

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

February 22, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:17 pm on February 22, 2024, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

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

MANAGERS ABSENT

Richard Miller and Jessica Loftus.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Brian Beck, Research & Monitoring Program Manager; Josh Wolf, Project Maintenance and Land Management Program Manager; Tiffany Schaufler, Senior Project Maintenance Coordinator; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Sando to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the January 25, 2024 Board meeting minutes; approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42502 through 42516 in the amount of \$113,907.21, electronic funds withdrawals of \$36,645.12, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$2,986.68, employee reimbursements of \$0, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$170,752.10, for a total of \$324,291.11; the Surety Check Register including payment of \$27.00 in fees to Bremer Bank; \$5,000.00 to Gateway Knollwood, LLC for permit

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
2-22-24

18-318, and payment of \$11,300 to Willow Bay Sanctuary for permit 19-144; No Wire Transfers; and the following resolution:

Resolution 24-011: Authorization to Accept or Waive the Tort Liability Limits on the MCWD Property & Casualty Insurance Policy

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the statutory tort liability limits as set forth in Minnesota Statute § 466.04 and authorizes the District Administrator to advise the LMCIT accordingly.

Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Board, Committee and Task Force Reports

President's Report: President White reported that she attended a recent meeting with liaisons for the 325 Blake Road project, the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and a meeting of state and local officials and Monarch Development concerning a potential project in and near Lost Lake in the City of Mound.

Policy and Planning Committee Report: Manager Maxwell reported that Committee met earlier in the evening and met the new Permitting Assistant Veronica Sannes; reviewed the comments on the proposed rule revisions; and heard an initial presentation on the MCWD's strategic action plan.

Manager Maxwell noted that he also recently attended two meetings of the Hopkins City Council concerning the 325 Blake Road project.

President White directed the Board's attention to the upcoming meeting schedule.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 24-012: Awarding Contract for 2D Watershed Model for Climate Planning

Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He reviewed the context for the 2D model in the MCWD's Climate Action Framework, past work to date, the proposed scope for the next phase of work, the process to review proposals, and the recommendation to award the contract to HDR.

It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 24-012: Awarding Contract for 2D Watershed Model for Climate Planning 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 HDR for consultant services for Watershed-wide 2D Model Development, in accordance with the developed scope of work as the Administrator may refine it, and in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the proposal, and authorizes the Administrator to execute contract amendments in his discretion up to an additional 10 percent, in aggregate, of the contract amount.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Beck noted that the MCWD will own the model and will develop a sharing agreement with those interested in using the model. Manager Hejmadi noted that Manager Miller had served with him as liaisons for this project and that he joined in offering several comments on the proposals. They felt that HDR offered a strong project manager, experience with modeling large watersheds, and appreciated that HDR planned to utilize a “red team” or internal review process. Overall, Manager Miller and Manager Hejmadi feel this is landmark work for the MCWD and agree with the staff recommendation to select HDR for the 2D model development.

Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 24-013: Approval of 90% Design Plans for the Cottageville Park Iron-Sand Filter Maintenance and Retrofit

Mr. Josh Wolf appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He reviewed the background of the construction of Cottageville Park and the iron-sand filter stormwater treatment system. He reviewed the ownership and maintenance agreement with the City of Hopkins. Mr. Wolf noted that monitoring of the system indicated that it has not been performing properly, resulting in the development of a retrofit design.

It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution 24-013: Approval of 90% Design Plans for the Cottageville Park Iron-Sand Filter Maintenance and Retrofit as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers approves the 90% design plans for the 2024 Cottageville Park Iron-Sand Filter Maintenance and Retrofit project, authorizes the District administrator to approve additional design changes, consistent with the 90% plans, as needed to complete 100% design documents, and approves the draft letter and disturbance/restoration terms for signature of the administrator and countersignature by City of Hopkins.

Manager Sando asked if the park would be closed during construction, and Mr. Wolf stated that at least the circle area where the stormwater treatment system is located would

be closed. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Meehan confirmed the engineer's approval of the retrofit and maintenance design. President White noted that the cost of this work would be born by the City pursuant to the cooperative agreement.

There being no further discussion, upon vote the motion carried 5-0.

Board Discussion Items

None.

Board Inquiries, Issues and Ideas

None.

Staff Updates

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. The MCWD participated in a meeting with the City of Mound, Department of Natural Resources, Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, Monarch Development, and other parties to discuss Monarch's interest in dredging Lost Lake in connection with a proposed development project. Monarch expressed interest in working with the City to optimize docking in the open area, and the discussion noted concerns with natural resource impacts from dredging. It was helpful to have all of the agencies and parties meeting together, and there will be further discussion in the future;
2. Staff are continuing to work with legal counsel and JTS to address necessary corrections to the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk. JTS is expected to finalize engineering and a testing plan on one of the corrective measures, and then the correction plan will be submitted to the City of St. Louis Park;
3. Laketown Township has requested a letter of support for a sewer project;
4. MCWD presented last night to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board on the cooperative partnership with MPRB and the City of Minneapolis; the MPRB gave a warm reception to the presentation; the cooperative agreement is anticipated to be approved by MPRB on March 28;
5. MCWD staff will present to the Orono City Council on March 11 on the Long Lake Roadmap and seek a council resolution of support.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
2-22-24

Tiffany Schaufler Farewell

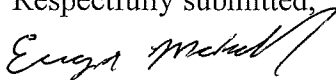
Tiffany Schaufler appeared before the Board of Managers and noted that this is her last MCWD Board meeting before she leaves employment with the District. She noted that in her thirteen years with the MCWD, she has grown in her management skills to protect and manage iconic natural resources in this District. She noted some of the projects she was proud to work on, including the Six Mile Marsh Prairie restoration, response to the record 2014 flood, Gray's Bay Dam operations and flood forecasting, Minnehaha Creek Master Plan, Lake Nokomis area high water evaluation, service on the staff leadership team, and leading in caring for the MCWD culture. She expressed her appreciation to each manager, Mr. Wisker, and other members of the MCWD staff.

Mr. Wisker expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude for Ms. Schaufler's service and her impressive accomplishments with the District. He stated that the MCWD was in a much better place due to her presence. The managers expressed their appreciation for Ms. Schaufler's service and wished her the best in her next adventures.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary