

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

4  
5                                   **October 12, 2023**

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7                                   **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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13                                   **MANAGERS PRESENT**

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

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18                                   **MANAGERS ABSENT**

19                                   Jessica Loftus.

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22                                   **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

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

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30                                   **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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35                                   **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

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37                                   None.

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39                                   **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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44                                   *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*  
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47 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

48  
49 President's Report: President White noted that work continues in developing a renewed  
50 partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation  
51 Board. A policy steering committee will meet soon, and President White nominated  
52 Managers Miller and Hejmadi to serve as the MCWD representatives, with herself as an  
53 alternate. ***It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson to approve***  
54 ***the nominations from President White. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*** President  
55 White noted the upcoming annual conference of Minnesota Watersheds and invited  
56 managers to register.

57  
58 Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that the  
59 Committee met earlier in the evening and received a mid-term report on the development  
60 of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work plan for the MCWD.

61  
62 President White noted the upcoming meeting schedule presented in the agenda.

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64 **ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

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77 ***It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution***  
78 ***23-061: Acceptance of the Pilot Model Project Summary Report as follows:***

79  
80 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
81 ***Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the 2D Pilot Model Build***  
82 ***Project Summary Report to acknowledge the pilot model's completion and to***  
83 ***memorialize the work and learnings that have shaped the District's upcoming***  
84 ***climate model build;***

85  
86 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board concurs in the selection of***  
87 ***ICPR for construction of the watershed-scale 2D climate planning model.***  
88

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

91  
92 Resolution 23-062: Authorization to Contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stout to  
93 perform sediment core analysis

94  
95 Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for  
96 board action. She reviewed the background of efforts to restore water quality in  
97 Wasserman Lake, which included carp management and alum treatments in May 2021  
98 and October 2022. She explained that MCWD staff plan to collect the sediment cores of  
99 Wassermann Lake in fall of 2023 but rely on University of Wisconsin-Stout to analyze  
100 the sediment chemistry, as it has done in the past. The results from this data collection  
101 effort will be used to determine if a maintenance alum treatment is required to meet the  
102 90% reduction goal outlined in 2021. If necessary, a final alum treatment could be  
103 applied in 2025 to ensure that nutrient load reduction goals are being met and bring a  
104 close to nutrient reduction efforts on Wassermann Lake.

105  
106 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 23-*  
107 *062: Authorization to Contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stout to perform*  
108 *sediment core analysis, as follows :*

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110 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
111 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on***  
112 ***advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with the University of Wisconsin-***  
113 ***Stout to analyze sediments from Wassermann Lake for an amount not to exceed***  
114 ***\$14,525.***

115  
116 In response to a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Cermak reviewed the seven locations  
117 where three sediment cores would be extracted. *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

118  
119 Resolution 23-063: Approval of 100% Design Plans for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Pond  
120 Dredging Project and Authorization to Solicit Bids

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

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130 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell to adopt Resolution***  
131 ***23-063: Approval of 100% Design Plans for the 2023-2024 Stormwater Pond Dredging***  
132 ***Project and Authorization to Solicit Bids as follows:***

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134 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
135 ***Watershed District Board of Managers approves the final design plans for the***  
136 ***2023-2024 Stormwater Pond Maintenance and authorizes the District***  
137 ***Administrator to solicit bids for construction maintenance of Twin Lakes Park***  
138 ***pond and Nokomis-Amelia pond.***

139  
140 In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Schaufler explained that all of the  
141 sediment in the Nokomis-Amelia Pond comes from local sources. She reviewed the local  
142 watershed area for Lake Nokomis and the two other stormwater ponds treating  
143 stormwater runoff entering the lake. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr.  
144 Wolf reviewed the winter excavation and sediment hauling plans; the spoils will be  
145 transported to a landfill due to contamination levels. ***There being no further questions,***  
146 ***upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.***

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149 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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151 **325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment Update**

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

163  
164 The Board of Managers returned to open session.

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166 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

167  
168 None.

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170 **STAFF UPDATES**

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172 **Administrator's Report**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District  
Board of Managers  
10/12/23

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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