CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION AGENDA

Monday, November 09, 2026
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Worksession meeting of the Grand Rapids City Council will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL:

BUSINESS:

1. Estimated Market Value of Property within the City of Grand Rapids - William Hilback

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT:

2. Public Utilities Commission - Julie Kennedy

REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA:

ADJOURN:

Attest: Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk

Report to the City Council
City of Grand Rapids, MN

GRAND RAPIDS
PUBLIC UTILITIES
Service is Our Nature

Julie Kennedy – General Manager
Grand Rapids Public Utilities
November 9, 2026

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Renovation Project

Project Scope

Rehabilitation and modernization of the 1987 (39-yr old) facility to address aging infrastructure, replace original equipment, and meet current MDH requirements.



Improvement Areas:

- Aeration
- Gravity Filters
- Ion Exchange Softeners
- Chemical Feeds
- Pumps and Electrical

Schedule:

Preliminary Design:	Aug 2025 to Feb 2026
Final Design:	Mar 2026 to Dec 2026
Approval & Bidding:	Jan 2027 to Jun 2027
Construction:	Jul 2027 to Dec 2028

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Renovation Project

Clean, reliable water is essential, and our system is failing now.

- Our hospital, schools, businesses and families all depend on a water system that has reached the end of its life. Repairs are only band-aids.
- The GRPU has exhausted every cost-saving option. This project cannot be phased or delayed responsibly.
- Every year we wait, inflation drives the price higher. Acting now is the fiscally responsible choice.





Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Renovation Project

GRPU & the State have done their part. We need federal partners to close the gap.

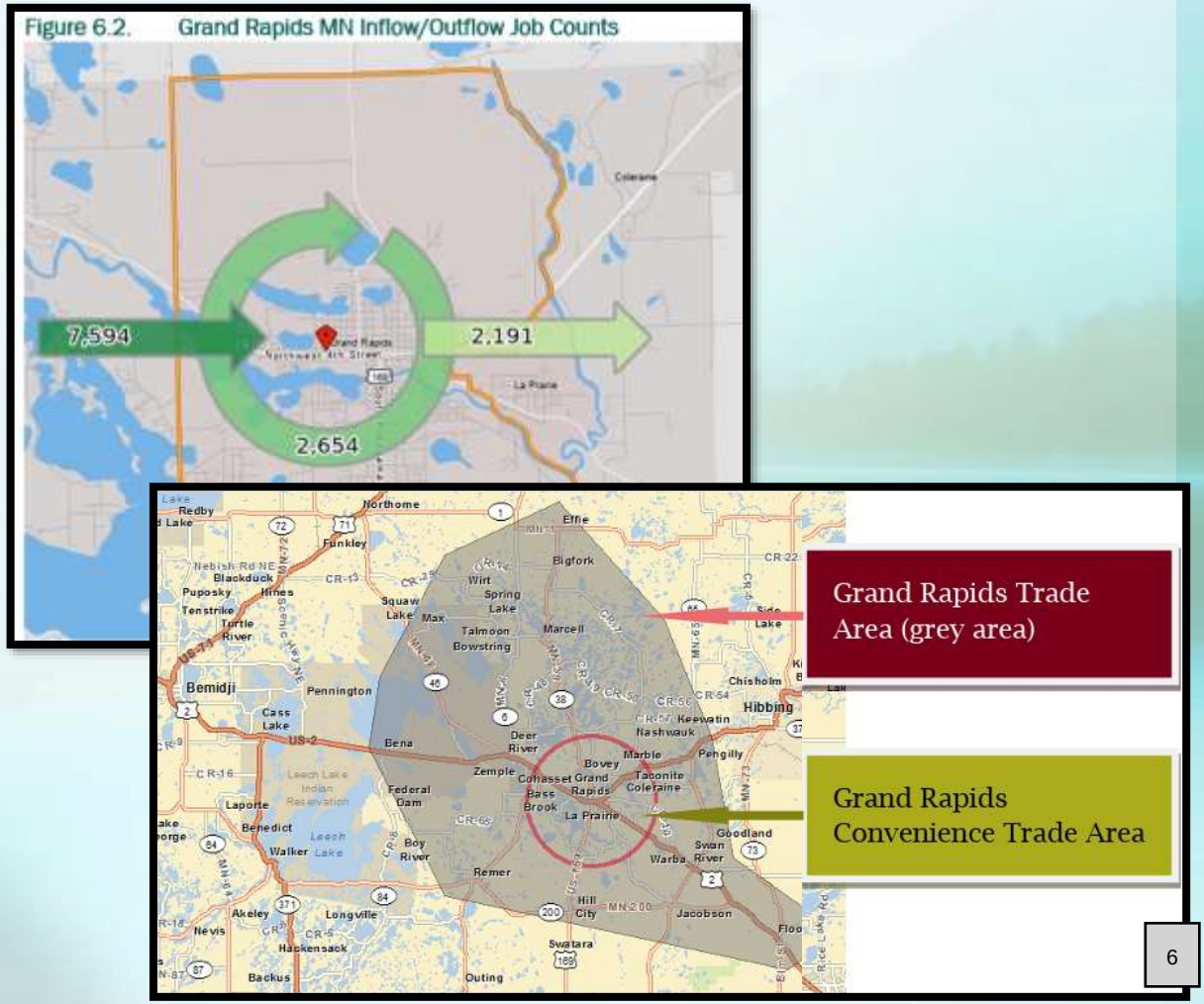
- Our GRPU ratepayers have invested $1.3M and made tough local decisions to get here.
- The State of Minnesota committed $2.5M in 2023. Federal funding for the remaining $8M protects that investment.
- No community our size can fund a project of this scale alone. Infrastructure has always been a local, state and federal partnership.

Updated Cost Estimate:	$13,800,000	
MN SPAP Grant (secured):	$2,500,000	(18%)
Federal Funding (requested):	$8,000,000	(58%)
Local GRPU Customers:	$3,300,000	(24%)

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Renovation Project

Without federal help, families, businesses and the region pay the price.

- Residents are already feeling the squeeze of rising costs. Putting the full burden on ratepayers would hurt the people we serve.
- Higher water costs hit our hospital, schools and employers, and those costs get passed on through higher prices and strained budgets.
- As northern Minnesota's economic hub, what happens in Grand Rapids affects the whole region. Federal support keeps it affordable and strong.



Credit: Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan

Comments / Questions

Grand Rapids Public Utilities

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES
Service is Our Nature

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