

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

March 28, 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 7:00 p.m. on March 28, 2024, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

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

MANAGER ABSENT

Jessica Loftus.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Kailey Cermak, Planner – Project Manager; Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning; 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 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

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 March 14, 2024, Board meeting minutes; approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42517 through 42537 in the amount of \$136,593.04, electronic funds withdrawals of \$44,392.95, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$844.87, employee reimbursements of \$1,703.82, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$ 197,143.79, for a total of \$380,678.47; the Surety Check Register including payment of \$27.00 in fees to Bremer Bank; \$7,275.00 to Minnesota

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
3/28/24

Department of Commerce Unclaimed Property for release of sureties pursuant to Resolution 23-080; No Wire Transfers; and approval of the following resolutions:

Resolution 24-016: Authorizing Electronic Fund Transfers for All District Vendor Payments:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes District staff to eliminate the creation and distribution of paper check payments to current, and any new or future vendors, and to the extent possible move to electronic fund transfers; and

Resolution 24-017: Authorize Execution of an Easement for Hennepin County CR26 Bridge Replacement:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District administrator, with non-substantive changes and on advice of counsel, to execute the proposed temporary and permanent easement for the Hennepin County CR26 Bridge Replacement.

Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White noted that she and Mr. Wisker had a productive meeting recently with Minnesota House Majority Leader Jamie Long and Representative Emma Greenman.

Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that he attended the March 20 CAC meeting which focused on discussion of the draft Strategic Action Plan.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS

County Road 6 Pond Retrofit Public Hearing

President White opened the public hearing.

Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to provide background information on the proposed County Road 6 Pond Retrofit Project. She reviewed the history and background for the project, noting that this pond handles 70% of the Long Lake drainage area and is underperforming, as phosphorus is still leaving the pond in

significant amounts. She reviewed the feasibility study and alternative concepts for improving the pond's performance and noted that the gravity sand filter bench with an expanded earthen berm between the pond cells was recommended as the best option and could remove between 52 -73 pounds of phosphorus per year. Ms. Cermak noted that the City of Orono adopted a resolution of support for the project on March 11.

Ms. Cermak noted that a few comments had been received from the public, in the form of questions from neighboring property owners about the process for the project and expressing an interest in attending a meeting about the project design in the future. Also, the property owner of the project site, Mr. John Newell, has expressed concern about whether the configuration of the filter bench will limit access to the weir, which will be addressed in project design. In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Cermak reviewed the filter bench location and the flow of water through the pond.

President White invited comments from the public. No one appeared to offer comments. President White closed the public hearing. The managers thanked Ms. Cermak for her presentation.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 24-018: Ordering the County Road 6 Retrofit Project and Authorizing Request for Proposals for Design and Engineering Services

Ms. Cermak reviewed the scope of the request for proposals, the budget, and project timetable.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution 24-018: Ordering the County Road 6 Retrofit Project and Authorizing Request for Proposals for Design and Engineering Services as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §103B.251 and the WMP, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers orders the County Road 6 Pond Retrofit Project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to release a request for proposals for engineering design services.

In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Cermak reviewed the general plans for the Holbrook Pond project and other improvements in the Long Lake to Tanager Bay management unit area. Mr. Wisker noted further that these projects are included in the Long Lake Roadmap as potential projects with estimated costs. Manager Maxwell inquired about the process for raking the filter sand and Ms. Cermak noted that the

precise method will be determined through design. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Chris Meehan compared a notched weir to a V weir and the purposes of these designs in relation to management responses to various storm events. Manager Olson asked about maintenance and how the filter media may be changed to address dissolved phosphorus, and Ms. Cermak noted that the filter media will be changed in ten-year cycles, and that berm will help to filter more sediment in the first cell of the pond. In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to review plans for disposal of the filter sand, noting that it would likely not be contaminated and useful for building projects. Manager Maxwell asked about keeping the city and residents informed about the progress of the project, and Ms. Cermak noted plans to do so, including a meeting to review project design. In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Ms. Cermak affirmed plans to monitor the effectiveness of the project once constructed.

There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. With Manager Olson, Mr. Wisker recently presented an overview of the MCWD vision, mission and strategies to the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District; they also covered the MCWD's approach to Lake Minnetonka and upstream projects in the Long Lake, Six Mile Creek and Painters Creek subwatersheds, as well as the Climate Action Strategy and carp management work;
2. As noted by President White, Mr. Wisker provided a briefing to House Majority Leader Jamie Long and Representative Emma Greenman on the MCWD's watershed approach, work in the Minnehaha Greenway, and planned projects in Minneapolis; the legislators invited future funding requests as needed;

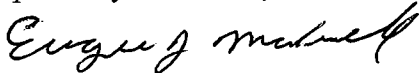
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
3/28/24

3. Susan Du wrote a lengthy article in the Star Tribune about the MCWD partnership with the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to improve Minnehaha Creek; and
4. Work continues to address repairs for the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk; all eleven categories of defective work now have remedial plans and staff is ready with the contractor to present these plans to the City of St. Louis Park; a pre-submission meeting is scheduled with City staff, and the hope is for the City's approval to come by mid-May; from there remedial work can begin.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary