

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

September 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:00 p.m. on September 22, 2022.

MANAGERS PRESENT

Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Arun Hejmadi, Eugene Maxwell and Stephen Sando.

MANAGERS ABSENT

Jessica Loftus.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Helen Schnoes, Outreach Manager; Stacy Carlson, Communications Coordinator; Kayla Westerlund, Permitting Program Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE

Introduction of New Staff

Ms. Helen Schnoes introduced Ms. Stacy Carlson, the new communications coordinator. The managers welcomed Ms. Carlson to the District.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 8, 2022, Board meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
9-22-22

minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42030 through 42056 in the amount of \$449,581.09, electronic funds withdrawals of \$46,278.44, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$2,047.19, employee reimbursements of \$1,300.00, payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$153,068.42 for a total of \$652,275.142; the Surety Check Register for check numbers 2159 through 2173 in the amount of \$101,223.00; and the Wire Check Register in the amount of \$1,542,075.00 to Wells Fargo for 2018 325 Blake Road Refinance; and the following resolutions:

Resolution 22-053: Selection of Vendor and Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Audit Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator to negotiate and enter into an audit contract for fiscal years 2022-23 with Redpath and Company, at a price not to exceed the amount stated in its proposal, on advice of legal counsel; and

Resolution 22-059: Appointment of an Additional TAC Member for the Land & Water Partnership Initiative

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers appoints the following individuals to represent the City of Orono on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Land & Water Partnership Initiative:

- Melanie Curtis, Planner – primary representative*
- Laura Oakden, Community Development Director – alternate.*

Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Arden Park Project Report: Manager Sando gave a report on the Arden Park project in Edina, including project outcomes, awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and benefits to stream ecology, flood mitigation, and recreation access.

Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the meetings listed on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lamplighter Pond Water Quality Project Briefing

Ms. Kayla Westerlund appeared before the Board of Managers to review the feasibility study for the Lamplighter Pond Water Quality Project. She explained that the purpose of her presentation and Board discussion is to determine the Board's interest in advancing the project from feasibility to scheduling a public hearing and executing a cooperative agreement with the City of St. Louis Park at the October 20, 2022, Board meeting. She reviewed the project background, project constraints identified in the feasibility study, and the alternative location for the stormwater management system recommended by City staff, adjacent to the Northside Park parking lot.

Upon a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Meehan reviewed local drainage conditions and noted that the church parking lot mentioned by Manager Olson is in a landlocked area. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Westerlund confirmed that the escrowed amount of \$490,000 is intended to cover design and construction costs. Manager Maxwell asked if Stantec is assured to be the engineer used by the City. Ms. Westerlund stated this question would be up to St. Louis Park, and the City would likely use its procurement process to select the engineer. Manager Maxwell, Manager Miller, and Manager Olson expressed a strong preference for Stantec designing the project for the sake of continuity. Mr. Wisker stated that the City seems amenable to Stantec serving in this role and will ask that the City consider the Board's preferences. Manager Olson stated that he would support having Stantec's role as a condition in the cooperative agreement as necessary.

In response to a question from President White, Mr. Meehan explained the process for binding dissolved phosphorus in the proposed stormwater management facility. The managers confirmed that they were comfortable proceeding as recommended, subject to noting the preference for Stantec's role in the project design. Mr. Wisker also noted that this facility would have straightforward operation and maintenance and less risk in performance than some other projects.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Water levels have continued to decrease with moderate drought conditions, and precipitation year to date is approximately seven inches below normal. Lake Minnetonka is at 927.9, about 18 inches below the Ordinary High Water level..
2. Groundbreaking for the first phase at 325 Blake Road is scheduled for October 12 at 4:30 p.m.
3. The Citizens Advisory Committee and staff will both have meetings next week to discuss the strategic history review and draft summary of guiding principles.
4. Alex Steele has obtained some of the hybrid communications technology for three conference rooms.
5. MCWD received an Ambassador of Excellence Award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for partnership and communication with watershed constituents.
6. Brian Beck recently presented the MCWD's work on machine learning to the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.
7. Manager Olson noted that the updated web site is about 30-60 days behind schedule, but this is due to an important focus on quality, and initial system security issues no longer present the same deadline as originally set. The goal is for the new website to be shared for review in November.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary