

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

August 8, 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 August 8, 2024, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

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

MANAGERS ABSENT

Arun Hejmadi.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning; Deb Johnson, Office Manager; Rena Weis, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0 (Manager Hejmadi absent).

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Manager Miller noted the quarterly financial report and asked if Manager Loftus as Treasurer had any comments. Manager Loftus said that she appreciated the detailed explanations in the report, that the District is overall operating on budget, and that she appreciated the good work of Ms. Johnson in preparing the report.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
8/8/24

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the July 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes, and the following resolution:

Resolution 24-043: Authorization to Contract with Bartlett Tree Experts for Cottageville Park Oak Care

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to execute a contract with Bartlett Tree Experts, on advice of District Counsel, to provide tree care services in an amount not to exceed \$9,269.

Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White reported that she recently attended a Hopkins liaisons meeting to discuss the status of 325 Blake Road with Hopkins leaders. The next liaisons meeting will be a workshop session with Alatus.

Operations and Programs Committee: Manager Loftus reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a briefing on Carver County transportation projects planned in the District. She noted that Abigail Couture, the new permitting assistant at the District, was introduced at the committee meeting.

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

PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution number: 24-044: Adoption of the 2025 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He noted that the MCWD's capital improvement plan (CIP) is distributed annually for review and comment prior to budget adoption. He stated that distribution of the 2025 CIP also highlights MCWD's Multi-Year CIP initiative, which seeks to improve clarity around near-term project initiatives and the time, staff allocation, and resources needed to execute project workplans; to create a framework to better forecast the capital budget and fundraising needs over multiple years; and to improve the effectiveness of the CIP as an external communications tool. The MCWD also distributed the proposed minor plan amendment for the Calvary Church Project in Deephaven along with the 2025 CIP.

Mr. Hayman noted that the MCWD received a comment from the City of Edina which was procedural in nature, noting a desire to continue collaboration on anticipated projects in the future to support clean water and flood protection initiatives. The MCWD also received a comment from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board expressing support for renewed exploration of ecological restoration at the Meadowbrook golf course. In response to a question from Manager Miller, Mr. Hayman reviewed past attempts in 2015/16 and 2017/18 with a project at Meadowbrook and the MPRB's decision not to move forward with the projects at that time.

It was moved by Manager Loftus, seconded by Manager Sando, to adopt Resolution 24-044: Adoption of the 2025 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement Plan as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the attached 2025 CIP.

There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion to adopt Resolution 24-044 carried, 6-0.

Resolution 24-047: Adoption of the 2024 Strategic Action Plan

Mr. Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the purpose of the Strategic Action Plan, the process of plan development, and a summary of the five focus areas of the plan.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 24-047: Adoption of the 2024 Strategic Action Plan as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the 2024 Strategic Action

Plan, and directs the District Administrator to implement and routinely report on progress.

Manager Miller stated that he was proud to be associated with this plan and its clear, profound expression of the MCWD's purpose and focus. Manager Olson said that he noted the way in which this recent draft of the plan reflected the detailed input from earlier discussions. President White stated that she could see many fingerprints in the plan reflecting this input. Manager Loftus said that she appreciated the succinct presentation of the plan and found it clear and accessible.

There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 24-047 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. Rain continues above normal averages. Precipitation is 28.26 inches year to date, which is 8.5 inches above normal and 1.4 inches shy of the wettest year of record. Over the past two weeks, the Gray's Bay Dam has been discharging at 100 cubic feet per second. Monitoring has detected local flash bouncing along the Creek with precipitation events. Lake Minnetonka is at elevation 929.6, having receded with evaporation. Minnehaha Creek is flowing at 268 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha. MCWD will be sending a water levels update in the next day or so.
2. Staff has been working actively with JTS and the City of St. Louis Park on the plans to repair the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk. A meeting is planned with the City to review the repair plan, and both MCWD (with SRF) and St. Louis Park will have staff on site during the entire repair process.
3. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board continues to discuss the future of the Hiawatha golf course, and staff will follow up to learn further details.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
8/8/24

4. MCWD staff anticipate bringing a dredging permit application to the Board of Managers at a September meeting. The application proposes to dredge in an area known as Grandpa's Bay which has not been dredged before. The MCWD has received a comment letter from the DNR.
5. The MCWD's workshops on the 2D model are progressing well. Workshop #3 was held today and included great discussions of the goals and desired outcomes for the model.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Maxwell, Secretary

