

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

**November 9, 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 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2023, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

**MANAGERS PRESENT**

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

**MANAGERS ABSENT**

None.

**DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

James Wisker, Administrator; Kate Moran, Policy Planning Coordinator; Brian Beck, Research & Monitoring Program Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Wisker requested that the minutes of October 26, 2023 be pulled from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Sando to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the following resolutions:*

*Resolution 23-067: Approval of the 2024 Board Committee and Board Meeting Calendar*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the following 2024 meeting schedule. Unless otherwise posted Committee Meetings will start at 5:15 PM, and Board meetings will start at 7:00 PM. Executive Committee meetings are scheduled as needed and will be held prior to Board meeting:***

1/11/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	7/11/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
1/25/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	7/25/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting
2/8/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	8/8/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
2/22/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	8/22/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting
3/14/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	9/12/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
3/28/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	9/26/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting
4/11/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	10/10/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
4/25/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	10/24/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting
5/9/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	11/7/2024*	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
5/23/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	11/21/2024*	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting
6/13/2024	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting	12/5/2024*	Operations & Programs Committee Meeting Board Meeting
6/27/2024	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting	12/19/2024*	Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Board Meeting

\*meetings scheduled for first and third Thursdays rather than second and fourth

***Resolution 23-068: Authorization to Release Request for Quotes for Water Quality Lab Analysis***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator to solicit quotes for water quality lab analysis for 2024 and 2025.***

***Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.***

## **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

President's Report: President White noted that she and Mr. Wisker had productive meetings recently with Hennepin County Commissioners Anderson and Lunde.

Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received introductions to new staff members Maia Irvin, Communications Coordinator, and Tessa Vacek, Administrative Services Manager. The Committee also received a staff presentation from Ms. Maul on proposed appointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference: President White noted that Managers White, Olson and Sando had registered to attend the annual conference. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Loftus to appoint Managers Olson and Sando as delegates, and President White as alternate. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Resolution 23-069: Approval of DEI Framework and 2024 Workplan

Ms. Kate Moran appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She noted that the Operations and Programs Committee discussed the DEI Framework and work plan in detail at its July 27 meeting. She reviewed the background and purpose of the work, and the internal discovery process to develop the framework and workplan.

*It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution 23-069: Approval of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework and 2024 Workplan as follows:*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the DEI Framework and directs the District Administrator and staff to take steps necessary to implement the strategy outlined in the DEI Framework and workplan of near-term actions.***

*Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

Resolution 23-070: Authorization to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Carp Management as a Watershed Management Strategy in Partnership with the MPCA and DNR

Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He explained that this collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grew out of MCWD's experience with carp management for the Six Mile Creek Halsted's Bay habitat restoration project. These discussions have highlighted the need to better understand the impact of carp management on vegetation conditions and water quality, given that no comprehensive assessment has been conducted on the numerous carp management projects that have been implemented throughout the state of Minnesota in the past 10 years. District, DNR, and MPCA staff have discussed each agency's interest in evaluating MCWD's carp management data set, along with other statewide data, to continue to refine their understanding of these issues.

***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell to adopt Resolution 23-070: Authorization to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Carp Management as a Watershed Management Strategy in Partnership with the MPCA and DNR as follows :***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the Administrator to execute the Memorandum of Understanding among MCWD, DNR, and MPCA.***

In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Beck stated that he expected this initial phase of collaboration would take about one year. Manager Sando asked about the nature of MCWD's financial commitment, and Mr. Beck explained the \$75,000 commitment from MCWD was originally budgeted for MCWD's internal evaluation purposes but would now have potential statewide application. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Beck traced the DNR and MPCA interest in these issues. Manager Loftus asked Mr. Smith about the legal nature of the Memorandum of Understanding, and he contrasted the MOU with the binding promises expressed in a cooperative agreement. Manager Hejmadi asked if the two state agencies have committed expertise and enthusiasm to this undertaking to match the commitment from MCWD. Mr. Beck reviewed the interest and participation to date. ***Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.***

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None.

#### **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 about two inches below normal. The Gray's Bay Dam has been closed since July. Lake Minnetonka is at 928.6 feet, the runout elevation. Minnehaha Creek is flowing at 20 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha.
2. As noted by President White, recent meetings with Hennepin County Commissioners Anderson and Lunde were cordial and productive. President White, Manager Hejmadi and Mr. Wisker have a meeting scheduled next Monday with Commissioner Conley.
3. With assistance from Manager Olson, staff have held productive conversations with Lennar about planned development in west Victoria. The conversations indicate a potential collaboration to enhance greenway connections and integrating natural resource protection with development plans.
4. This week marks the 15th anniversary of Becky Christopher's service to the MCWD. Her service with permitting, rules revision, planning, and the shift for the capital improvement program to include the Land and Water Partnership program reflect major contributions to the work of the District. Her work with the budget, compensation plan, Climate Action Framework and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework are also major contributions. The managers thanked Ms. Christopher for her 15 years of service.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary