

1
2
3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF**
4 **THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
5 **BOARD OF MANAGERS**
6

7 **June 22, 2017**
8
9

10 **CALL TO ORDER**

11
12 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called
13 to order by Vice President Brian Shekleton at 6:50 p.m. on June 22, 2017 at the District offices,
14 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.
15

16 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

17
18 Brian Shekleton, Richard Miller, William Becker, Jessica Loftus.
19

20 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

21
22 Sherry White, William Olson, Kurt Rogness.
23

24 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

25
26 Lars Erdahl, Administrator; James Wisker, Planning and Projects Director; Becky Christopher,
27 Lead Planner-Project Manager; Chuck Holtman, Counsel.
28

29 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

30
31 None.
32

33 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

34
35 *Manager Becker moved, Manager Miller seconded approval of the agenda. Upon vote, the*
36 *motion carried 4-0.*
37

38 **CONSENT AGENDA**

39
40 *Manager Loftus moved, Manager Becker seconded approval of the consent agenda, consisting*
41 *of the June 8, 2017 board minutes; the general checking account, consisting of checks 38275*
42 *through 38357 in the amount of \$458,688.72; payroll direct deposits in the amount of*
43 *\$151,428.25; and electronic fund withdrawals in the amount of \$1,014,452.65; the surety*
44 *account, and the 325 Blake Road checking account. Upon vote, the motion carried 4-0.*
45
46

47 **REGULAR AGENDA**

48

49 **Board, Committee and Task Force Reports**

50

51 Vice President Shekleton deferred the President's Report in light of President White's absence.

52

53 Manager Miller reported that the Policy and Planning Committee met just prior to the Board
54 meeting and discussed the human resources strategic plan and upcoming budgeting, with both
55 discussions to be continued.

56

57 Manager Shekleton reviewed the upcoming meeting and event schedule as stated on the agenda.

58

59 **Resolution 17-043: Authorization to Distribute Comprehensive Plan for Review and Comment**

60

61 Ms. Christopher briefly reviewed the history of plan development and discussions with the
62 Policy and Planning Committee. She noted that staff has collected a set of further revisions and
63 refinements to the draft plan to which the agenda is linked, and will incorporate those before
64 releasing the draft for public review.

65

66 Ms. Christopher reviewed the plan and reiterated the focus on the Balanced Urban Ecology
67 approach of partnership, focus and flexibility. She reviewed the internal and external processes
68 for developing the plan. She noted new sections since previous board review, including sections
69 3.5, 3.7 and 3.9. Section 3.5 is the discussion of district programs, which is consistent with the
70 strategic plan and Minnesota Rules 8410. Section 3.7 concerns means of evaluation and contains
71 measurable goals and metrics. Section 3.9 constitutes the subwatershed plans, which lay out for
72 each subwatershed the resource issues, drivers and strategies; land use conditions;
73 implementation priorities and a capital improvement program. Ms. Christopher noted the
74 emphasis on the three identified focal geographies of Minnehaha Creek, Six Mile Creek/Halsted
75 Bay and Painter Creek. Implementation priorities include capital projects as well as the range of
76 other services that the District offers. Finally, an appendix is drafted describing the public
77 process in developing the plan.

78

79 Ms. Christopher also referenced the new Section 3.10, which is the implementation table. She
80 noted that annual program budgets are proposed consistent with recent-year budgets. The capital
81 improvement program also is similar in annual outlays. Of the \$76 million in total capital
82 spending indicated for the 10-year period, \$21 million is suggested for Minnehaha Creek, \$36
83 million for Six Mile Creek/Halsted Bay, \$9 million for Painter Creek and \$9 million for the
84 remaining subwatersheds. She noted that the plan communicates that these estimates don't
85 constitute a "real" budget but reflect the range of potential District projects.

86

87 Manager Miller asked how this would be clearly expressed to avoid incorrect expectations. Ms.
88 Christopher replied that the District will follow past examples. She noted also that the numbers
89 represent a total capital project budget, not just District funds from levy.

90

91 Manager Shekleton remarked that he receives calls from public officials and others asking that
92 the District proceed with projects listed in its plan, suggesting that a project's listing creates the
93 expectation that it will be implemented. Mr. Wisker replied that staff has discussed this tension
94 and will address the text, but he noted as well that the numbers are not deeply unrealistic. He
95 added that the plan also talks about the District's approach to leveraging other funds and about
96 the project development and budgeting processes and how the real numbers do get set.

97
98 Finally, Ms. Christopher reviewed the plans for distributing the draft plan. The District will
99 distribute by cover letter and CD to cities, counties and other public agencies; will email a
100 broader set of stakeholders with a link to the draft plan; and will link the plan from the District
101 website. Subsequently, there will be meetings with the advisory committees and public officials,
102 presentations to city councils as requested, and a public hearing presently scheduled for October.

103
104 Managers Miller and Shekleton complimented staff for a very strong effort and work product.

105
106 ***Manager Miller moved, Manager Becker seconded adoption of Resolution 17-043 as follows:***

107
108 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
109 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to distribute the Draft***
110 ***2017 MCWD Comprehensive Plan for 60-day review and comment, following***
111 ***the incorporation of final edits.***

112
113 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 4-0.***

114
115 **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

116
117 Mr. Erdahl reported that on June 17, Methodist Hospital in coordination with the District held a
118 butterfly release for cancer survivors and boardwalk tours. He noted that the upcoming Lake
119 Minnetonka shoreline tour is sold out. The District has released a call for Watershed Hero
120 nominations for the 50th Anniversary event and managers are invited to forward nominees.

121
122 Mr. Erdahl reported good press on the shoreline tours and District projects. This week, the
123 planning staff met with the Mayor of Victoria and the Wasserman Lake Association regarding
124 ongoing work there. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is concluding public
125 engagement regarding the Hiawatha Golf Course for a decision intended in July. Work continues
126 on the Minnehaha Creek Preserve trailhead.

127
128 Mr. Erdahl reported that Managers White and Miller, along with Mr. Wisker and Renae Clark,
129 attended a public meeting in the City of Edina regarding the Arden Park project, with further
130 public meetings to follow and City Council consideration probably in July. Manager Miller
131 interjected to state that he was very pleased with staff's involvement at the meeting to keep the
132 discussion informative and positive. He also complimented the Interfluve representative for his
133 factual and authoritative presentation.

134

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
6-22-2017

135 Mr. Erdahl concluded by noting that the request for qualifications for Federal Emergency
136 Management Agency repairs has been completed, with two or three interviews involving the
137 MPRB soon to occur and the matter to come to the Board at the end of July.

138

139 **ADJOURNMENT**

140

141 There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
142 Board of Managers was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

143

144 Respectfully submitted,

145

146

147 Kurt Rogness, Secretary

DRAFT