulative impacts rule and public notice of the updated impaired waters list.

Lauri Amundson

Recording Secretary

Marcia Podratz

~~Board Secretary, Loren Lilly~~ marcia Podratz, vice chair

Board Chair, Rob Schilling

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.