



Rhonda Sivarajah
County Administrator

Anoka County

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

This letter was sent to all
elected officials of the
City of Columbus.

September 20, 2021

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2021

City of Columbus

The Honorable Jesse Preiner
Mayor, City of Columbus
16319 Kettle River Blvd. NE
Columbus, MN 55025

RE: Rice Creek Watershed District Appointment

Dear Mayor Preiner:

In accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, Anoka County in September 2021 published a notice that a term will expire for a manager on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. The notice publication requirement applies because Rice Creek Watershed District is considered a watershed management organization. The published notice states that persons interested in being appointed may submit their names to the appointing authority, which is the county board for a watershed district appointment. For your information, a copy of the notice is enclosed.

In appointing a manager to the Rice Creek Watershed District, Minn. Stat. § 103D.311 is also applicable. This statute requires a county board, upon the expiration of a term, to appoint managers for a watershed district from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally by the cities and municipalities within the district if a list(s) is submitted 60 days before the manager's term of office expires or to appoint a manager who resides in a city that fails to submit a list. The vacancy expires on January 17, 2022.

In order for the county to accept nominations, they must be received by Thursday, November 18, 2021. If there is a desire to jointly submit a list for the manager appointment, you may wish to confer with affected cities and jointly submit the list. The cities with territory located in the Rice Creek Watershed District are Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus, Fridley, Lexington, Lino Lakes, and Spring Lake Park.

In order for names submitted to the county to be considered a list under the statutory definition, the list must contain the names of at least three nominees eligible to be appointed. To be eligible for an appointment, a nominee must reside within the watershed district boundaries, be eligible to vote in the district, and not be a public officer of the county, state, or federal government (except that a soil and water conservation supervisor can be appointed).

Minn. Stat. § 103D.311 requires the county board to appoint watershed district managers that fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district. Rice Creek Watershed District is divided into five separate planning zones. The appointee whose term expires on January 17, 2022, is Steve Wagamon. Mr. Wagamon's residence is located in planning zone 4 while the remaining managers each live in planning zones 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Rice Creek Watershed District. A map with the location of current board members highlighted is being forwarded to the Columbus city manager/administrator. Although Rice Creek Watershed District has divided itself into five planning areas, the county board may appoint any eligible individual who resides within the watershed district as long as that appointee can fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the district.

All applicants must submit a completed application form to the appointing authority. Find the application at <https://www.anokacounty.us/3122/Citizen-Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions>.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment process, you may contact me at 763-324-4715.

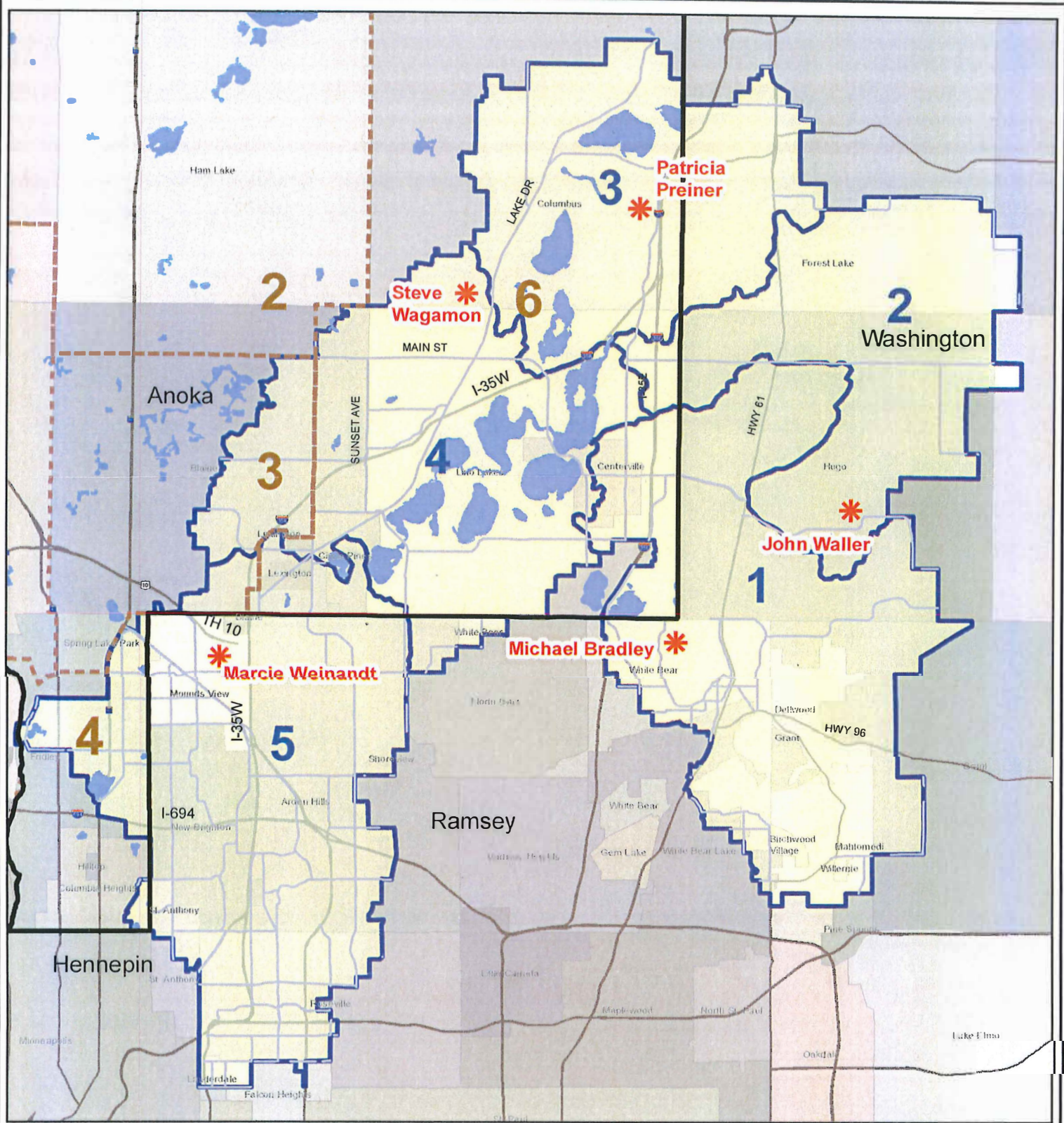
Sincerely,







Rhonda Sivarajah
County Administrator
763-324-4715
Rhonda.Sivarajah@co.anoka.mn.us

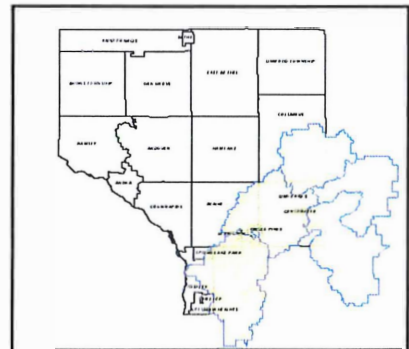
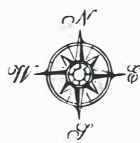
RS:bv
Enclosure

c: Columbus City Manager/Administrator
Brenda Vetter, Principal Administrative Assistant



Rice Creek Watershed District

-  County Boundary
-  Commissioner Districts
-  Lakes
-  RCWD Boundary/Hydrologic Areas



September 2, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.227 and § 103D.311 that a vacancy will occur on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers due to the expiration on January 17, 2022, of the term of Steve Wagamon, city of Columbus. Term of the appointment is for three years. Managers are eligible to be reappointed. Persons interested in being appointed to serve on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers may submit their names for consideration to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, the appointing authority. Minn. Stat. § 103D.311 permits the cities in the district to submit a list(s) of nominations to the county board. If a valid list(s) containing at least three eligible nominees for a manager's position is submitted at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the term or by November 18, 2021, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners is required to make an appointment either from the list(s) or to appoint a manager who resides in a city that fails to submit a list. Since a list may be submitted, persons interested in being considered for appointment may wish to contact their city to request to be included on a list of nominations. In the absence of a valid list, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners may appoint any voting resident of the Rice Creek Watershed District who is not a public officer of the county, state, or federal government.



Rhonda Sivarajah
County Administrator

PUBLISH IN: Union, September 17, 2021
 Forest Lake Times, September 16, 2021
 Quad Community Press, September 21, 2021

City of Columbus
Attn: Elizabeth Mursko
16319 Kettle River Blvd
Columbus, MN 55025

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

For the past 10 years I have represented and served Anoka County as a board member and treasurer of the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). I would like to continue serving on the board and humbly request your continued support and recommendation for another 3-year term.

I would like to share that it has been an honor to serve the people of the Rice Creek Watershed District, which covers a significant portion of Columbus. I believe we have made great strides over the last 10 years working closely with our city and county partners. I am providing several of our accomplishments that I am most proud of:

- Development of Browns Preserve, a wetland bank, that has saved the taxpayers \$4.25 million through discounted credits.
- During my tenure as treasurer, we have had 10 consecutive years of perfect audits, and our policy to maintain a fund balance allowed us to efficiently navigate the Covid crisis.
- Establishment of initiatives including the twice a year City/County Partner meetings which have improved communication and increased the number of partnerships-based projects and cooperative ventures.
- RCWD finished at the top of the performance review by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) – more than 200 state partners including cities, counties, watershed, and conservation districts receive this review.
- Implemented the Bald Eagle Lake Restoration Project and received Project of the Year Award in 2017 as this lake met state water quality standards for the first time in history.
- Doubled RCWD Capital Improvement Project (CIP) implementation.
- Implemented the largest CIP project in RCWD history.
- Implementation of seven comprehensive public drainage repair projects, including the largest drainage project in RCWD history.

I am very proud of our accomplishments during my tenure and am excited and committed to continuing to work with partners to improve our watershed.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my reappointment to the Rice Creek Watershed District.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-308-5006.

Sincerely,



Steve Wagamon

Treasurer, Rice Creek Watershed District

RESOLUTION 21-XX
CITY OF COLUMBUS
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**A RESOLUTION SETTING A HEARING TO CERTIFY UNPAID
SEWER AND WATER CHARGES TO COUNTY AUDITOR
FOR COLLECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has authority under Minn. Stat. § 444.075, Subd. 3(e) to certify unpaid sewer and water charges to the county auditor for collection with Pay 2022 property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has the authority under City Code, Section 14-317, Subd. C to certify delinquent water and sewer charges, including an administrative charge and interest, to Anoka County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus shall provide its sewer and water customers with an opportunity to be heard by the City Council or City Staff prior to such certification; and

WHEREAS, required notice of the hearing will be mailed on October 14, 2021 to property owners who are delinquent on payments to their sewer and water accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council will provide an opportunity for the property owner/s/ to be heard, should they request it, during a public hearing at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on the 22nd day of November 2021 to provide comments or objections to the certification of delinquent sewer and water accounts to the county auditor to be collected along with property taxes in 2022, in the City Hall located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd. NE, Columbus, Minnesota, at 7:00 p.m.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Columbus this October 13th, 2021.

By:

ATTEST:

Jesse H. Preiner

Its: Mayor

Elizabeth Mursko, City Administrator

Exhibit A – Public Utility Delinquent Account Roll

Name	Address	PIN	Amount Delinquent	Admin Fee	Interest
Troy Monson	9143 Lake Drive		2,735.40	40.00	TBD
4845-8157-7215, v. 2					