

# Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

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## 1. Introduction / Roll Call

Chair Ficek called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and at his request, Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer called the roll.

**Present:** Chair Bryant Ficek; Chair Edwin Hodder; Members Jarrod Cicha, Daniel Fergus, Allison Luongo, Des Mueller; and Youth Commissioners Carsten Bauer, and Alexi Jendro

**Absent:** Member Sarah Rudolf (Excused)

**Staff Present:** Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson

## 2. Public Comments

None.

## 3. Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes

*Comments and corrections to the draft minutes had been submitted by PWETC commissioners prior to tonight's meeting, and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the meeting materials.*

### **Motion**

**Vice Chair Hodder moved, Member Mueller seconded, approval of April 22, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**

## 4. Communication Items

Public Works Director Freihammer provided a brief review and update on projects and maintenance activities listed in the staff report dated May 27, 2025.

Mr. Freihammer updated the Commission on the construction season, including the Lexington Avenue pathway project and Wagner Western Tamarack pathways. He explained that the Hamlin Avenue project had a public meeting with good attendance and feedback, and that the Twin Lakes Trail phase two was awaiting easements before moving forward. Additionally, the Dale/Owasso lift station was nearing substantial completion.

Mr. Freihammer discussed the 2025 lining sewer project, the booster station phase four, and wayfinding signage, as well as street lighting projects involving the installation of 25 intersection lights, pending material availability. He indicated that the bike plan awaits a final draft from consultants, with demonstration projects currently underway.

Mr. Freihammer explained that Ramsey County projects include the Dale Street project, the Hamlin Avenue/Clarmar Lane storm sewer, and the County Road D ADA improvements. He noted that the MnDOT's Snelling Avenue project would include a pathway from Trunk Highway 36 to Gray Fox Road.

Mr. Freihammer mentioned a \$9,000 grant was awarded for Met Council's new Equity-Focused Water Efficiency Grant Pilot Program, and the \$53,000 for the Private Sewer I&I Grant has been encumbered by successful residential applicants, with several on a waitlist.

Mr. Freihammer explained that May 18-24, 2025, was National Public Works Week and was celebrated with a lunch for all public works staff. He noted that the City's Engineering Tech III's last day would be June 5, and the vacancy had been posted.

Mr. Johnson explained that sustainability initiatives included the Green to Go implementation and a successful plant sale, and Ms. Bakken attended the Rice and Larpenteur Alliance Community in Bloom event, and a local climate action planning grant was awarded.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that cleanup day and shredding day were successful, with high participation and material volumes.

#### **5. Ramsey County Ditch 4 Construction Soils Study Update**

Public Works Director Jesse Freihammer introduced the Ramsey County Ditch 4 Construction Soils Study, updated and introduced Mr. David Bauer, who will be giving a presentation to the Commission.

Mr. David Bauer, a soil scientist with Alliant Engineering, gave a presentation on soil health, compost top dressing, and sampling techniques. He noted that soil health principles included minimal disturbance, maximizing living roots, and biodiversity. Compost-top dressing helped build organic matter and microbial communities, improving soil functions. He explained that research has shown

significant carbon sequestration from compost, with local results indicating 13 tons of carbon per acre over a three-year period. The Ramsey County ditch 4 project demonstrated the effectiveness of compost top dressing in urban areas.

Members inquire about the maintenance required for the soil health project.

Mr. Freihammer explained that minimal effort was required.

Discussion on the use of natural netting for erosion control blankets, which was more environmentally friendly. It was noted that the project's success was attributed to the combination of compost top dressing and natural netting.

Mr. Freihammer explained that future plans included monitoring the new turf area behind the apartments and expanding the project. The project's results show significant improvements in soil health, fertility, and water infiltration.

## **6. MS4 Annual Meeting**

Public Works Director Freihammer and Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson updated the Commission on the MS4 annual stormwater public meeting.

Mr. Johnson presented the 2024 annual report detailing the MS4 system and its activities. The report highlighted the importance of stormwater management and the various practices implemented.

The total maximum daily load (TMDL) was discussed, with an emphasis on the need for stormwater treatment.

Mr. Johnson explained that the city's stormwater infrastructure consisted of 126 miles of pipes and various stormwater ponds and filtration basins. He stressed the importance of maintaining and updating stormwater facilities to ensure effective water management.

Mr. Johnson discussed the importance of pond maintenance and the challenges faced with Willow Pond. He noted the pond's high sediment buildup was attributed to the large drainage area and construction activities. Core samples were taken to assess the sediment depth, revealing a significant buildup in certain areas. The estimated cost of dredging Willow Pond exceeded \$1 million, underscoring the need for funding.

Other projects, such as the RCD4 trial and underground stormwater projects, were highlighted as priorities.

Member Mueller inquired about the stormwater management for the Dale Street project.

Mr. Johnson explained that the county manages stormwater for the Dale Street project, as it was a county project. The County Road C project involved a partnership with Ramsey County and SRF to install an iron-enhanced filtration basin. The basin would treat stormwater from the county road project, addressing water quality and quantity issues. The partnership aimed to maximize the effectiveness of stormwater treatment while minimizing project costs.

Mr. Johnson discussed the success of an \$8,000 top dressing compost project, highlighting its cost-effectiveness compared to other projects, such as the \$150,000 to \$170,000 C2 project and the \$1 million Willow Pond dredging project.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the recent shredding day event, noting the high turnout with 600+ cars and 16 tons of paper collected, surpassing the previous year's 14 tons. He also covered the University of Minnesota's ongoing interest in Alameda Pond, focusing on sediment, chloride, and dissolved oxygen levels, as well as collaboration with researchers.

Mr. Johnson discussed the City's street sweeping efforts, highlighting the need for a more focused approach in specific areas and the challenges of coordinating with other cities, such as the Capital Region and Rice Creek. He noted that the rest of the city will have a heat map indicating where the Public Works Department wants to focus on sweeping and where it makes more sense to do so.

Member Mueller expressed concerns about the community's lack of understanding regarding their responsibility for maintaining the city's cleanliness, including the removal of grass clippings and yard waste.

Chair Ficek shared an optimistic note about neighbors taking responsibility by blowing grass back into their yards.

Discussion occurred regarding the potential for yard maintenance companies to be held accountable for blowing grass into the streets.

Mr. Johnson explained the City Code and the consequences for contractors who fail to comply, including the potential loss of business. He discussed the importance of managing salt use and the challenges cities faced from the PCA regarding illicit discharges.

Chair Ficek opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Allen Carrier, 1040 County Road C2, raised concerns about pollution in Lake Josephine, citing the lake's historical cleanliness and the current issues with stormwater runoff.

Mr. Johnson acknowledged the challenges and mentioned ongoing projects and potential future work to address the issues.

Discussion continued within the Commission regarding the potential for riprap to help reduce erosion and sediment runoff into the lake.

Member Fergus inquired about the effectiveness of rain gardens and the possibility of incentivizing them to reduce pollutants.

Mr. Johnson explained the existing incentive programs for homeowners to install rain gardens through Ramsey, Washington, and Rice Creek.

A discussion ensued regarding the challenges of implementing rain gardens in hilly areas and the need for City input to identify suitable locations.

Mr. Carrier, 1040 County Roads C2, shared his efforts in maintaining catch basins and the prevalence of litter and debris in the area.

#### **7. Recycling Cart Update**

Environmental Manager Ryan Johnson updated the Commission on the status of the recycling cart rollout and removal.

#### **8. Review Sewer Backup Policy**

Mr. Freihammer provided an overview of the current sewer backup policy, which offered up to \$5,000 reimbursement for residential properties. He noted there was a proposal to increase the reimbursement amount to \$7,500 to account for rising costs and the need for more comprehensive cleanup.

Discussion on the potential inclusion of commercial properties and the challenges of applying the policy to larger buildings. Emphasis was placed on the City's quick response time in its cleanup efforts and the importance of addressing sewer backups promptly to minimize damage.

#### **9. Future Agenda Items**

Public Works Director Freihammer reviewed upcoming agenda items. He noted there will be an environmental center tour at 2:00 p.m. on June 2.

June 24, 2025

- Municipal Safety Plan
- Civic Campus Master Plan Update
- Prep for Joint Council meeting on July 21

July 22, 2025

- Civic Campus Master Plan Update
- Joint Council Meeting recap – Set Agenda for the Year

The Commission discussed the potential for an update to pavement asset management and a pathway master plan update.

Mr. Freihammer announced that Member Rudolph would be departing from the Commission in June due to her relocation. He also reminded the Commission about the upcoming RoseFest parade and the impact on the meeting schedule.

## **10. Adjourn**

### **Motion**

**Member Mueller moved, Member Fergus seconded, adjournment of the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.**

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 0**

**Motion carried.**