



A vibrant community where everyone thrives

Olmsted County Board of Commissioners

Government Center

151 4th Street SE

Council/Board Chambers

Rochester, MN 55904

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:00 PM

Content in this packet may not be accessible. If you would like this information in a different format, please contact ast@olmstedcounty.gov.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD MEETING RECORDINGS CAN BE ACCESSED HERE:

[County Board Meeting Recordings](#)

LIVE OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS CAN BE VIEWED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1:00 PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS in CONFERENCE ROOM #1

[Join Physical Development Committee Meeting Here](#)

Commissioner Committee Members: Gregory Wright, Brian Mueller, Mark Thein

HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE –

2:30 PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS in CONFERENCE ROOM 2A & 2B

[Join Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Meeting Here](#)

Commissioner Committee Members: Robert Hopkins, Laurel Podulke-Smith, Michelle Rossman

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

4:00 PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS in CONFERENCE ROOM #1

[Join Administrative Committee Meeting Here](#)

Commissioner Committee Members: David Senjem, Michelle Rossman, Mark Thein

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council/Board Chambers

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Consider proposed deer hunting firearm ordinance

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Olmsted County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.
- b. Approve the advancement of 2027 State Aid Construction Funds.
- c. Award Contract for SP 055-070-023 - Turn Lane Construction at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 and CSAH 11 and at CSAH 25 and County Road (CR) 125.
- d. Award contract for Electrical Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Projects RFB2026-106.
- e. Approve Snowmobile Trail Grants-in-Aid program.
- f. Accept funding for Olmsted County Public Health Services and Olmsted County Community Corrections Overdose Fatality Review Grant.
- g. Approve Request to Sponsor Olmsted County History Center Bonding Proposal

5. DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

Review and decision on Oronoco Township's River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Presentation from the Rochester Olmsted Youth Council (ROYC) members on Their Trip to Japan.

7. BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. ADJOURN

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: James Johnson, Administration

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Consider proposed deer hunting firearm ordinance

BACKGROUND: Historically, deer hunting in Olmsted County has been limited to shotguns, muzzle-loaders, and legal handguns, consistent with prior state law applicable to southern Minnesota.

During the 2025 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature expanded allowable deer hunting methods to include rifles in southern Minnesota. The law includes an opt-out provision permitting counties to retain shotgun only restrictions through local ordinance.

In response to a request by the county board, the attached draft ordinance was prepared by the Olmsted County Attorney's Office. The language was intentionally drafted to mirror the model ordinance language shared by the State of Minnesota. This approach was purposeful to ensure consistency with state statutory authority and to support effective enforcement coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, whose conservation officers will assist with enforcement.

The State of Minnesota has requested that counties notify the state prior to May 2026 if they intend to adopt a shotgun only ordinance so that county specific regulations can be included in the annual deer hunting regulations handbook and related materials distributed statewide.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Option 1 – Take No Action: Rifle hunting for deer would become permissible in Olmsted County beginning fall 2026 under state law. Option 2 – Adopt Proposed Ordinance: Maintain shotgun only deer hunting within Olmsted County. Conduct public hearing and take action on proposed ordinance prohibiting use of a rifle to take deer in Olmsted County.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Ordinance

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board finds it is in the best interests of the citizens of Olmsted County to limit by ordinance the firearms used for hunting deer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board of Olmsted County does hereby ordain:

Olmsted County Deer Hunting Firearms Ordinance

1. **Authority.** Olmsted County has the authority to limit the types of firearms that may be used to hunt deer within the county pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 97B.031, Subdivision 7.
2. **Firearms limited.** Only the following types of firearms may be used to take deer within the county: legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, or legal handguns as defined by Minnesota Statute section 97B.031, as amended. Legal shotguns include those with rifled barrels.
3. **Unlawful Firearms.** It is unlawful to use a firearm other than those described in paragraph 2 to take deer in the county.
4. **Penalties.** Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both.
5. **Enforcement.** The Olmsted County Sheriff and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers have the authority to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.
6. **State law.** All other laws, rules and regulations of the state of Minnesota concerning the hunting of deer remain in full force and effect.
7. **Effective date.** This ordinance shall be effective May 5, 2026

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the forgoing Ordinance shall be codified as Chapter 2700 in the Olmsted County Code of Ordinances.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March 2026

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dave Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board



Olmsted County Deer Hunting Firearms Ordinance

James Johnson, Deputy County Administrator

March 17, 2026

Rifle Shotgun Restriction Changes in 2026

- Minn Stat. Section 97B.318 Shotgun zone repealed effective 1 January 2026
- Minn Stat. Section 97B.031 Subd 7 – Allows current shotgun zone counties to pass local ordinances to maintain shotgun restriction
- Prior 2025 language reads in part:

During the regular firearms season in the shotgun use area, only legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, and legal handguns may be used for taking deer. Legal shotguns include those with rifled barrels.

MINNESOTA 2025 DEER SEASON

Effective through June 30, 2026

SHARE THE PASSION #huntrmn

m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Interpreters are available to answer all of your questions
 License, tagging and registration: M-F 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 General information: M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., 6-30 p.m.
 888-MINNDNR (646-6367) or 651-296-6537

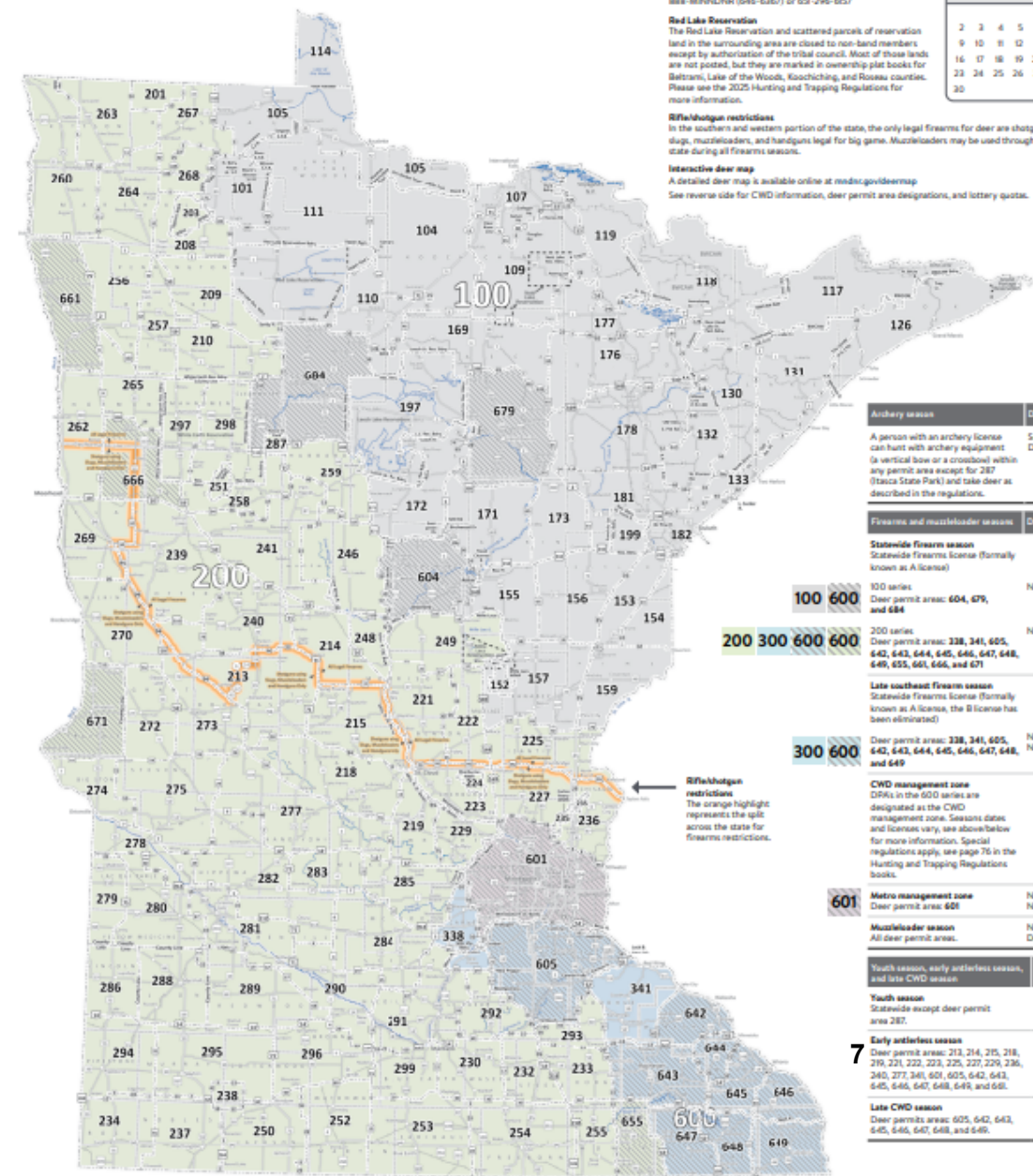
3.a

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6		
9	10	11	12	13		
16	17	18	19	20		
23	24	25	26	27		
30						

Red Lake Reservation
 The Red Lake Reservation and scattered parcels of reservation land in the surrounding area are closed to non-band members except by authorization of the tribal council. Most of those lands are not posted, but they are marked in ownership plat books for Bettlers, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Roseau counties. Please see the 2025 Hunting and Trapping Regulations for more information.

Rifle/shotgun restrictions
 In the southern and western portion of the state, the only legal firearms for deer are shotgun slugs, muzzleloaders, and handguns legal for big game. Muzzleloaders may be used throughout the state during all firearms seasons.

Interactive deer map
 A detailed deer map is available online at dnr.gov/deermap. See reverse side for CWD information, deer permit area designations, and literary quotes.



Archery season
 A person with an archery license can hunt with archery equipment (a vertical bow or a crossbow) within any permit area except for 287 (Itasca State Park) and take deer as described in the regulations.

Firearms and muzzleloader season
Statewide firearms season
 Statewide firearms season (formally known as A license)
 100 series
 Deer permit areas: 604, 679, and 684
 200 series
 Deer permit areas: 238, 341, 605, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 655, 661, 666, and 671

Late southeast firearms season
 Statewide firearms season (formally known as A license, the B license has been eliminated)
 Deer permit areas: 238, 341, 605, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, and 649

CWD management zone
 CWDs in the 600 series are designated as the CWD management zone. Seasons dates and licenses vary, see above/below for more information. Special regulations apply, see page 76 in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations books.

Metro management zone
 Deer permit area: 601

Muzzleloader season
 All deer permit areas.

Youth season, early antlerless season, and late CWD season

Youth season
 Statewide except deer permit area 287.

Early antlerless season
 Deer permit areas: 213, 214, 215, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 225, 227, 229, 230, 240, 277, 341, 601, 605, 642, 643, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, and 668.

Late CWD season
 Deer permit areas: 605, 642, 643, 645, 646, 647, 648, and 649.



Ordinance Timeline

3.a

Winter '25
Formal Notification by
DNR

March 3rd
Admin Cmte
Action

April
Available as
needed

May 5th
Effective
Date in draft
Ordinance

November
7th Firearms
Season "A"
begins



June '25
MN Leg
revises
statute,
Signed by
Gov

January
30th
Board Retreat
Discussion

March 17th
Public Hearing
/ Board Action

May 1st
County
Notifies
DNR
(NLT date)



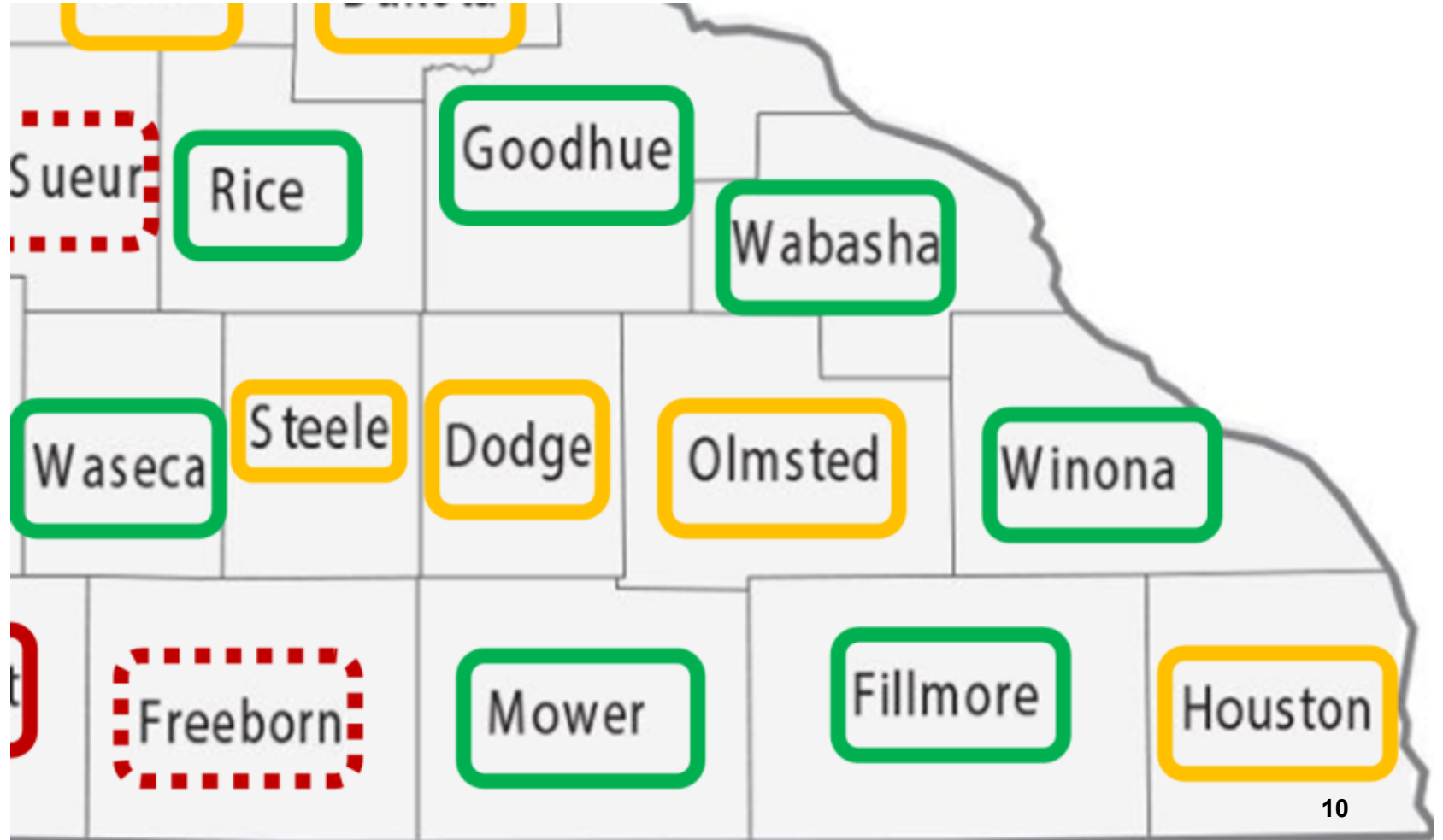


What are our neighbors doing?

3.a

March 24th

Steele County Public Hearing
Dodge County Public Hearing





Proposed Ordinance

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board finds it is in the best interests of the citizens of Olmsted County to limit by ordinance the firearms used for hunting deer;

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Board of Olmsted County does hereby ordain:

Olmsted County Deer Hunting Firearms Ordinance

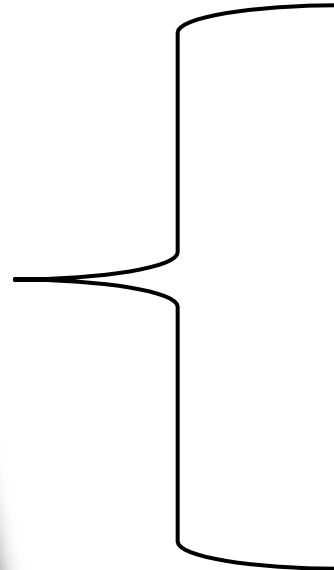
- Authority.** Olmsted County has the authority to limit the types of firearms that may be used to hunt deer within the county pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 97B.031, Subdivision 7.
- Firearms limited.** Only the following types of firearms may be used to take deer within the county: legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, or legal handguns as defined by Minnesota Statute section 97B.031, as amended. Legal shotguns include those with rifled barrels.
- Unlawful Firearms.** It is unlawful to use a firearm other than those described in paragraph 2 to take deer in the county.
- Penalties.** Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both.
- Enforcement.** The Olmsted County Sheriff and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers have the authority to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.
- State law.** All other laws, rules and regulations of the state of Minnesota concerning the hunting of deer remain in full force and effect.
- Effective date.** This ordinance shall be effective May 5, 2026

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the foregoing Ordinance shall be codified as section _____ in the Olmsted County Code of Ordinances.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March 2026

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dave Senjem, Chairperson



- Limits firearm hunting for harvesting deer in Olmsted County to: *“legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, or legal handguns”*
- Violations -> Fine up to \$1,000 and/or up to 90 days in jail
- DNR and OCSO have authority to enforce ordinance
- Effective May 5, 2026

Board Options

Take No Action

Rifle hunting for deer would become permissible in Olmsted County beginning in the fall of 2026 under state law.

Adopt Ordinance

Maintains previous deer hunting firearm rules in Olmsted County

Limits firearm hunting for harvesting deer in Olmsted County to: *“legal shotguns loaded with single-slug shotgun shells, legal muzzle-loading long guns, or legal handguns”*



Public hearing





Thank you

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: Jenny Cordry, Administration

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Approve Olmsted County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Olmsted County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes from March 3, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Minutes from March 6, 2026.



A vibrant community where everyone thrives

Olmsted County Board of Commissioners

Government Center
151 4th Street SE
Council/Board Chambers
Rochester, MN 55904
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:00 AM

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council/Board Chambers

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Olmsted County Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Olmsted County Board Minutes from February 17, 2026
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- b. Award contract for the Fiber Extension to the Public Works Service Center Project
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- c. Acceptance of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Grant – Multifamily Food Scrap Collection Expansion
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None

RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- d. Approve Consent Letter and Resolution Authorizing American Tower to Place Additional T-Mobile Infrastructure on Graham Park Cell Tower
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:

Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- e. Award contract for the Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Work Scope 1: General Construction
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- f. Award contracts for the Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Work Scope 2: Mechanical Systems
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- g. Award contracts for the Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility Work Scope 3: Electrical Systems
Wright moved; Thein seconded approved:
Motion: 7 to 0

AYES: Thein, Wright, Mueller, Podulke-Smith, Rossman, Senjem, Hopkins
NAYS: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

The consent agenda was approved following a discussion of items E, F, and G.

4. DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Chamber of Commerce Momentum 30 Presentation

President of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce Ryan Parsons presented the Momentum 30 initiative. The program focuses on talent attraction, business recruitment, workforce retention, and advocacy efforts. Commissioners discussed job growth, economic diversification, and long-term measurements of success.

- b. Property Records & Licensing (PRL) and the Finance Department will provide an overview of Minnesota's property tax system
Chief Financial Officer Wilfredo Román Cátala, Associate Director of Property Records and Licensing Julie Hackman, and Director of Property Records and Licensing Mary Blair-Hoeft provided an overview of Minnesota's property tax system, including assessment practices, classification, levy setting, and state-administered tax relief programs. Commissioners discussed valuation methods, refund programs, tax capacity, and impacts of new construction on the tax base.

6. BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 PM.

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE: March 17, 2026

REQUEST BY: Jeremy Douglas, Public Works | Nathan Arnold, Public Works | Benjamin Johnson, Public Works

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Approve the advancement of 2027 State Aid Construction Funds.

BACKGROUND: Beginning in 1995, counties were allowed to advance future County State Aid Highway Construction funds. Advantages of the program include acceleration of construction projects, funding large dollar value projects, and avoiding a year of construction inflation. Olmsted County has consistently used the program. This request will advance all of our 2027 State Aid Construction monies, estimated at \$7,576,607.60.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the attached Resolution authorizing Public Works to Advance 2027 State Aid Construction Funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, Olmsted County plans to implement County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Projects in 2026 which will require State Aid funds in excess of those available in its State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account; and

WHEREAS, said county is prepared to proceed with the construction of said project(s) through the use of an advance from the County State Aid Construction Fund to supplement the available funds in their State Aid Regular/Municipal Construction Account; and

WHEREAS, the advance based on the following determination of State Aid project expenditures:

Account Balance as of February 10, 2026	\$ 7,514,986.33
Less estimated disbursements:	
SAP 055-603-037 (CSAH 3)	\$ 1,700,000.00
SP 055-644-004 (CSAH 44/TH-14)	\$ 3,500,000.00
SAP 055-618-008 (CSAH 18)	\$ 800,000.00
SAP 055-621-004 (CSAH 21)	<u>\$ 9,091,593.93</u>
Total Estimated Disbursements	\$ 15,091,593.93
Advance Amount (amount in excess of account balance)	\$ 7,576,607.60

WHEREAS, Olmsted County is requesting an advance of their 2027 State Aid allotment of \$7,576,607.60; and

WHEREAS, repayment of the funds so advanced will be made in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 162.08, subd. 5 & 7 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8820; and

WHEREAS, the county acknowledges advance funds are releases on a first-come-first-served basis and this resolution does not guarantee the availability of said funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Transportation is hereby requested to approve this advance for financing approved County State Aid Highway Projects of the County of Olmsted in an amount up to \$7,576,607.60 in accordance with Minnesota rules 8820.1500, subp.9. I hereby authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular/Municipal Construction Account of said county from future year allocations until fully repaid.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson and Deputy Clerk are authorized to execute this Resolution requesting Advance State Aid funds.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March, 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE: March 17, 2026

REQUEST BY: Jeremy Douglas, Public Works | Nathan Arnold, Public Works | Benjamin Johnson, Public Works

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Award Contract for SP 055-070-023 - Turn Lane Construction at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 and CSAH 11 and at CSAH 25 and County Road (CR) 125

BACKGROUND: Bids for SP 055-070-023, Turn Lane Construction, located on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 from 640 feet west of CSAH 11 to 640 east of CSAH 11 and on CSAH 25 from 636 feet west of County Road (CR) 125 to 640 east of CR 125, were electronically opened at 2:00 PM Tuesday, February 24, 2026, and Public Works recommends awarding the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid Amount
Doyle Conner Co.	\$1,441,726.65
Rochester Sand and Gravel, a division of Mathy Construction	\$1,446,264.75
Mathiowetz Construction Company	\$1,648,418.48
ICON, LLC	\$1,652,425.40
TI-Zack Concrete, LLC	\$1,683,813.64
Carl Bolander & Sons Co.	\$1,697,712.20
Pember Companies, Inc.	\$1,848,104.55

This project is funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Local Option Sales Tax.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Award contract for SP 055-070-023 to Doyle Conner Co. and adopt the attached resolution as follows:

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, plans and specifications have been prepared for SP 055-070-023; and

WHEREAS, the project is located on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 from 640 feet west of CSAH 11 to 640 east of CSAH 11 and on CSAH 25 from 636 feet west of County Road (CR) 125 to 640 east of CR 125; and

WHEREAS, the work consists of turn lane construction; and

WHEREAS, the project was advertised, bids received and opened electronically at 2:00 pm on February 24, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Doyle Conner Co., is the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Olmsted County Board of Commissioners award the contract for SP 055-070-023, to Doyle Conner Co. for \$1,441,726.65 with a 10% item overrun.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson and Deputy Clerk are authorized to execute this resolution to award the above contract.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th, day of March, 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: Mat Miller, Facilities and Building Operations

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Award contract for Electrical Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Projects RFB2026-106.

BACKGROUND: On a recurring basis, Facilities and Building Operations solicits for a non-exclusive standing agreement with an electrical contractor for services including installation, repair, and replacement for both new and existing electrical systems and equipment. Previous agreements were solicited as quotes; however, the volume of work under this agreement is forecasted to exceed \$175,000; therefore, a request for bids was issued. The initial contract term is two years, with options for three additional one-year extensions. Request for bids was posted on the bidding website on February 9, 2026 and closed on March 3, 2026.

Proposed hourly wage:

Supplier	Monday- Friday, 7am-5pm	Nights & weekends	On-call	Holidays
Total Electric	\$80.00	\$95.00	\$0	\$105.00
Design Electric	\$115.00	\$150.40	\$25.00	\$189.21
Hunt Electric Corp.	\$117.31	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$230.00
Winkels Electric, Inc.	\$118.00	\$236.00	\$189.21	\$236.00

Markup on materials purchased by the vendor:

Total Electric	3%
Design Electric	10%
Hunt Electric Corp.	15%
Winkels Electric, Inc.	30%

ACTION REQUESTED:

Award contract to Total Electric.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution - Award RFB2026-106

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, Facilities and Building Operations and Purchasing solicited competitive bids for the Electrical Installation, Maintenance and Repair Projects for time and material, Contract # RFB2026-106; and

WHEREAS, the apparent lowest responsive, responsible bid included hourly wages for business hours at \$80, for nights and weekends at \$95, for on-call at \$0, and for holidays at \$105; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners does hereby award a contract to Total Electric for the hourly wages proposed.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March 17, 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: Karlin Ziegler, Parks and Trails

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Approve Snowmobile Trail Grants-in-Aid program

BACKGROUND: In 1973, the Minnesota Legislature delegated the responsibility of administering a cost-sharing program for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The goal of this program was the creation and maintenance of locally initiated trails that were financially assisted by the state.

This program is popularly known as the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program. The DNR has been delegated the responsibility of administering the funds appropriated by the legislature for the GIA program.

Olmsted County has annually served as the sponsor for the Byron Tiger Bear #1 and Stewartville Driftskippers snowmobile club applications for the Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Maintenance & Grooming Assistance GIA program.

By serving as the sponsor, Olmsted County becomes the pass-through agency for grant funds transferred from the Minnesota DNR to the Byron Tiger Bear #1 and Stewartville Driftskippers snowmobile clubs by certifying the grant applications and the benchmarks necessary to initiate payments from the MN DNR.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve applications to Department of Natural Resources for Snowmobile Trail Assistance Program and the supporting resolution as follows.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Snowmobile Club Resolution 2026

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources has funding assistance available for acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails through its Trail Assistance Program for FY2027 - July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve applications for the Grant-In-Aid Program and authorizes the necessary signatures to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trail Assistance Program application for Driftskippers Snowmobile Trail System and Tiger Bear 1 Snowmobile Trail System.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March, 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE: March 17, 2026

REQUEST BY: Meaghan Sherden, Public Health | Tina Jordahl, Public Health

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Accept funding for Olmsted County Public Health Services and Olmsted County Community Corrections Overdose Fatality Review Grant.

BACKGROUND: With funding support from the Minnesota Department of Health’s Injury Prevention and Mental Health division, Olmsted County Public Health Services (OCPHS) and Olmsted County Community Corrections—Drug and Alcohol Response Team (DART) are partnering to implement Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) as a core strategy to reduce overdose deaths in Olmsted County.

In serving the approximately 164,000 residents, OCPHS has a strong history of leading multidisciplinary initiatives and maintains robust overdose surveillance systems, including dashboards and access to mortality and syndromic data. Overdose deaths in Olmsted County rose sharply after 2020, peaking at 45 in 2022—more than double pre-2020 averages. While fatalities declined to 22 in 2024, rates remain elevated, and synthetic opioids continue to drive risk. Quantitative data alone cannot fully identify service gaps or missed intervention opportunities; OFRs provide a structured, qualitative approach to address these gaps collaboratively. This multi-disciplinary review team will bring expertise from healthcare, government, law enforcement, and community partners to identify tangible strategies to reduce opioid deaths.

This initiative will use existing FTE already in the departments (no FTE will be added for this initiative). Funding will also cover training for county staff facilitating and leading OFRs

ACTION REQUESTED:

Accept 18 months of funding of \$20,000 from the Minnesota Department of Health Injury Prevention and Mental Health Division to implement and enhance Overdose Fatality Reviews in Olmsted County and adopt the following supporting resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, with funding support from the Minnesota Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Mental Health division, Olmsted County Public Health Services (OCPHS) and Olmsted County Community Corrections—Drug and Alcohol Response Team (DART) are partnering to implement Overdose Fatality Reviews (OFRs) as a core strategy to reduce overdose deaths in Olmsted County; and

WHEREAS, Quantitative data alone cannot fully identify service gaps or missed intervention opportunities; OFRs provide a structured, qualitative approach to address these gaps collaboratively. This multi-disciplinary review team will bring expertise from healthcare, government, law enforcement, and community partners to identify tangible strategies to reduce opioid deaths; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will use an existing FTE already in the departments and funding will also cover training for county staff facilitating and leading OFRs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept 18 months of funding of \$20,000 from the Minnesota Department of Health Injury Prevention and Mental Health Division to implement and enhance Overdose Fatality Reviews in Olmsted County.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March, 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: James Johnson, Administration

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Approve Request to Sponsor Olmsted County History Center Bonding Proposal

BACKGROUND: This item was reviewed at the Administrative Committee meeting on March 17, 2026. The Olmsted County History Center is requesting Olmsted County to sponsor a state capital improvement bonding request. The request includes working on an arrangement to limit the county's staff time commitment in the project design and construction (if awarded), while recognizing the county may have some minimal time investments annually to meet state requirements.

ACTION REQUESTED:
Recommendation: Approval

ATTACHMENTS:
A. Resolution

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, Olmsted County History Center has requested Olmsted County sponsor a state capital improvement bonding request.

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County History Center agree to minimize Olmsted County's staff time during the project's design and construction phases, with minimal annual time investments to meet state requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve to sponsor Olmsted County History Center's bonding bill.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March 2026.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Request for Action

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE: March 17, 2026

REQUEST BY: Tony Hill, Physical Development

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: Review and decision on Oronoco Township's River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance.

BACKGROUND: This item was reviewed by the Physical Development committee on October 7, 2025. Oronoco Township seeks approval from the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners for an overlay zone which will define and regulate shoreland within 2,500 feet of the ordinary high-water level (water's edge) of Lake Zumbro, the South and Middle Forks of the Zumbro River, and the South Branch Middle Fork of the Zumbro River.

Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.3900 allows townships to manage its own shoreland regulations, if a township can demonstrate to the County board: the township regulation is more restrictive than the County's shoreland controls; the township regulation is consistent with the County's shoreland controls; and the township administration and enforcement of the shoreland controls are as effective as the County's administration and enforcement.

Olmsted County staff recommends denial of the Oronoco Township River Corridor District because the ordinance is inconsistent with the County's shoreland ordinance, and because there are significant doubts about Oronoco Township's ability to effectively administer and enforce the proposed RCOD.

The proposed expansion of the regulated area to 2,500 feet—far beyond the 300/1,000-foot standard used by the county—lacks a clear, evidence-based justification and would more than double the number of parcels subject to regulation. This ordinance imposes stricter land use controls without demonstrated need, and risks creating widespread nonconforming uses, which could lead to legal and financial consequences for property owners and Olmsted County.

Furthermore, the RCOD would impose a significant administrative burden across thousands of acres of newly regulated shoreland. Although the Township relies on an August 2025 letter from the TCPA Zoning Administrator asserting TCPA's capacity to administer and enforce the RCOD, the TCPA simultaneously requested \$350,000 from Olmsted County due to challenges in providing planning and permitting services without subsidies. Additionally, the Zoning Administrator who authored that letter is no longer employed by the TCPA. Taken together, these factors raise substantial concerns about the

ability of the Township and TCPA to administer and enforce the RCOD at a standard equivalent to Olmsted County. 5.{{item.number}}

ACTION REQUESTED:

Adopt a Resolution denying Oronoco Township’s Proposed River Corridor Overly District.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Olmsted County Legal Memo – March 6, 2026
- B. Attorney Ruppe Letter – January 27, 2026
- C. Olmsted County Legal Response – February 9, 2026
- D. Deputy Administrator Giesen Memo – October 31, 2025
- E. Oronoco Materials – September 2, 2025
- F. Resolution
- G. Presentation

Resolution 26-

WHEREAS, Oronoco Township has requested County approval of a "River Corridor Overlay District" extending shoreland-type regulation to 2,500 feet from the ordinary high-water level of Lake Zumbro and the South and Middle Forks of the Zumbro River and its South Branch; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 394.33 subdivision 1 requires township official controls within the County to be "not inconsistent with or less restrictive than" the County's official controls; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the Township proposal, County staff analysis, and applicable law, the Board finds the proposed overlay to be inconsistent with, and not wholly less restrictive than, County and state shoreland standards.

WHEREAS, Oronoco Township has not demonstrated to the Board's satisfaction that it will provide for administration and enforcement of shoreland management controls "at least as effective as county implementation" as required by Minnesota Administrative Rule 6120.3900 subp. 4a(B).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners that:

The request by Oronoco Township for County approval of the "River Corridor Overlay District" is hereby **denied**.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 17th day of March 2026

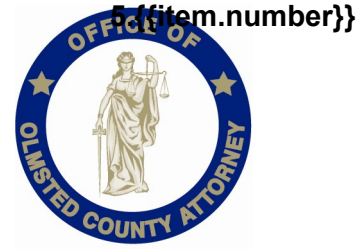
OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dave Senjem, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clara Sifuentes, Deputy Clerk to the County Board

Memo



To: Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
From: Marc L. Riese, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Date: March 6, 2026
Re: Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Denying Oronoco Township’s Proposed River Corridor Overlay District

Oronoco Township seeks County approval of a River Corridor Overlay District extending shoreland regulation to 2,500 feet from the ordinary high-water level of Lake Zumbro and the South and Middle Forks of the Zumbro River and the South Branch Middle Fork of the Zumbro River. Olmsted County sent a memo to the Oronoco Township Supervisors on October 31, 2025 detailing concerns regarding the proposed ordinance.

After further correspondence with Oronoco Township, County staff and counsel continue to recommend denial because the proposed overlay:

- 1) Is “inconsistent with” the County’s official controls within the meaning of Minn. Stat. § 394.33, and Minn. Admin. R. 6120.3900 subp. 4a—due to the expanded scope of shoreland, the prohibition of several categories of land uses the County currently allows and the less restrictive impervious surface allowance for property in the 1000 to 2500-foot area of the proposed shoreland; and
- 2) Fails to demonstrate “as effective” administration and enforcement required under Minn. Admin. R. 6120.3900 subp. 4a. for township shoreland management.

The proposed 2,500-foot overlay dramatically expands the regulated shoreland area beyond the County and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Both DNR and Olmsted County define shoreland as land located 1,000 feet from the ordinary high-water level of a lake and 300 feet from a river or stream. Minn. Admin. R. 6120.2500 subp. 15 (DNR); Olmsted Co. Ord. Ch. 3750 § 2.02A(80). Oronoco’s Township stated in their October 7, 2025, presentation to the Olmsted County Board’s Physical Development Committee that 426 additional parcels would be regulated as part of the expanded Overlay District (more than doubling the current number of 377). This increased shoreland area covers several thousand acres, posing substantial new burdens on both the Township and the property owners with land in the 1000 to 2500-foot proposed shoreland area.

The Overlay District is likely to have a substantial impact on a significant number of agricultural property owners who were not previously subject to shoreland regulation. While much of the land in the current shoreland area comprised of land 300 feet out from rivers and 1000 feet out from lakes is zoned R-1, R-2 and SD Special District, much of the land within the 1000 to 2500-foot range, which would be part of the Township’s proposed Overlay

District is zoned as A-2 Agricultural. The parcels located within the 1000 to 2500-foot zone are currently outside the Shoreland Area/Overlay District and were developed subject to normal zoning district classifications. In general, A-2 zoning authorizes permitted and conditional uses allowed for parcels zoned A-1. This includes some land uses such as farming operations, and animal feedlots up to 1,000 units as permitted uses, churches and community buildings, personal use airports, communication towers, animal feedlots exceeding 1,000 animal units, kennels, stables, licensed shooting preserves, and solar energy farms among others as conditional uses.

The Overlay District creates new development standards and in particular these parcels zoned A-2 will become subject to compliance with these new standards, which will significantly restrict potential land uses, or, at a minimum, add to the expense of development or potential rebuilding for a property owner in this 1000 to 2500-foot range. For example, one of the proposed standards creates Open Space Conservation Areas (OSCA) which prohibit construction or clearing of vegetation in an OSCA. The owner of a property within this 1000 to 2500-foot zone would be prohibited from engaging in construction or clearing in an OSCA. This may preclude a property owner from clearing an area in preparation for constructing a new residence for extended family members or a new pole shed on the portions of their properties that fall within these areas. Additionally, development of another home or lot for extended family in the extended 1000 to 2500-foot range could subject a property owner to other new development standards, including Wastewater Management and Shared Wells and Common Collection System requirements, a Forestry Management Plan if located in a wooded area, and/or a Turf Management Plan, all of which could add significant cost to development in the above example or potentially be an impediment to rebuilding an existing home in the event of a large scale natural disaster damaging or destroying structures within the 1000 to 2500-foot proposed shoreland area.

Further, comparing what is permitted in the County's Shoreland Ordinance to what would be permitted under the proposed Township Overlay District as shown in Section 9.12M of the Overlay District, there are several uses currently allowed by Olmsted County that would be prohibited under the proposed ordinance. The County permits the following uses subject to a conditional use permit: Industrial, Forest land conversion (subject to a plan approved by the Soil and Water Conservation District), Extractive Use, Mining of metallic minerals and peat is a permitted use under the County's Shoreland Ordinance; Solar energy farms and small utility wind energy conversion systems; however none of these uses are not permitted under the Township Overlay District.

It should also be noted that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is administered in Minnesota by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), already regulates activities sought to be restricted by Oronoco Township's proposed Overlay District. For instance, a Construction Stormwater Permit would be required for the owner or operator of any construction activity disturbing 1 acre or more of soil or less than an acre if it is part of a common plan of development or sale covering more than one acre. NPDES permits primarily regulate water quality through effluent limitations and discharge standards, such as requiring the following effluent limitations: "Design, install and maintain effective erosion controls and sediment controls to minimize the discharge of pollutants." 40 C.F.R. §

450.21(a). As a result, the Overlay District is duplicative to the extent that its regulations overlap with the NPDES.

While it is permissible for a Township to make shoreland regulations that are more restrictive, the significant increase in both the scope of the shoreland and the restrictions on land use compared to the existing shoreland ordinances, taken as a whole, make the proposed ordinance inconsistent with current standards under Minnesota Statute 394.33 subdivision 1. Additionally, the impervious surface requirements found in Section 9.13 of the Overlay District are less restrictive than current law for the 1000 to 2500-foot zone, allowing up to 75% maximum impervious surface area. Minn. Stat Section 462.357, Subd. 1e (e)(3) for single lots and Minn. Stat. Section 462.357, Subd. 1e (f)(3) for two or more contiguous lots each permit a maximum of 25% of nonconforming lots in shoreland areas which are building sites to be impervious surfaces. As a result, the impervious surface provisions here are also in violation of Minn. Stat. 394.33 subd. 1.

Finally, the Township's assertion that it can administer and enforce the proposed Overlay District is questionable. Section 9.02 of the Overlay District states that it applies to "subdivisions, site development plan approvals, individual building permits, or grading projects that would alter the landscape by more than 10 cubic yards within steep slopes, shore and bluff impact zones, and more than 50 cubic yards outside of steep slopes, shore and bluff impact zones within the River Corridor Overlay Zone." The oversight of the above documentation for thousands of acres of newly regulated shoreland will cause a substantial burden. Townships are required to provide for administration and enforcement of shoreland management controls "at least as effective as county implementation." Minn Admin R. 6120.3900 subp.4a(B). The township provided a letter from then TCPA Zoning Administrator Jered Staton in August 2025 stating that the TCPA had capacity to administer the proposed Overlay District. However, on July 21, 2025, soon before sending that letter, and before being required to take on the additional duties that would be imposed by the administration of the Overlay District, Staton, on behalf of the TCPA, asked the County for \$350,000, a substantial increase in funding for this year, in part because "providing planning, zoning, and permitting services is difficult to accomplished [sic] unsubsidized." In addition, Staton is no longer working for the TCPA. These developments call into question the ability of the TCPA and the Oronoco Township to effectively administer and enforce the proposed Overlay District.

Michael C. Couri*
Robert T. Ruppe**
Mark S. Allseits

**Also Licensed in Illinois*
***Also Licensed in California*

Attorneys at law
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January 27, 2026

Pete Giesen
Olmsted County Government Center
151 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904-3710

Re: Oronoco Township; River Corridor Overlay Zone

Dear Mr. Giesen,

I write as counsel for Oronoco Township in response to the County's October 31, 2025, memorandum and subsequent discussions with County staff regarding the Township's proposed River Corridor Overlay Zone ("RCOZ"). The County has identified four areas of concern with the Township's proposed RCOZ: increase in scope of parcels, creation of nonconformities, duplication of effort, and process flow. I wish to clarify that the RCOZ is not inconsistent with Olmsted County's Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance but rather is consistent with and more restrictive than the County's standards, as expressly permitted under Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.3900, subpart 4a.

With respect to scope of parcels covered, the Township has provided scientific and planning data demonstrating that all lands within 2,500 feet of the Zumbro River and Lake Zumbro drain directly into these impaired waters. The intensity of development within this corridor further supports the need for expanded regulation. The tiered system adopted in Section 9.13 of the RCOZ ensures that standards are most restrictive closest to the water and gradually less restrictive as distance increases, balancing environmental protection with development feasibility. This expansion is not inconsistent with County standards; it is a more restrictive application of them, supported by hydrological data and land use analysis.

Regarding nonconformities, Section 9.09 of the RCOZ was drafted to mirror the County's approach and to ensure compliance with state law. With respect to nonconformities, the Township is bound by Minn. Stat. § 462.357, subd. 1e(e), while the County is bound by Minn. Stat. § 394.36, subd. 5(b). These provisions are substantively

identical in their treatment of nonconforming uses and structures. By following § 462.357, the Township's ordinance is necessarily consistent with the County's ordinance, since both jurisdictions are applying the same statutory standard. The intent is to allow all lawful uses and structures to rebuild following catastrophic damage events, consistent with state law. Existing lots of adequate size to support onsite well and septic systems remain buildable under the ordinance, further assuaging concerns that the RCOZ will increase nonconformities. This statutory alignment eliminates concerns about increased nonconformities and ensures consistency with County practice and state law.

On the issue of duplication of effort, the Township has reviewed rezoning, LUPA, and CUP processes and identified points where Township review can be integrated without disrupting County procedures. Township comments can be incorporated at pre-application meetings or through approval letters, ensuring developers are aware of RCOZ standards early in the process. Because the ordinance establishes clear, objective standards, review timelines will be expedited, and the Township will continue to comply with the statutory 60-day rule. Duplication of permits can be avoided through coordination between County staff and the Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA).

Finally, with respect to process flow, the Township acknowledges the County's concern that its initial chart may not align with County procedures. Both parties agreed that a revised framework can be developed to ensure applications and permits are managed within statutory timelines. The Township is committed to working collaboratively with County staff to finalize a process chart that is workable for both jurisdictions.

In summary, the RCOZ is consistent with Olmsted County's ordinance, more restrictive in scope and application, and enforceable under the Township's demonstrated administrative capacity, thereby satisfying the three-prong test established in Minnesota Administrative Rule 6120.3900. The Township's rule compliance is exhaustively demonstrated in the "Ordinance Comparison Chart" contained in a June 20, 2024, Bolton & Menk correspondence with the County Planning Commission, and is again attached hereto for your convenience. The RCOZ ordinance does not undermine County authority but supplements it with stricter standards tailored to local environmental conditions and community concerns.

To conclude, the Township believes that it has satisfied the requirement to "demonstrate to the County that their proposed ordinance and administration is at least as restrictive as the County's prior to final adoption by the Township." The Township respectfully requests that the County specifically identify any provision of the RCOZ that it believes to be inconsistent with Chapter 3750 or state law. If no valid statutory

inconsistency is provided within thirty (30) days, I will recommend to the Township that they proceed with adopting and publishing the ordinance in accordance with Minnesota law while the parties continue to work in good faith to coordinate administration of each parties respective ordinances.

Your cooperation and courtesy in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Ruppe
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.

Enclosure

Cc: Oronoco Township (via email)
Kristi Trisko (via email)
Paige Collins (via email)
Angela Smith (via email)
Joel Johanninger (via email)

MICHAEL T. WALTERS
OLMSTED COUNTY ATTORNEY
151 4th STREET SE
ROCHESTER MN 55904-3710



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OFFICE 507.328.7600
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WITNESS LINE 507.328.7610
EMAIL: COUNTY.ATTORNEY@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US

Feburary 9, 2026

bob@couriruppe.com

Mr. Robert T. Ruppe
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.
705 Central Ave. E.
P. O. Box 369
St. Michael, MN 55376-0369

Re: Response to Your Letter of January 27, 2026, Concerning Oronoco
Township River Corridor Zoning Overlay District

Dear Mr. Ruppe:

Olmsted County is in receipt of the above-described letter sent on behalf of your client, Oronoco Township. You have indicated in your letter that the township expects the County to identify provisions within the proposed Oronoco Township River Corridor Zoning Overlay District which it believes are inconsistent with the requirements of the County's Floodplain/Shoreland Ordinance or state law within 30 days of the date of your letter. There is no requirement under the County's Ordinance or under Minnesota law or administrative rule that the County must make this determination within 30 days of a deadline unilaterally established by the township. The County plans to place this matter on the County Board agenda for consideration at the Board meeting set for March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Olmsted County Government Center. The township will receive the County's response to your letter following that meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Canan".

9282C0C76C4C47A...
THOMAS M. CANAN
Sr. Assistant Olmsted County Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Tony Hill, Deputy County Administrator
Allison Sosa, Interim County Planning Director



Olmsted County Administration

To: Oronoco Township Supervisors

From: Olmsted County – Pete Giesen, Deputy Administrator

Date: October 31, 2025

Subject: Proposed River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance

Purpose:

This memo was prepared to outline concerns identified by Olmsted County on October 7, 2025, at an Olmsted County Board Physical Development Committee meeting.

Background:

Oronoco Township seeks approval from the Olmsted County Board for a River Corridor District Overlay Zone which will define and regulate shoreland within 2,500 feet of the ordinary high-water level (water's edge) of Lake Zumbro, the South and Middle Forks of the Zumbro River, and the South Branch - Middle Fork of the Zumbro River.

Olmsted County currently administers and enforces a countywide Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance that defines shoreland as 300-feet from the water's edge (rivers), or 1,000 feet from the water's edge (lakes). Olmsted County's shoreland definition is consistent with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' shoreland definition.

The township proposal is not intended to replace Olmsted County's shoreland administration and enforcement responsibilities in Oronoco Township. Rather, it proposes a higher shoreland standard during subdivision and site planning permitting, presumably governed through its administration of the Township's zoning ordinance.

On October 7, 2025, Oronoco Township representatives presented a proposal to the Olmsted County Board's Physical Development Committee. The presentation included supporting documents such as the proposed ordinance text, a district map, a planning flow chart, and letters from the Township's attorney and the TCPA, which expressed support and willingness to administer the district.

During the presentation, Olmsted County raised several concerns, particularly regarding the increase in scope of the shoreland, potential for regulatory overlap and conflict between Township and County shoreland standards, and the creation of a large number of nonconformities.

County Concerns:

1. **Increase in Scope:** Expanding the shoreland area from 300 feet (river) and 1,000 feet (lake) to 2,500 feet represents a significant increase in land subject to shoreland regulation. It goes well beyond the current Olmsted County and MN Department of Natural Resources shoreland scope. Without a clear rationale explaining why the current County and state standard is not sufficient to protect the public waters located in Oronoco Township, the change in scope appears inconsistent with Olmsted County's shoreland regulation and raises questions about its necessity and appropriateness.

On October 7, 2025, Oronoco Township indicated that adoption of the River Corridor District would result in 426 new parcels becoming subject to shoreland regulation. This represents more than double the number of parcels currently regulated as shoreland. These newly included parcels would be subject to more restrictive requirements, including additional prohibited and conditional land uses, reduced development density through larger minimum lot sizes, and more stringent site planning standards.

2. **Creation of Nonconformities:** The proposed River Corridor District has the potential to create a significant number of nonconforming lots and uses, by imposing new shoreland zoning requirements that do not currently exist under Oronoco Township's zoning ordinance. Under Minnesota Statutes §394.36, if a non-conforming use is discontinued for over a year or if a structure is damaged beyond 50% of its market value, any future use must comply with the new regulations.

With the proposed expansion, 426 additional parcels—beyond the 377 already within current shoreland zones—would fall under the new overlay, subjecting many property owners to stricter standards. This raises legal concerns, including the risk of taking claims against Olmsted County, especially if property owners are unable to rebuild or continue existing uses due to new requirements.

3. **Duplication of Effort:** The proposed River Corridor District is intended as an overlay district, rather than a comprehensive shoreland ordinance. This means that properties closest to the Zumbro River (within 300-feet) and Lake Zumbro (within 1,000-feet) will be subject to three sets of regulations: the current Oronoco Township zoning standards, the new overlay district standards, and the current County shoreland ordinance.

This overlapping jurisdiction between the Township and County shoreland regulations could lead to duplicated efforts, delays in application processing, and conflicts in

regulatory enforcement. Olmsted County has concerns that dual oversight will negatively impact property owners in these areas in Oronoco Township.

4. **Flowchart and Process:** Olmsted County requires further clarification on when and how the River Corridor District Overlay Zone will be applied and enforced. While Oronoco Township has expressed interest in applying additional shoreland regulations during subdivision design planning, it is unclear whether these regulations also apply to smaller-scale developments such as individual building permits, minor site modifications, or single-lot redevelopment projects.

Additionally, the current version of the shoreland development process flowchart provided is not acceptable to Olmsted County Planning. Should the overlay zone be approved, the County Planning team will work with Oronoco Township to develop a revised flowchart that aligns with the County's procedural standards and requirements.

Applicable Rules:

Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.3900 allows townships to manage its own shoreland regulations, if a township can demonstrate to the County Board:

1. The township regulation is *more restrictive* than the County's controls;
2. The township regulation is *consistent* with the County's shoreland controls; and
3. The *township administration and enforcement* of the shoreland controls are *as effective as the county's administration and enforcement*.

Recommendation:

Olmsted County recommends denial of the Oronoco Township River Corridor Overlay District because the ordinance is inconsistent with the County's Shoreland Ordinance.

The proposed expansion of the regulated area to 2,500 feet—far beyond the 300/1,000-foot standard used by the County—lacks a clear, evidence-based justification and would more than double the number of parcels subject to regulation. This ordinance imposes stricter land use controls without demonstrated need, and risks creating widespread nonconforming uses, which could lead to legal and financial consequences for property owners and Olmsted County.

Attachments

1. October 7, 2025, Physical Development Committee Packet Materials

COURI & RUPPE, P.L.L.P

Michael C. Couri*
Robert T. Ruppe**
Mark S. Allseits

**Also Licensed in Illinois*

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September 2, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Allison.sosa@olmstedcounty.gov

Allison Sosa
 Olmsted County Planning
 2122 Campus Drive SE
 Rochester, MN 55904

Re: Oronoco Township; River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance

Dear Ms. Sosa,

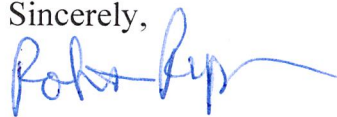
This office represents Oronoco Township. The Town Board requested that I respond to your email dated August 22, 2025 regarding the River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance (“RCODO”). As requested in your email, enclosed please find the following documents:

- The current version of Article IX – River Corridor Overlay District that is proposed for adoption by the Town Board.
- Memorandum dated June 20, 2025 demonstrating how Oronoco Township’s proposed RCODO is both consistent with and more restrictive than Olmsted County Chapter 3750-Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance.
- A letter dated August 28, 2025 from Jered Staton, a planner with the Township Cooperative Planning Association (“TCPA”), confirming that TCPA’s staff has the understanding and capacity to administer the proposed RCODO on behalf of the Township.
- A PowerPoint presentation for use at the October 7, 2025 meeting of the Olmsted County Physical Development Committee regarding the RCODO will be emailed to you separately by Kristi Trisko of Bolton & Menk.

I believe that the enclosed documents adequately evidence that i) the proposed RCODO is both consistent with and more restrictive than Chapter 3750 as required by both Minnesota Statutes Section 394.33, subd. 1, and Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.3900; and ii) that the Township has the ability to both administer and enforce the proposed RCODO in cooperation with the Township's Planning Commission, TCPA, my office and Bolton & Menk, as necessary, upon its adoption by the Town Board.

The Town Board looks forward to continuing our in partnership with Olmsted County to protect the Township's residents and the environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Ruppe
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.

Enclosures

Cc: Oronoco Township (via email)
Paige Collins (via email)
Joel Johanningmeier (via email)
Jered Staton (via email)
Kristi Trisko (via email)

ARTICLE IX - RIVER CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT



Section 9.00 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

This river corridor ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authorization and policies contained in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103F, Minnesota Rules, Parts 6120.2500 - 6120.3900, and the planning and zoning enabling legislation in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 462.

Section 9.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The Legislature of Minnesota has delegated responsibility to local governments of the state to regulate the subdivision, use, and development of the shorelands of public waters and thus preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters, conserve the economic and natural environmental values of shorelands, and provide for the wise use of waters and related land resources. This responsibility is hereby recognized by Oronoco Township.

The Township finds that the uncontrolled use of shorelands in the Township affects the public health, safety, and general welfare by contributing to pollution of public waters and potentially decreasing property, public, and natural resource values. It is the intent and purpose of this ordinance to:

1. Designate suitable land use intensity and density adjacent to public water bodies.
2. Regulate lot size, buildable area, and placement that are suitable for building sites.
3. Regulate the alteration of shorelands along public waters.
4. Regulate alterations of the natural vegetation and the natural topography along shorelands.
5. Conserve natural resources and maintain a high standard of environmental quality.
6. Preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters.
7. Preserve the economic, natural, and environmental values of shorelands.
8. Maintain water quality and reduce flooding and erosion.

Section 9.02 APPLICABILITY

The “River Corridor Overlay District” shall be an overlay district and shall be superimposed on all zoning classifications in the designated overlay area. The River Corridor Overlay District shall correspond to any/all shorelands of the public water bodies and water courses as classified in this Ordinance. The standards contained in the River Corridor Overlay District shall be in addition to any other requirements set forth in the Township’s Zoning Ordinance. If the District standards are conflicting with the Zoning Ordinance, the more restrictive standards shall apply.

This Article IX applies to all subdivisions, site development plan approvals, individual building permits, or grading projects that would alter the landscape by more than 10 cubic yards within steep slopes, shore and bluff impact zones, and more than 50 cubic yards outside of steep slopes, shore and bluff impact zones within the River Corridor Overlay Zone.

River Corridor Overlay Zone includes the following area: Land located within 2,500 feet from the ordinary high water level or the landward extent of a flood plain designed by ordinance that is within public water within Oronoco Township, *except Dry Run Creek (M-034-052), Unnamed*

Creek (M-034-057) from the west, and Unnamed Creek (M-034-058) from the east, that has been classified as consistent with the criteria found in Minnesota Regulations, Part 6120.3300, and the Protected Waters Inventory Map for Olmsted County, Minnesota for the following bodies of water:

1. South Fork of the Zumbro River (M-034); and
2. Middle Fork of the Zumbro River (M-034-056); and
3. South Branch Middle Fork Zumbro River (M-034-056); and
4. Lake Zumbro (DOW#55000400)

A graphical representation of this area can be found in Section 9.14, Map 1.2 River Corridor Overlay Zone Areas. However, this map is only a representation of the area. If the map conflicts with the text described above, the text shall prevail and control.

Section 9.03 ENFORCEMENT

Oronoco Township is responsible for the administration and enforcement of this ordinance. Any violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variances, interim uses or conditional uses) constitutes a misdemeanor and is punishable as defined by law. Violations of this ordinance can occur regardless of whether or not a permit is required for a regulated activity.

Section 9.04 SEVERABILITY

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 9.05 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS

It is not intended by this ordinance to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this ordinance shall prevail. All other ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency only.

Section 9.06 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STANDARDS

The regulations contained in this section of the Oronoco Township Code are in addition to and not in lieu of other regulations contained in other sections of the Oronoco Township Code, Olmsted County, or other State of Minnesota Statutes and Rules. Where the standards contained in any other laws are inconsistent with standards of this ordinance, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

Section 9.07 DEFINITIONS

Definitions found in Article II, Section 2.00 of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance and the following additional definitions:

Buffer. A vegetative feature as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.48.

Building Line. A line parallel to a lot line or the ordinary high-water level at the required setback beyond which a structure may not extend.

Community Wastewater Treatment System. Pipelines or conduits, pumping stations, and force main, and all other construction, devices, appliances, or appurtenances used for conducting sewage or other wastes to a point of ultimate disposal.

Duplex, Triplex, and Quad. A dwelling structure on a single lot, having two, three, and four units, respectively, attached by common walls and each unity equipment with separate sleeping, cooking, eating, living and sanitation facilities.

Extractive Use. The use of land for surface or subsurface removal of sand, gravel, rock, industrial minerals, other nonmetallic minerals, and peat not regulated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 93.44 to 93.51.

Heritage Tree. A heritage tree is typically a large, individual tree with unique value, which is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for heritage tree designation are age, rarity, and size, as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value

Impervious Surface. A constructed hard surface that prevents or retards entry of water into the soil and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow than prior to development, including rooftops, decks, sidewalks, patios; swimming pools, parking lots, concrete, asphalt, gravel driveways, or permeable pavers; and other similar surfaces

Planned Unit Development (PUD). A type of development characterized by a unified site design for a number of dwelling units or dwelling sites on a parcel, whether for sale, rent or lease and also usually involving clustering of these units or sites to provide areas of common open space, density increased, and a mix of structure types and land uses, as defined in the Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance.

Shore Recreation Facilities. Swimming areas, docks, watercraft mooring areas and launching ramps and other water recreation facilities.

Stage Increase. Any increase in the water surface elevation during the one-percent annual chance flood caused by encroachment on the floodplain.

Watercourse. A channel in which a flow of water occurs either continuously or intermittently in a definitive direction. The term applies to either natural or artificially constructed channels.

Section 9.08 ADMINISTRATION

- A. Administration:** The purpose of this Section is to identify administrative provisions to ensure the ordinance is administered consistently with its purpose. The issuance of any variances from the requirements of any official control contained in this ordinance, shall be in accordance with Article IV, Section 4.08 of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance.
- B. Permits:** Underlying zoning uses and standards of underlying zoning districts apply except where standards of this ordinance are more restrictive. A conditional use permit shall be required for the construction of buildings or building additions, including construction of decks, the installation and/or alteration of sewage treatment systems, and any grading activities as defined in Section 9.02, on properties within the River Corridor Overlay Zone to **49**


ensure that all Development Standards contained in Section 9.11 are satisfied. In processing any application for a conditional use permit, the Township shall evaluate the potential impacts to the river corridor and if negative impacts are found, require conditions to mitigate the impacts that are related to and proportional to the impacts.

- C. **Application Materials:** Application for a conditional use permit and other zoning applications such as variances shall be made to Oronoco Township on the forms provided. The application shall include the necessary information as required by the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and such other additional information as may be requested by the Township so that the Township can evaluate how the application complies with the provisions of this ordinance.
- D. **Process:** See Article IV, Section 4.02, Conditional Use Process and Section 4.08, Variance Process

Section 9.09 NONCONFORMITIES

All legally established nonconformities as of the date of this ordinance may continue, but will be managed according to Minnesota Statutes Section 462.357 Subd. 1e and its successor statutes, and Article I, Section 1.28 of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance.

Section 9.10 BUILDING SETBACK

Building setbacks to follow Olmsted County’s Shoreland Ordinance standards. However, in no case shall the primary building setback be less than 100 feet for all parcels within the River Corridor Overlay Zone. 

Section 9.11 ZONING PROCEDURE

The underlying zoning districts within the River Corridor Overlay District shall correspond to the Township’s Official Zoning Map.

Section 9.12 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

A. Erosion/Grading stabilization:

1. Grading and filling activities must comply with the Olmsted County Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance and this ordinance whichever provision is more restrictive.
2. Intensive vegetation clearing in the river corridor overlay zone and on steep slopes is prohibited. However, the removal of trees, limbs, or branches that are dead, diseased, dying, or pose safety hazards is allowed.
3. All topsoil that is removed during construction must be stockpiled on site and then used after construction in areas where topsoil is required.

B. Wastewater Management and Shared Wells:

1. All lots within a **clustered development** with lot sizes smaller than 2 acres shall be served by CSTS with a common collection system and shared wells that must follow all standards within Chapter 3200 and 3400 of the Olmsted County Code of Ordinances.

2. All lots within a **clustered development** with lot sizes smaller than 2 acres shall submit a CSTS Management Plan which must follow all standards within Oronoco Township Code and be submitted with the application.
3. The CSTS Management Plan, if required, shall show the location(s) of the CSTS and all shared well(s) locations and provide detailed plans and specifications provided for the proposed CSTS and shared well(s).
4. No direct piping will be allowed into MnDNR waterways as defined in Section 6.01 in the Olmsted County Shoreland Ordinance which is consistent with the criteria found in Minnesota Regulations, Part 6120.3300, and the Protected Waters Inventory Map for Olmsted County, Minnesota.

C. Common Collection System:

1. If a CSTS is proposed to be used, access to the treatment sites shall be provided by constructing a service road within a designated access easement(s).
2. If a CSTS is proposed to be used, upon completion of the CSTS, the ownership and maintenance of the CSTS shall be the responsibility of Peoples Cooperative Service (PCS) of Olmsted County or similar agency approved by the Township that is equipped, staffed and properly licensed to operate such a system (Agency). Applicant shall provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Township that PCS or similar Agency has agreed to own, operate and maintain the CSTS.
3. Shared well maintenance will be managed by the homeowner and must meet or exceed all applicable requirements of the Olmsted County Water Well and Water Supply Ordinance, and amendments thereto.

D. Public Improvement: Roadways within subdivisions shall either be constructed as public roadways in accordance with the applicable standards adopted by Oronoco Township or private as approved by the Town Board as part of the approved PUD.

E. Open Space Conservation Areas (OSCA): The purpose of OSCA is to identify environmentally sensitive areas that are wooded, prairie, oak savanna, steep slopes, erodible soils, wetlands, or general open spaces areas that will be preserved as permanent open space. These areas should include, if applicable, biologically significant, unique, and/or rare natural features. The preservation of amenities such as water detention and sedimentation areas, common drain fields, trails and recreational uses shall be considered in the calculation of open space as part of the OSCA area, as part of the development.

1. No construction or clearing shall be allowed in an OSCA area.
2. The minimum OSCA areas required with defined development tiers are defined in Section 9.13, Table 1.1, River Corridor Tier Standards.
3. OSCA areas must be approved by the Town Board as part of a **clustered development** submittal package or with the building permit.
4. An exhibit showing the OSCA/No Build area as part of the overall site plan is required to depict the total lot area and total OSCA area in size and percentage.

- F. **Building Pads:** A buildable area or building pad must be identified for each lot showing a large enough area to allow for the intended building to be constructed and meet all zoning standard setbacks but cannot be larger than 5,000 square feet. No building pad can be located within 50 feet of steep slopes or wooded/woodland areas. Lot owners shall take into consideration the effect building placement might have on wooded or steep slope areas. (See Definition Article II, Section 2.00) During review, the Township will use all the required materials from the submittal to evaluate building pad sites. Only approved building pad areas can obtain a building permit.
- G. **Forestry Management Plan:** For all **clustered developments** within the River Corridor Overlay Zone that have Wooded or Woodland Areas (See Section 2.00), a Forestry Management Plan shall be completed that includes all trees, highlighting heritage trees and those with special ecological and/or aesthetic value with the aim to protect them. The plan shall be submitted with the conditional use preliminary plat and plans and implemented by all homeowners to preserve and protect the existing woodland, visibility buffer, and OSCA areas. The plan must be written by a DNR Forester or DNR approved plan writer. A list of approved plan writers will be provided by the Township. For areas that are in native prairie or oak savanna, a land management plan shall be completed by a qualified professional ecologist, restoration ecologist, or land management consultant.
- H. **Turf Management:** For all **clustered developments** within the River Corridor Overlay Zone, a Turf Management Plan(s) shall be required and shall be submitted with the preliminary plat application. The approved Turf Management Plan shall be incorporated within the Protective Covenants for all **clustered developments** and implemented by all homeowners. The Turf Management Plan shall specifically address fertilization, mowing, watering, and pesticide application procedures for lawns and gardens to minimize potential pollution and be submitted by a registered or licensed landscape architect. Fertilizer and pesticide runoff into surface waters must be minimized through use of vegetation, topography or both. Maximum turf areas are defined per tier in Section 9.13 Table 1.1, River Corridor Tier Standards. All State Statutes and best management practices must be incorporated into the Turf Management Plan.
- I. **Agricultural Protection:** For all **clustered developments** within the River Corridor Overlay Zone that are adjacent to active agricultural operations that are expected to continue on an indefinite basis, a Township approved notice shall be recorded at developer's expense against all the properties within the **clustered development** that such uses may create unpleasant odors, dust, noise, and other similar annoyances.
- J. **Visibility Buffer:** A Visibility buffer protects the water resources of the state from runoff pollution; stabilizes shores, and banks; protects riparian corridors, improves root stabilization, rainfall erosion, and improves soils.

5.{{item.number}}

1. 50 percent of the lot frontage adjacent to all waterways in the River Corridor Overlay Zone must plan, construct, and maintain a visibility buffer that will consist of native perennial vegetation, excluding invasive plants and noxious weeds.
 2. The visibility buffer will be a minimum of 30 feet in width and will include a continuous buffer of perennially rooted native vegetation along with a minimum of one (1) 1-inch caliper tree every 20 feet for the length of the visibility buffer area. This requirement can be evaluated based on specific site needs and final minimum width determined during review. All trees must be planted, maintained, and protected from deer/rabbits for at least five years. See suggested list of perennial vegetation options.
 3. Approved tree species can be obtained by the Oronoco Township on its website.
 4. A visibility buffer plan must be submitted with the preliminary plat and plans for review and approval by the Town Board.
- K. **Steep Slopes:** Any areas defined as a steep slope (See Section 2.00) that are located with the River Corridor Overlay Zone must be identified on concept and pre-development plans along with a concept erosion control plan designed to maintain erodible soils through plantings and/or best management engineering practices and shall be verified by a qualified resource agency such as the Soil and Water Conservation District, DNR, MPCE, watershed district, or the Zoning Administrator
- L. **Wetlands:** NWI defined wetlands must be identified on concept and pre-development plans and delineated by a qualified wetland specialist on preliminary plans and avoided from development.
- M. **Uses along Lake Zumbro:** Article IX is incorporating by reference, Chapter 3750-Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance Table 6-3 of Land Use Summary – Lakes for Recreational Development Lakes as amended. The uses listed below are more restrictive than referenced Table 6-3.

Land Uses if allowed by underlying zoning	Recreational Development
Single residential	P
Duplex, triplex, quad residential	P (*C for RCOZ)
Residential PUD	C
Water-dependent commercial As accessory to a residential planned unit development	C
Commercial	P (C for RCOZ)
Commercial PUD - Limited expansion of commercial PUDs involving up to six additional dwelling units or sites may be allowed as a permitted use provided the provisions of Section 5.04 of these ordinances are satisfied.	C
Guest Cottages	N
Parks & historic sites	C
Public, semipublic	P
Industrial	C (N for RCOZ)



Agricultural, cropland and pasture	P
Agriculture feedlots – New	N
Agricultural feedlots – Expansion or resumption of existing	C
Forest management	P
Forest land conversion	C (N for RCOZ)
Extractive use	C (N for RCOZ)
Mining of metallic mineral and peat	P (N for RCOZ)
Commercial Solar and Wind – Alternative Energy Uses	(N in RCOZ)
P= Permitted C= Conditional Use N = Not Allowed	



* 1 - Must show that housing type/size works within the RCO property without negative impacts to the site, surrounding area, and Zumbro River.

N. Uses along Zumbro River: Article IX is incorporating by reference, Chapter 3750-Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance Table 6-4 of Summary of Rivers and Streams for Transition River and Streams as amended. The uses listed below are more restrictive than referenced Table 6-4.

Land Uses if allowed by underlying zoning	Transition
Single residential	P
Duplex, triplex, quad residential	P (*C for RCOZ)
Residential PUD	C
Water-dependent commercial As accessory to a residential planned unit development	C
Commercial	C
Commercial PUD - Limited expansion of commercial PUDs involving up to six additional dwelling units or sites may be allowed as a permitted use provided the provisions of Section 5.04 of these ordinances are satisfied.	C
Guest Cottages	N
Parks & historic sites	C
Public, semipublic	C
Industrial	N
Agricultural, cropland and pasture	P
Agriculture feedlots – New	N
Agricultural feedlots – Expansion or resumption of existing	C
Forest management	P
Forest land conversion	C (N for RCOZ)
Extractive use	C (N for RCOZ)
Mining of metallic mineral and peat (NEW)	P (N for RCOZ)
Commercial Solar and Wind – Alternative Energy Uses	(N in RCOZ)
P= Permitted C= Conditional Use N = Not Allowed	

* 1 - Must show that housing type/size works within the RCO property without negative impacts to the site, surrounding area, and Zumbro River.

Section 9.13

Table 1.1 River Corridor Tier Standards:

	DU/ Ac	OPCA AREAS	Maximum Turf Allowed	Site Clearing	Visibility Buffer from Water	Maximum Impervious Surface	Zone	BFE
Shore Impact Zone (50') Setback	N/A	100%	25%	Not allowed	50% of lot width facing waterway must be screened with a visibility buffer	0%	N/A	N/A
Stream/River Setback (300')	1 lot per 5 Ac.	75%	25%	Not allowed		25%	RA 1 unit per 5 ac.	2' above BFE 3' for critical facilities
River Corridor Setback (1000')	1 lot per 5 Ac.	50%	50%	Not allowed		25%	RA 1 unit per 5 ac.	2' above BFE 3' for critical facilities
Extended Resource Protection Area (2500')	1 lot per 5 Ac. 2.5 Ac. -*1	25%	75%	25% Allowed	N/A	75%	RA 1 unit per 5 ac.	2' above BFE 3' for critical facilities

*1 – To achieve a 2.5 units per acre density *with a clustered development style*, a Special District process is required. A shared community OSCA (see section E) covering 40% of the acres will be required in *all clustered developments*.

Section 9.14

Map 1.2 River Corridor Overlay Zone Areas

INRA, INC.
 20141212_201417
 20141212_201417.dwg
 20141212

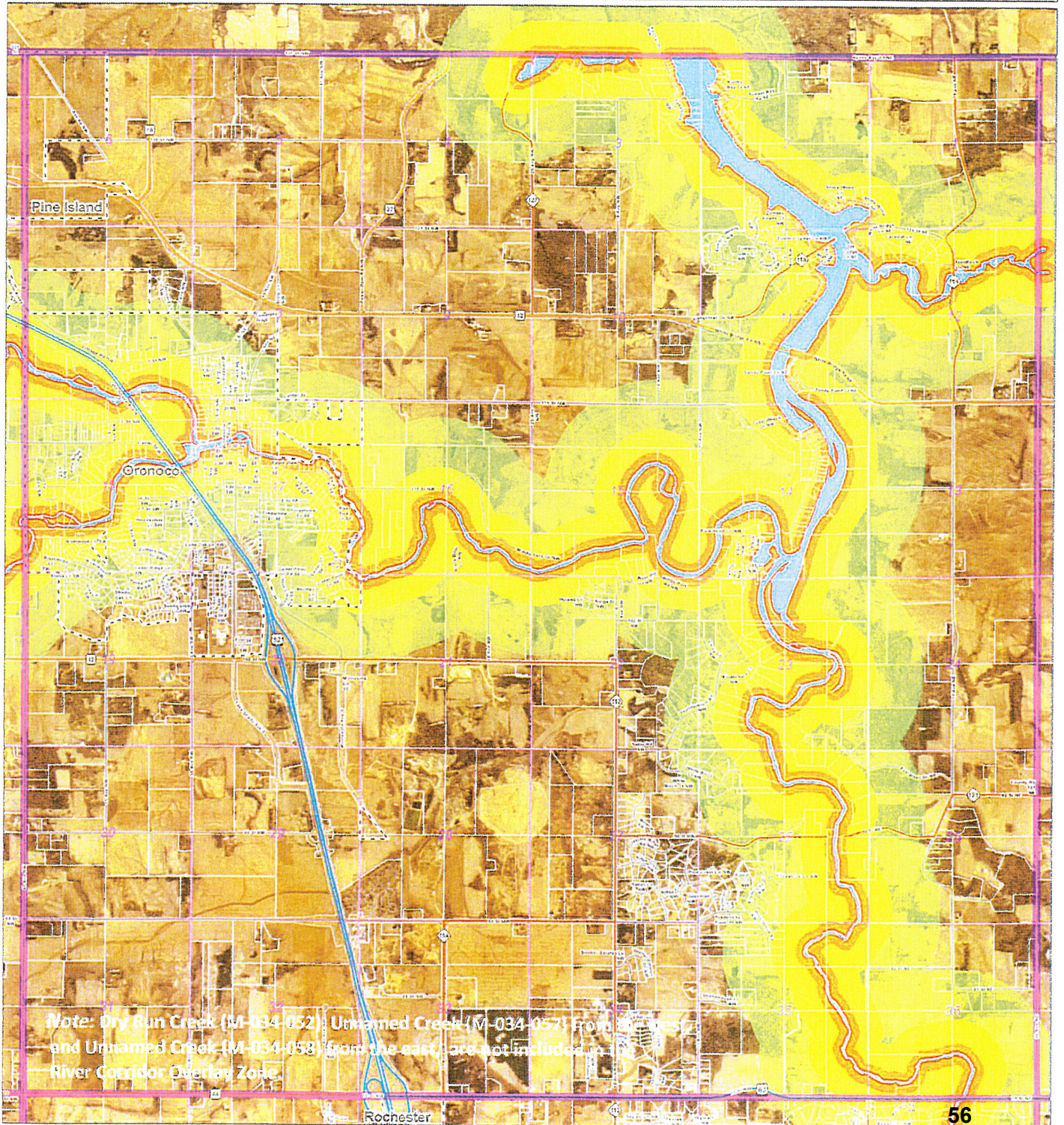
Map Size: 20x23"

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

The legend includes:

- 100' Zone (Red line)
- 250' Zone (Blue line)
- 500' Zone (Yellow line)
- 1000' Zone (Green line)
- 1500' Zone (Light Green line)
- 2000' Zone (Dark Green line)
- City Limits (Black outline)
- Rivers (Blue area)
- 15M (Yellow circle)
- 100' Flood (White circle)
- 1000' Flood (Light Green circle)
- 1500' Flood (Dark Green circle)
- 2000' Flood (Lightest Green circle)
- 1500' Flood (Dark Green circle)
- 1000' Flood (Light Green circle)
- 500' Flood (Yellow circle)
- 250' Flood (Blue circle)
- 100' Flood (Red circle)

Oronoco River Corridor





Date: June 20, 2024

To: Olmsted County Planning

RE: River Corridor Overlay Zone – Compliance to MN Statute 6120.3900 and Chapter 3750 Section 3.04 (B)
Oronoco Township
Project No. 24X.136591.000

Dear Ms. Sosa:

This memo is being provided to Olmsted County to demonstrate how Oronoco Township’s proposed River Corridor Overlay Zone is both consistent with Chapter 3750 as well as more restrictive than Chapter 3750 adopted by the County. Each applicable section of the proposed ordinance is summarized below and a table is provided to directly compare standards.

Per Chapter 3750, Section 3.04 Township Zoning Controls (A) 1-5, Oronoco Township has the authority to permit building/zoning permits, grading and erosion control plans, condition use permits, and subdivision.

Section 3.04 (B) states, townships must adopt shoreland controls that are in compliance with state statute.

MN Statute 6120.3900 4a states: Shoreland management by townships. Townships may adopt shoreland management controls under authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 394.33 subd 1, if the controls are not inconsistent with or less restrictive than the controls adopted by the county in which the township is located.

Oronoco Township has drafted an overlay zone district that will be applicable for properties within Oronoco Township that are within 2,500 feet from the OHWL of Lake Zumbro and the South and Middle Fork of Zumbro River and the South Branch Middle Fork of Zumbro River which are defined as-public waters by the MnDNR and referenced in Section 2.02 (73) of the Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance, Chapter 3750. Zumbro River (M-034) and two (2) unnamed creeks will not be included in this overlay zone.



Section 9.00 Statutory Authorization states, This river corridor ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authorization and policies contained in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103F, Minnesota Rules, Parts 6120.2500 - 6120.3900, and the planning and zoning enabling legislation in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 462.

Section 9.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT:

Oronoco Township finds that the uncontrolled use of shorelands in the Township affects the public health, safety, and general welfare by contributing to pollution of public waters and potentially decreasing property, public, and natural resource values.

Per Section 1.06 (c) Olmsted County Planning Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 3750. All violations constitute a misdemeanor. Similarly, per Section 9.03 of the proposed Ordinance, Oronoco Township is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the ordinance. Any violations also constitute a misdemeanor. Further, violations of this ordinance can occur regardless of whether or not a permit is required for a regulated activity. The enforcement and administration of this ordinance will be carried out in the same manner as the Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinance.



Section 9.06 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STANDARDS states, the regulations contained in the Ordinance-are in addition to and NOT in lieu of other sections of Oronoco Township Code, Olmsted County Ordinances, or other State of Minnesota Statutes and Rules. Where the standards contained in any other laws are inconsistent with standards of the Township’s proposed Ordinance, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

Section 9.07 DEFINITIONS, as requested by the County, all definitions NOT found in the Oronoco Township City Code but are applicable for the proposed Ordinance were copied from Section 2.02 of Olmsted County’s Chapter 3750 Floodplain and Shoreland to make this Ordinance easier to follow by applicants and to be consistent with Olmsted County’s Chapter 3750.




Section 9.08 ADMINISTRATION, variances and conditional use permits required for this overlay zone will be reviewed and approved or denied by Oronoco Township as defined in Section 4.02 and 4.08 of their adopted City Code.




Section 9.09 NONCONFORMITIES, will be managed according to Minnesota Statutes Section 462.357 Subd. 1e and its successor statutes, and Article I, Section 1.28 of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance.

ORDINANCE COMPARISON CHART

The following chart provides a direct side-by-side comparison on how Olmsted County’s Chapter 3750, Olmsted County Shoreland Ordinance, compares in standards to the Township’s proposed River Corridor Overlay Zone Ordinance. Chapter 3750 Olmsted County Shoreland Ordinance will be abbreviated to **Ord. 3750**. More restrictive text is shown in **RED**.

Standard	Olmsted County - Chapter 3750 Floodplain & Shoreland Ordinance	River Corridor Overlay Zone	Changed Outcome
Building Setbacks	General Development Lake 75' (no sewer) 50' (with sewer) Transition Rivers 150' (no sewer/with sewer) 100' (with treatment system)	Must follow Ord. 3750 but at a minimum be no less than 100 feet. 	25 -50 feet more restrictive for lake development
Underlying Zoning	No change	No change	No change
Grading and Filling Activities	Permit needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ CY on steep slopes & bluff 50+ CY everywhere else 	Permit needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10+ CY on steep slopes & bluff impact 50+ CY everywhere else 	No change
Bluff Setback	30 feet (top of bluff)	30 feet (top of bluff)	No change
Wastewater Treatment/Share Wells Common Collection System	Chapter 3200 and 3400 of the Ol. County Code of Ordinances. No direct piping will be allowed into MnDNR waterways as defined Ord. 3750 and Minnesota Regulations, Part 6120.3300.	All lots smaller than 2 acres must be served by a common collection system following Ch 3200 and 3400 of the Ol. County/ State Statute.	More restrictive
Open Space Conservation Areas	50% minimum open space within 300' shoreland zone.	Minimum open space required within 50' = 100%, 300' = 75%, 1000' = 50%, 2500' = 25%	More restrictive in all Ord. 3750 regulated tiers
Building Pads	Minimum standards for lots and setbacks are established within Ord. 3750 but does not require building pads within lots.	Building pad required for all lots. Pads cannot be larger than 5,000 S.F.	More restrictive
Forest Management Standards	Section 6.03 (D) Harvesting of timber consistent with MN Forest Resources. Intensive vegetation clearing subject to erosion control and sedimentation plans.	All PUD's are required to submit a Forest Management Plan that have wooded or woodland areas.	More restrictive
Turf Management	Section 6.06 (3) f – Fertilizer and pesticide runoff into surface water must be minimized through use of vegetation, topography, or both. No listed minimum standards.	Maximum turf area required within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300' =25%, 1000' = 50% 2500' = 75% 	More restrictive
Agricultural Protection	No standards. Typically managed during the PUD process.	All PUD's adjacent to active ag. operations must state	More restrictive


		adjacent use may create odors, dust, noise etc.	
Visibility Buffer	Buffers required for incompatible uses and adjacent to shoreland grading.	50% of the lot frontage adjacent to waterways must install a visibility buffer	More restrictive
Steep Slopes	A permit is required before grading and filling activities.	Areas defined as a steep slope must be identified and submit concept erosion control plan verified by a qualified resource agency.	More restrictive.
Wetlands	Wetlands must be delineated and avoided from development or seek a variance from standards.	Wetlands identified on concept and pre-development plans  avoided in development.	More restrictive
Allowed Uses	Allowed Uses listed in Ord. 3750 are all included in RCOZ.	More Restrictive Standards are as follows: LAKE C - Duplex, triplex, quad C-Commercial N- Industrial N-Forest Land Conversion N-Extractive Use N- Mining of metallic mineral and peat N- Commercial Solar/Wind River C- Duplex, triplex, quad N-Forest Land Conversion N-Extractive Use N- Mining of metallic mineral and peat N- Commercial Solar/Wind	More restrictive
Density	Managed by underlying zoning ordinance	5 units per acre based on underlying zoning. 2.5 UPA is maximum density allowed through a PUD.	More restrictive based on zoning standards
Site Clearing	Extensive vegetative clearing for forest land conversion is a CUP and not allowed in bluff or steep slope areas.	Not allowed adjacent to water to 1000'. Only 25% of area allowed for clearing between 1000' and 2500' in overlay	More restrictive

Impervious Surface	25% Maximum impervious surface 35% impervious surface may be allowed in 1st tier of general lake with stormwater management plan	Maximum Impervious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 50' = 0% • 300' -1000' = 25% • 2500' = 75% 	More restrictive
Base Flood Elevation	At or above RFPE for all structures 2' above BFE for all critical facilities	2' above BFE for all structures 3' above BFE for all critical structures	More restrictive

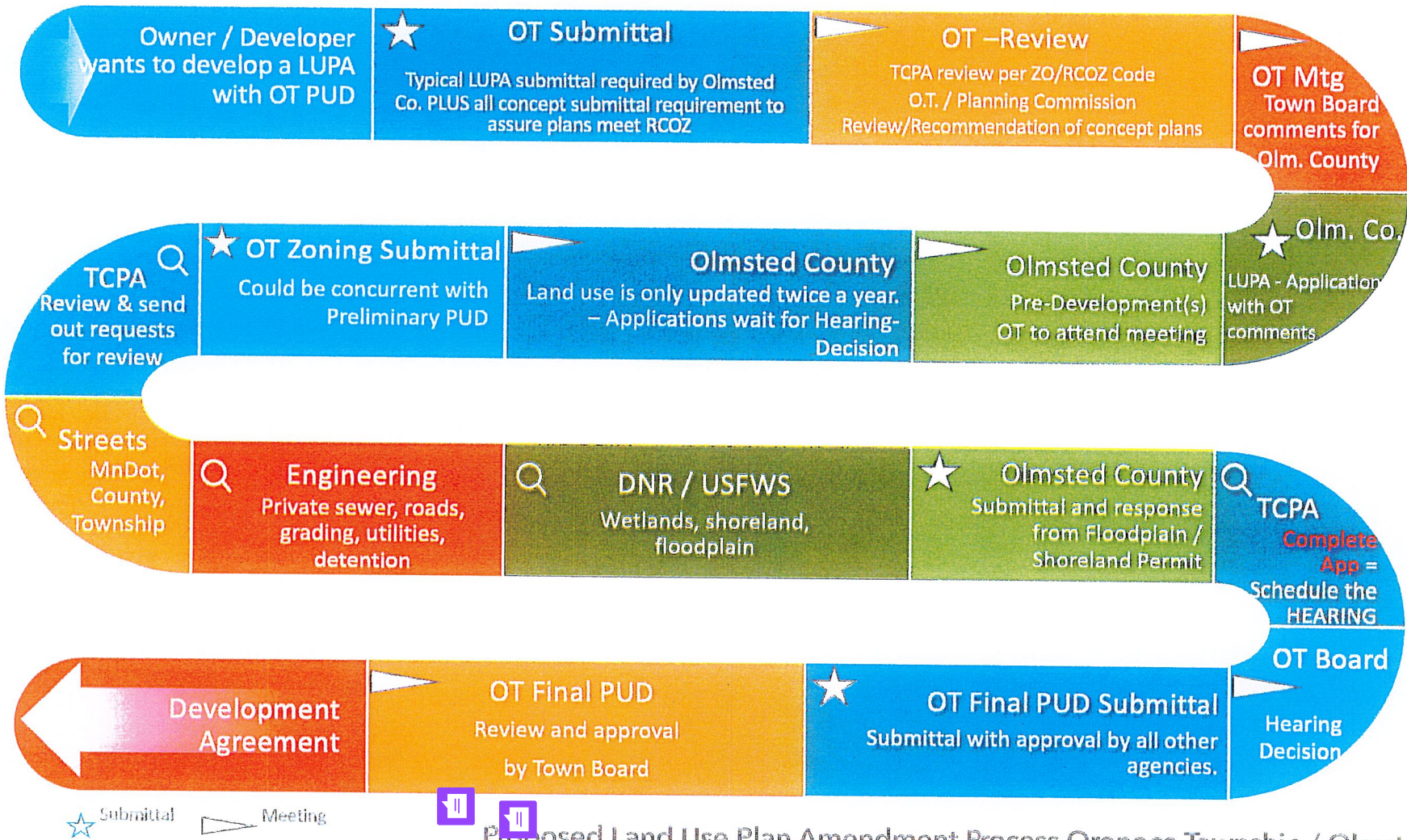
The Township believes that its proposed Ordinance is consistent with applicable Minnesota’s statutes and rules and Chapter 3750, Olmsted County’s Shoreland Ordinance. In some areas, the proposed ordinance provisions are different only because the Township desires to be more restrictive from the County’s Ordinance to protect the environment, provide additional environmental oversight, and to address specific concerns raised by Township residents. If requested, the Township would be willing to meet with County staff to discuss the proposed Ordinance or provide additional comments on why the proposed changes to the County’s Shoreland Ordinance were made. The proposed Ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate or impair in any way the County’s Shoreland Ordinance. The Township’s goal is to use the standards laid out in the County’s Shoreland Ordinance except where it was deemed in the best interest of the Township to be more restrictive and to address additional items of concern raised by Township residents.

Sincerely,

Bolton & Menk, Inc.



Kristi Trisko, AICP, PMP
Senior Planner



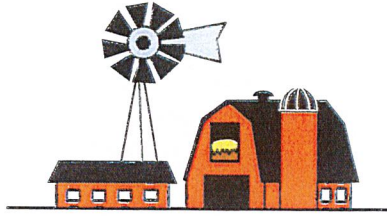
Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment Process Oronoco Township / Olmsted Co.

TOWNSHIP COOPERATIVE PLANNING ASSOCIATION

5.{{item.number}}

4111 11th Avenue SW Room 10
Rochester, MN 55902

Phone: (507) 529-0774



Ethan Kaske, Administrator
Jered Staton, Administrator

ethan@tcpamn.org
jered@tcpamn.org

- TCPA -

August 28, 2025

Oronoco Township
115 2nd St NW
Oronoco, MN 55960

RE: River Corridor Overlay Zone – Oronoco Township

Dear Mr. Ruppe,

It has been requested that our office provide comments on the administration of the proposed River Corridor Overlay District in Oronoco Township.

TCPA has been provided draft copies of the proposed regulations and understands it will introduce a higher standard to lands in the vicinity of public waters, as identified in the provided draft.

TCPA staff have reviewed the draft regulations and fully understand how they relate to other standards, specifically Olmsted County Chapter 3750-Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance.

Our office has the understanding and capacity to administer the proposed River Corridor Overlay District for Oronoco Township.

Respectfully,

Jered Staton
Zoning Administrator

COURI & RUPPE, P.L.L.P

Michael C. Couri*
Robert T. Ruppe**
Mark S. Allseits

*Also Licensed in Illinois

**Also Licensed in California

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 (763) 497-2599 (FAX)
 www.couriruppe.com

March 17, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Tony.hill@olmstedcounty.gov

Tony Hill
 151 4th Street SE
 Rochester, MN 55904-3710

**RE: ORONOCO TOWNSHIP REQUEST TO ENTER WRITTEN COMMENT INTO
 THE RECORD - RIVER CORRIDOR OVERLAY DISTRICT ORDINANCE
 CONSISTENCY REVIEW**

Dear Mr. Hill,

The Township respectfully submits this letter for inclusion in the official County record regarding the Township's proposed River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance. Because the County Board has denied the Township's request to provide public comment at tonight's County Board meeting, the Township asks that this letter be accepted and entered into the record in full. This letter addresses the statutory consistency requirements under Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4a, the County's stated objections, and the relevant caselaw confirming the Township's authority to adopt more restrictive shoreland regulations.

I. The Township's Proposed Ordinance Meets the Requirements of Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4(a)

Minnesota Administrative Rule 6120.3900, subp. 4a establishes the criteria a township must satisfy to administer its own shoreland controls. The Township's proposed River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance satisfies each requirement.

A. The Township's Ordinance Is More Restrictive Than the County's Controls

The Township has identified, with specificity, the provisions in its Ordinance Comparison Chart demonstrating that its dimensional, performance, and use standards are more restrictive than the County's. Section 9.06 of the proposed Ordinance states that the regulations in this section are in addition to and not in lieu of other applicable regulations, and that where standards conflict, the

more restrictive standard applies. This structure aligns with Minn. Stat. § 103F.221, subd. 5, which authorizes municipalities to adopt more restrictive shoreland controls that affect both the use and development of shorelands.

B. The Township's Ordinance Is Consistent with the County's Controls

Under Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4a(A), township controls are consistent with county controls if they cover the same full range of shoreland management provisions, contain dimensional standards at least as restrictive as the county's, and do not allow land uses not allowed under the county's official controls. The Township's proposed ordinance satisfies all three requirements. It covers the same full range of provisions as the County's controls, its dimensional standards are more restrictive, and it does not authorize any new land uses.

The County has asserted that the Township's ordinance may impact property owners, create new development standards, restrict uses, add expense, or prohibit certain activities. None of these assertions relate to the legal definition of "inconsistent" under subp. 4a(A) or Minn. Stat. § 394.44.

A township ordinance may be more restrictive without being inconsistent, and Minnesota Statute and appellate caselaw confirms this principle. *See Altenburg v. Bd. of Supervisors of Pleasant Mound Township*, 615 N.W.2d 874, 880–81 (Minn. App. 2000) (holding that because Minn. Stat. § 394.44 permits local governments to adopt more restrictive ordinances, preemption does not bar local regulation of the same subject matter).

Assistant County Attorney Riese's March 6, 2026, memo appears to suggest that it is the scope of the Township's proposed shoreland overlay district that renders the ordinance inconsistent. *See* p. 3, Mar. 6, 2026, Memo. But the Township's extension of the overlay district does not alter the County's R-1, R-2, A-2, or SD Zoning Map. The restrictions identified in the Townships overlay district are simply more restrictive standards, something Mr. Riese acknowledges when he describes "the significant increase in both the scope of the shoreland and the restrictions on land use compared to the existing shoreland ordinances." *Id.* (emphasis added). These are additional restrictions the Township is placing on top of the County's, which is permissible. As to scope, the Township has authority to impose these same restrictions either through a shoreland overlay or, if it chose, directly under its zoning authority in Minn. Stat. § 462.357 by amending its A-2 zoning district to adopt more restrictive standards consistent with the County ordinance pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 394.33.

Whether implemented through an expanded overlay district or through amendments to the Township's A-2 zoning controls, the Township has full statutory authority to regulate land use across the area included in the proposed overlay. Scope therefore cannot be the basis for a finding of inconsistency. That leaves the County's assertion, quoted on page 3 of Mr. Riese's Memo, that "while it is permissible for a Township to make shoreland regulations that are more restrictive," the very fact that the Township's ordinance increases restrictions somehow makes it inconsistent. That reasoning collapses on itself. An ordinance does not become "inconsistent" simply because it is more restrictive; increased restrictions are the definition of "more restrictive," not evidence of

inconsistency. Minnesota law expressly permits townships to adopt standards that exceed county requirements, and the fact that the Township has done so does not convert a lawful exercise of authority into an inconsistency.

C. The County's Objections Do Not Establish Inconsistency

The County's objections largely rest on alleged adverse impacts on development: claims that the Township's ordinance will restrict potential land uses, add expense, prohibit activities currently allowed by the County, or otherwise impose more stringent development standards. But adverse impact is not the legal test for consistency under Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4(a)(A). The statute asks only whether the Township's ordinance covers the same subject matter, is at least as restrictive, and does not authorize new uses.

Moreover, the County's own objections or descriptions of these purported adverse "impacts" implicitly concede that the Township's ordinance is simply more restrictive, which is expressly permitted under Minn. Stat. § 103F.221, subd. 5 ("A municipality may adopt and enforce ordinances or rules affecting the use and development of shoreland that are more restrictive than the standards and criteria adopted by the commissioner."). The County's concerns about the consequences of increased restrictions cannot be conflated with inconsistency; they are the predictable effects of a more restrictive ordinance, not evidence that the Township has adopted standards different in nature from the County's. The County may disagree with the policy outcome, but disagreement does not convert lawful, more restrictive standards into inconsistency under Minnesota law.

II. Minnesota Caselaw Confirms the Township's Authority to Adopt More Restrictive Shoreland Controls

Minnesota appellate courts have repeatedly affirmed that townships may adopt more restrictive land-use regulations than counties, including in shoreland areas.

A. *Calm Waters v. Town of Kroschel* Supports the Township's Position

The Minnesota Court of Appeals' decision in *Calm Waters, LLC v. Town of Kroschel* directly supports the Township's authority to adopt more restrictive shoreland regulations. No. A19-0614, 2019 WL 6837002 (Minn. Ct. App. Dec. 16, 2019). The Court held that "Kroschel has the authority to zone shoreland that also remains subject to the regulatory overlay of Kanabec County's shoreland management controls." *Id.* at *5. The Court further explained that "the authorizing statute for shoreland regulation explicitly provides that a municipality may adopt and enforce an ordinance... that is more restrictive than the standards and criteria adopted by the DNR." *Id.* at *3.

The *Kroschel* Court also held that "Kroschel's act of deferring to Kanabec County's shoreland management controls does not preempt the township from also regulating land around bodies of water," and emphasized that the DNR may only override township zoning when the Legislature has "unambiguously granted" that authority. *Id.* at *4. The Court rejected the argument

that a township must adopt its own independent shoreland ordinance, stating that it did not read Minn. Stat. §§ 103F.201–.221 as intending to strip local authorities of all control within 1,000 feet of a natural body of water. *Id.*

These holdings directly refute the County’s suggestion that the Township’s ordinance is inconsistent merely because it is more restrictive or because it affects landowners by increasing the scope of the Township’s shoreland regulations.

B. *Altenburg and Berggren* Confirm That “More Restrictive” Does Not Mean “Inconsistent”

Minn. Stat. § 394.44 expressly authorizes local governments to adopt ordinances that are more restrictive than state standards. In *Altenburg v. Board of Sup’rs of Pleasant Mound Tp.*, the Court of Appeals held that because the statute expressly permits more restrictive local ordinances, “the legislature has made it clear that the doctrine of preemption does not preclude all local ordinances that cover the same subject matter as the statute controls.” 615 N.W.2d 874, 880 (Minn. App. 2000).

The *Pleasant Mound Tp.* Court also held that “inconsistent” means standards that are different in nature, not merely more restrictive, upholding a township ordinance that imposed more restrictive feedlot standards because it was based on the same underlying standards as the county’s ordinance. *Id.* at 879. The Minnesota Supreme Court adopted the same definition of “inconsistent” in *Berggren v. Town of Duluth*, 304 N.W.2d 24 (Minn. 1981).

C. Application to the Township’s Ordinance

The Township’s proposed River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance is more restrictive but based on the same standards as the County’s controls. It does not introduce standards different in nature. Under *Altenburg, Berggren*, and Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4a, Minn. Stat. §§ 394.33 and 103F.221, subd. 5, the Township’s ordinance is not preempted and is fully valid.

III. Conclusion and Request

For these reasons, the Township respectfully requests that this letter be accepted into the official County record for tonight’s County Board meeting. The Township further requests that the County Board apply the correct legal standard under Minn. R. 6120.3900, subp. 4a, Minn. Stat. §§ 394.33 and 103F.221, and the controlling caselaw discussed above. Rule 6120.3900, subp. 4a(A) requires only that “the township must *demonstrate* to the county board that their proposed ordinance and administration is at least as restrictive as the county’s prior to final adoption by the township” (emphasis added). Through its continued correspondence with the County, including this letter, the Township has satisfied that requirement. Nothing in the rule requires the Township to obtain the County’s approval before enacting its ordinance.

As the Court noted in *Calm Waters, LLC v. Town of Kroschel*, “The promulgated rules for township shoreland management allow for a township to specifically regulate shorelands in a

manner *inconsistent* with the county's plan if the management controls are approved by the county." 615 N.W.2d at *3 (emphasis added). It follows that approval is required only when a township seeks to adopt controls that are inconsistent with the county's, not when, as here, the Township's ordinance is simply more restrictive. Because the Township's proposed River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance is more restrictive than the County's controls, fully consistent with them, not preempted by state or federal law, and squarely within the Township's statutory authority, the Township may lawfully adopt its ordinance without further County action. The Township appreciates the County's consideration and looks forward to continued collaboration in protecting the Zumbro River corridor and the public interest.

Your cooperation and courtesy in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert T. Ruppe
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.

Cc: Oronoco Township (via email)
Allison Sosa (via email)

Oronoco Township River Corridor District Overlay Ordinance

Tony Hill, Deputy County Administrator

March 17, 2026

*Building a sustainable foundation for a safe, healthy, and welcoming
community through public service excellence.*

River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance

Request: Approve an overlay zone defining and regulating shoreland within 2,500 feet of the ordinary high-water level (water's edge) in Oronoco Township.

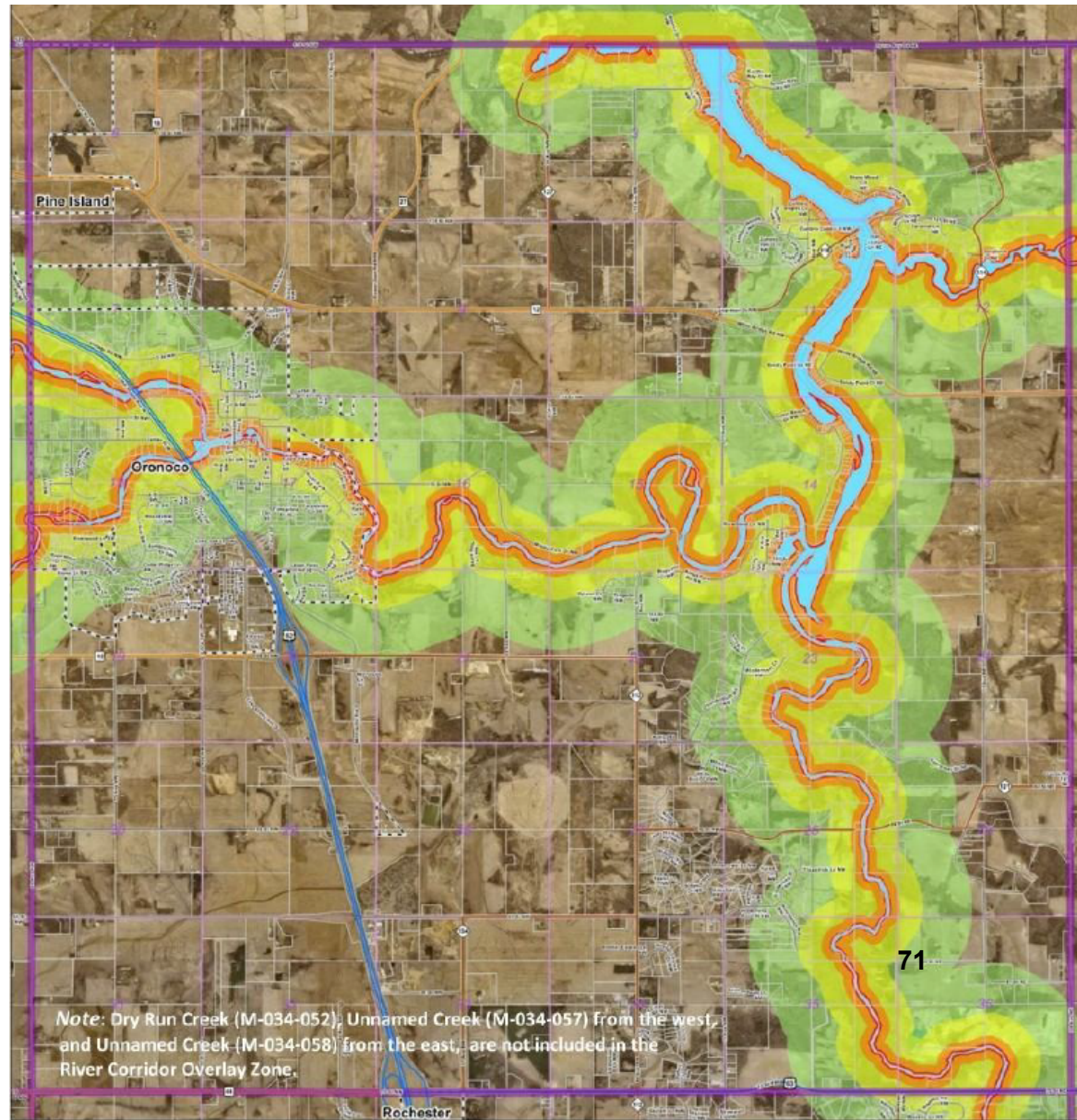
- Additional permitting requirements;
- Additional prohibited uses; and
- Minimum lots size requirements.

Intent: The township finds that uncontrolled use of shorelands affects the public health, safety, and general welfare.

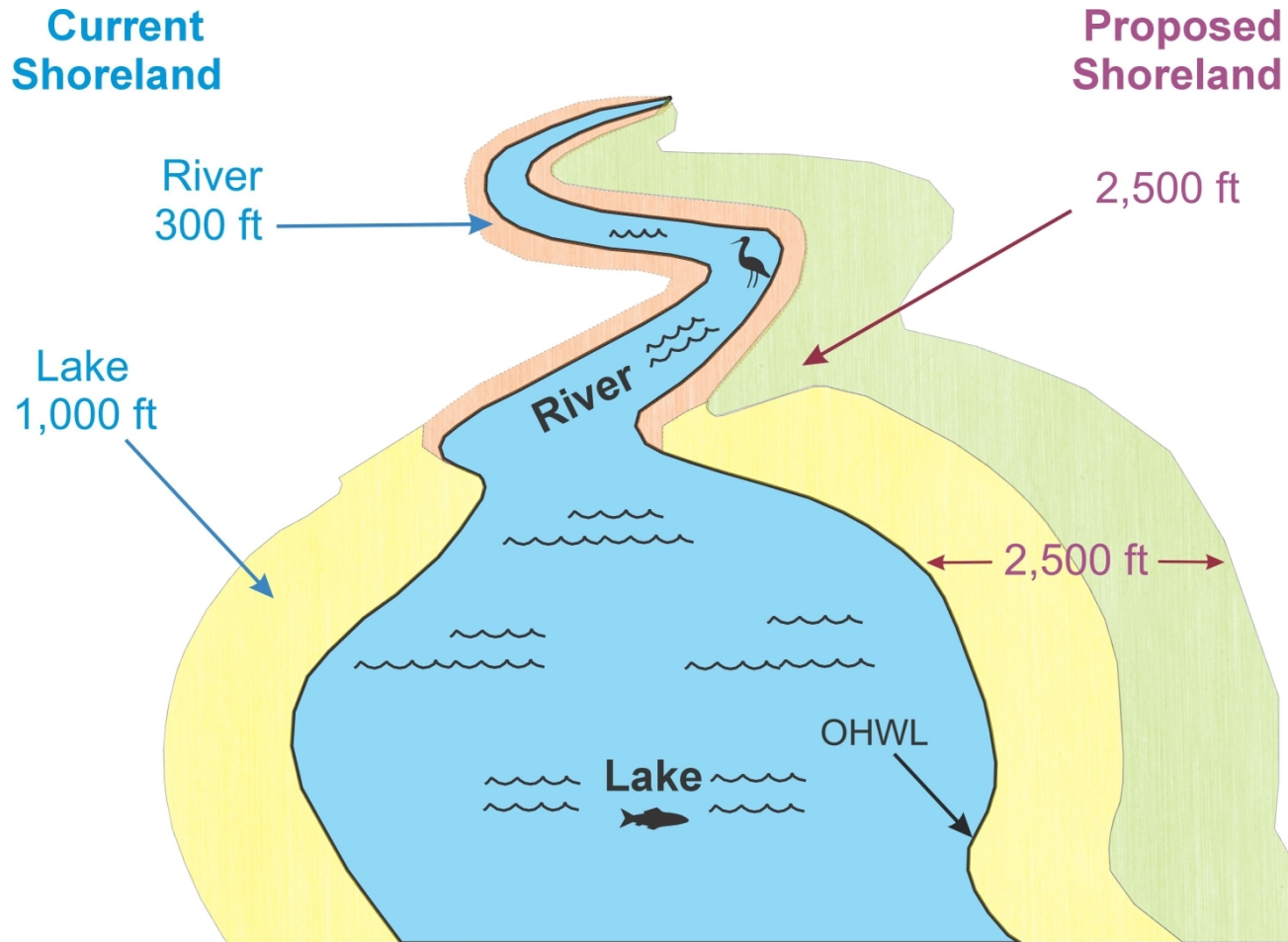
Current Rules: Olmsted County Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance (Chapter 3750). County and State define Shoreland as 300-feet (rivers) / 1,000-feet (lakes) from the ordinary high-water level.

RCOD Map

- Blue – Water Body
- Orange – 300'
- Yellow – 1,000'
- Green – 2,500'



RCOD Proposed Shoreland



Timeline

October 7, 2025 – Oronoco Presentation to Physical Development Committee

October 31, 2025 – County Response to Oronoco Township

- Concerns: Rationale, Nonconformities, and Duplication of Effort

December 9, 2025 – County Staff meets with Oronoco Representatives

- MPCA Zumbro River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Report – Impairment of the Zumbro River due to turbidity
- Oronoco to follow up with written response to County letter

January 27, 2026 – County Receives Letter from Oronoco's Attorney

February 9, 2026 – County Legal Responds to Oronoco's Attorney

March 17, 2026 – County Board Determination

Applicable Rules

Minnesota Administrative Rules 6120.3900 allows townships to manage its own shoreland regulations, if a township can demonstrate to the County Board:

1. Township regulation is more restrictive than the County's controls;
2. Township regulation is consistent with the County's controls; and
3. Township administration and enforcement of the shoreland controls are as effective as the county's administration and enforcement.



County Staff Recommendation - Consistency

Oronoco's Proposed River Corridor District Overlay Ordinance is **INCONSISTENT** with Olmsted County's Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance.

Increase in Scope:

- Expanding the shoreland area from 300 feet (river) and 1,000 feet (lake) to 2,500 feet represents a **significant increase** in land subject to shoreland regulation.
- It goes well beyond the current Olmsted County and MN Department of Natural Resources shoreland scope. Without a clear rationale explaining why the current County and state standard is not sufficient to protect the public waters located in Oronoco Township, the change in scope is inconsistent with Olmsted County's shoreland regulation and raises questions about its necessity and appropriateness.
- On October 7, 2025, Oronoco Township indicated that adoption of the River Corridor District would result in 426 new parcels becoming subject to shoreland regulation. This represents more than double the number of parcels currently regulated as shoreland. These newly included parcels would be subject to more restrictive requirements, including additional prohibited and conditional land uses, reduced development density through larger minimum lot sizes, and more stringent site planning and permitting requirements.

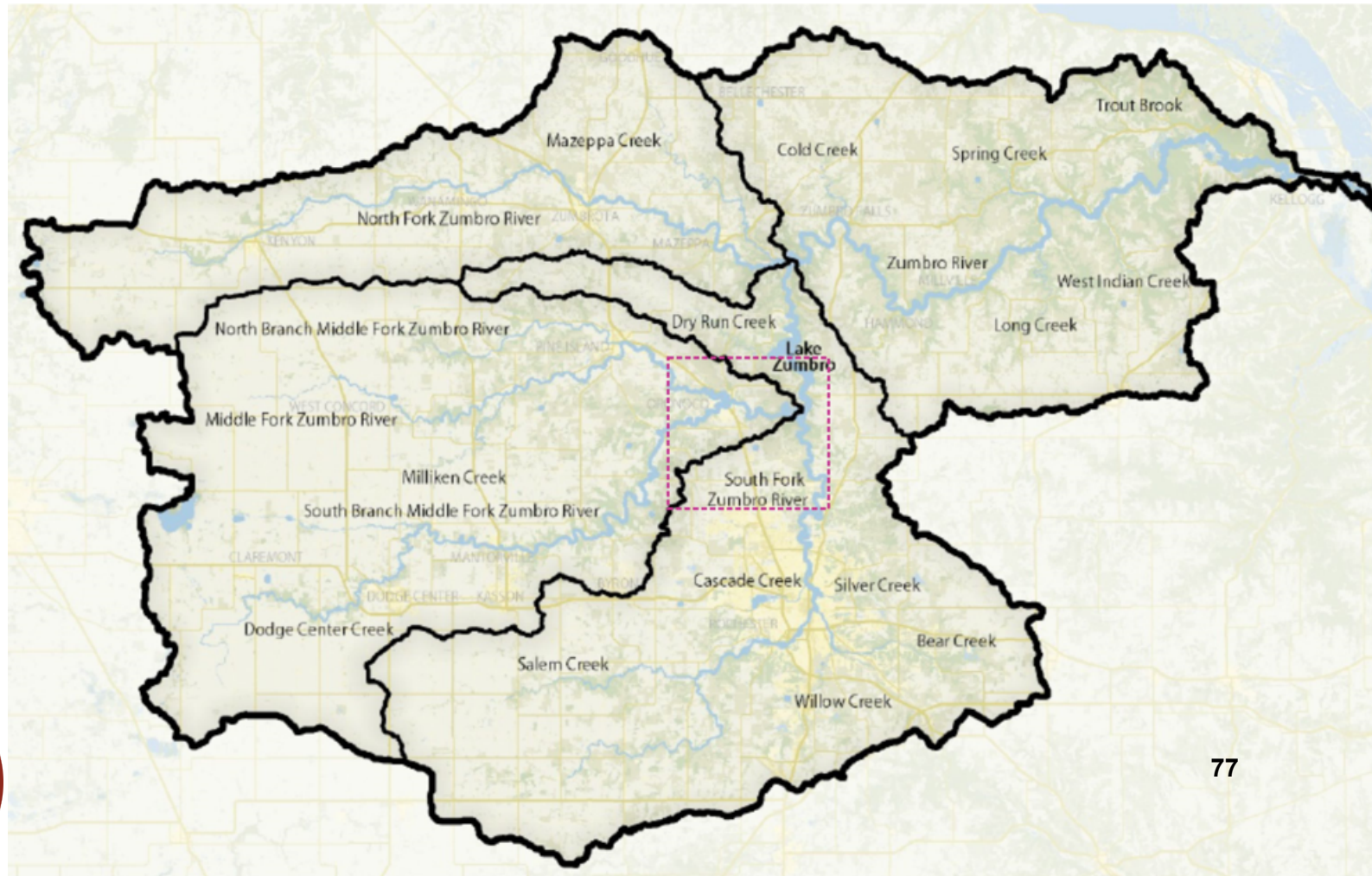
County Staff Recommendation – Effective Administration & Enforcement

There are doubts about Oronoco Township's ability to effectively administer and enforce the proposed RCOD.

- The RCOD requirements create a substantial administrative burden across thousands of acres of newly regulated shoreland.
- An August 2025 letter from the TCPA Zoning Administrator claims there is capacity for TCPA to administer and enforce the RCOD. However, during the same timeframe TCPA requested \$350,000 from Olmsted County due to difficulties providing township planning and permitting services without subsidies.
- The TCPA Zoning Administrator who authored the letter is no longer employed by TCPA.



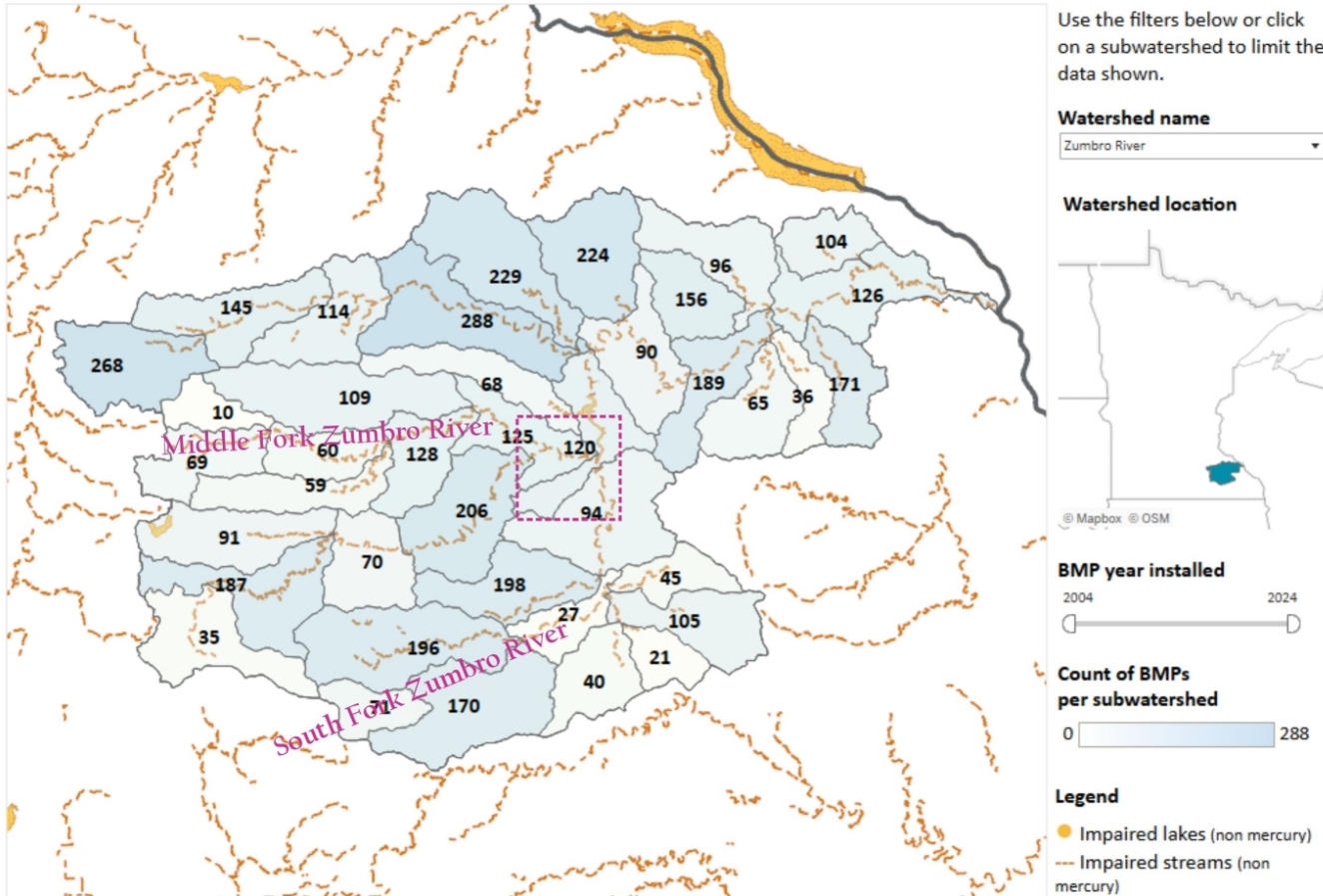
Zumbro River Watershed Lobes, Major Cities and River Reaches



Watershed Alliance of the Greater Zumbro (WAGZ) – Reported Best Practices

Number of BMPs

This map shows the number of BMPs across the [watershed](#) in each subwatershed area.



Informational

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2026

COUNTY BOARD DATE:

REQUEST BY: Clara Sifuentes, Administration

STATE ITEM OF BUSINESS: The Rochester Olmsted Youth Council (ROYC) will present a report on their recent trip to Japan.

BACKGROUND: The Rochester Olmsted Youth Council (ROYC) is a collaborative effort between the City of Rochester and Olmsted County that engages youth in civic leadership and community service. In 2025, two youth from ROYC joined the Mayor of Rochester in a Sister City exchange trip to Japan. Two Youth Council members will attend the meeting to share reflections on their experience and the impact of the exchange.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Informational Only

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Presentation

2025 Sister City Trip to Akita

Rochester Olmsted Youth Council

Alexander Yovchev
Gabrielle Dogo-Esekie

Presentation Agenda

6.a



Trip Synopsis



Hiroshima



Tokyo



Akita



Takeaways



Community Impact


2025 Sister City Delegation to Akita

6.a



Trip Synopsis

Trip Progress

- 
- 08/04 Arrival in Japan, stayed in Hiroshima for the next three (3) days. Activities: Peace Memorial Ceremony, Miyajima Island Tour.
 - 08/08 Arrived in Tokyo via the Shinkansen and stayed for 3 days. Activities: Imperial Palace Garden East Tour, Shinto Shrine Tour(s).
 - 08/11 Arrived in Akita via the Shinkansen and stayed for 3 days. Activities: Akita City Government Conference, Oga Peninsula Tour.
 - 08/14 Return to the United States.

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Hiroshima

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First leg of the trip

Primary activities:

- Peace Memorial Ceremony, Miyajima Island Tour, Hiroshima Castle Tour, various other museum tours.

Youth Highlights:

- Alex: Astonished by how the city recovered post-WWII in just 80 years.
- Gabby: How the city transformed a tragic past into a monument for peace and education.





Pictures from Hiroshima

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Tokyo

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Second leg of the trip

Primary activities:

- Imperial Palace East Gardens Tour, Meiji Shrine Tour, Exploring Asakusa.

Youth Highlights:

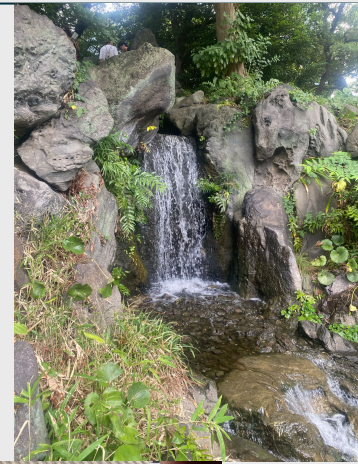
- Gabby: The contrast of Tokyo's traditional culture and the busy city streets really stood out to me
- Alex: Impressed by the diversity of business and culture making Tokyo an innovative center of the world.





Pictures from Tokyo

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Web Lawrence



Akita

6.a

Last leg of the trip

Primary activities:

- Akita City Government Meeting, Oga Peninsula Tour, Kakunodate Tour.
- We expressed formal comments to Mayor Numaya concerning how both of our city's youths benefit from this exchange and how our two cities have lots to learn from each other.





Pictures from Akita

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Youth Takeaways

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1

Hiroshima

- Provided deeper understanding of peace, resilience, and history
- Learned how Hiroshima rebuilt with strength and hope after a terrible tragedy

2

Tokyo

- Tokyo demonstrated the balance between tradition and modern life
- Observed how Japan blends its cultural heritage with its future development

3

Akita

- Akita's WHO status as an age-friendly city showed how government initiatives supporting both youth and seniors strengthen community well-being and quality of life



Community Impact

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Alex

- Became a youth representative, Rochester International Relations Committee
- Advocate for youth voices in local diplomacy and international relations discussions
- Educated local students about the importance of international cooperation

Gabby

- Shared insights from the experience with members of my community
- Helped increase cultural awareness and appreciation for international connections
- Represented the perspectives of young people in Rochester
- Encouraged other students to explore global opportunities and cultural exchange

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→ Thank you!

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Questions

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