

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

October 12, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:10 p.m. on October 12, 2023, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

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

MANAGERS ABSENT

Jessica Loftus.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Kailey Cermak, Hydrologist; Josh Wolf, Project Maintenance and Land Management Program Manager; Tiffany Schaufler, Senior Project Maintenance Coordinator; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; Jay Lindgren, development counsel; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Miller to approve the item on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 28 Meeting Minutes.

Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White noted that work continues in developing a renewed partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. A policy steering committee will meet soon, and President White nominated Managers Miller and Hejmadi to serve as the MCWD representatives, with herself as an alternate. ***It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson to approve the nominations from President White. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*** President White noted the upcoming annual conference of Minnesota Watersheds and invited managers to register.

Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a mid-term report on the development of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work plan for the MCWD.

President White noted the upcoming meeting schedule presented in the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 23-061: Acceptance of Pilot Model Project Summary Report

Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She noted that the MCWD's climate action framework calls for building a model to understand and predict the impacts of climate change. She reviewed the learnings from the pilot model, including input from the advisory team and academic review. She noted the staff recommendation to accept the summary report to memorialize the work and learnings that have shaped the MCWD's 2D climate model, conclude the pilot model's scope of work with Kimley-Horn, and acknowledge ICPR as the selected platform for the watershed-scale 2D climate model.

It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution 23-061: Acceptance of the Pilot Model Project Summary Report as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the 2D Pilot Model Build Project Summary Report to acknowledge the pilot model's completion and to memorialize the work and learnings that have shaped the District's upcoming climate model build;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board concurs in the selection of ICPR for construction of the watershed-scale 2D climate planning model.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Smith noted that addressing both actions in a single resolution is appropriate. *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

Resolution 23-062: Authorization to Contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stout to perform sediment core analysis

Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She reviewed the background of efforts to restore water quality in Wasserman Lake, which included carp management and alum treatments in May 2021 and October 2022. She explained that MCWD staff plan to collect the sediment cores of Wassermann Lake in fall of 2023 but rely on University of Wisconsin-Stout to analyze the sediment chemistry, as it has done in the past. The results from this data collection effort will be used to determine if a maintenance alum treatment is required to meet the 90% reduction goal outlined in 2021. If necessary, a final alum treatment could be applied in 2025 to ensure that nutrient load reduction goals are being met and bring a close to nutrient reduction efforts on Wassermann Lake.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 23-062: Authorization to Contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stout to perform sediment core analysis, as follows :

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stout to analyze sediments from Wassermann Lake for an amount not to exceed \$14,525.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Cermak reviewed the seven locations where three sediment cores would be extracted. *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

Resolution 23-063: Approval of 100% Design Plans for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Pond Dredging Project and Authorization to Solicit Bids

Mr. Josh Wolf and Ms. Tiffany Schaufler appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. Mr. Wolf reviewed the background on sediment surveys to determine the need for maintenance of stormwater ponds for which the MCWD has responsibility. The MCWD's data analysis indicated that Twin Lakes Park Pond and Nokomis-Amelia Pond are estimated to have reached the 50% wet volume threshold for maintenance. Stantec's engineering and final design plans are complete, and the maintenance project is now ready to be bid.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell to adopt Resolution 23-063: Approval of 100% Design Plans for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Pond Dredging Project and Authorization to Solicit Bids as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers approves the final design plans for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Pond Maintenance and authorizes the District Administrator to solicit bids for construction maintenance of Twin Lakes Park pond and Nokomis-Amelia pond.

In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Schaufler explained that all of the sediment in the Nokomis-Amelia Pond comes from local sources. She reviewed the local watershed area for Lake Nokomis and the two other stormwater ponds treating stormwater runoff entering the lake. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Wolf reviewed the winter excavation and sediment hauling plans; the spoils will be transported to a landfill due to contamination levels. ***There being no further questions, upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.***

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment Update

Mr. Michael Hayman and development legal counsel Mr. Jay Lindgren appeared before the Board of Managers. Mr. Hayman noted that Alatus has exercised two 90-day extensions to the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Alatus acquisition and redevelopment of 325 Blake Road. Staff have had discussions with Alatus about a request for further extension, which would involve amending the terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement. Upon recommendation of Mr. Smith, ***it was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Miller that the Board of Managers move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the terms of sale of 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*** Whereupon the Board of Managers went into closed session.

The Board of Managers returned to open session.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Mr. Wisker reported that annual precipitation year to date is 4.3 inches below normal. The Gray's Bay Dam has been closed since July. Lake Minnetonka is at 927.9 feet, 7.5 inches below the runout elevation of 928.6 feet. Minnehaha Creek is flowing 10 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha.
2. President White, Manager Olson, and Mr. Wisker will provide a briefing to the Carver County Board of Commissioners on October 17 concerning MCWD activities and plans.
3. Staff have continued productive meetings with the staff of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. A consensus is emerging on a partnership governance structure, initial pilot projects, and a planning process for longer term projects. Staff anticipate a Steering Committee meeting in late November to review a cooperative agreement.
4. Outreach meetings are planned with Hennepin County Commissioners Anderson, Conley, Lunde and Goettel in the coming weeks.
5. Both President White and Manager Sando are nearing the end of their current terms and are aware of the process to apply for reappointment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary