

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

**December 2, 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 7:03 p.m. on December 2, 2024, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

**MANAGERS PRESENT**

Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Jessica Loftus, Arun Hejmadi (joined at 7:18 p.m.), Eugene Maxwell, and Steve Sando.

**MANAGERS ABSENT**

None.

**DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

James Wisker, Administrator; Tessa Vacek, Administrative Services Manager; James O'Brien, Outreach Coordinator; Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning; Gabe Sherman, Project Planning Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; Alex Sellke, Real Estate Counsel; Jay Lindgren, Public Finance Counsel; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President White noted that Item 13 Board Inquiries, Issues and Ideas, and Item 14 Staff Updates would be taken up prior to Item 12 Discussion Items. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to approve the agenda with this change. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0 (Manager Hejmadi absent for vote).*

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Loftus, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the November 21, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0 (Manager Hejmadi absent for vote).*

**BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

President’s Report: President White reported that on November 25, she attended the liaisons meeting with Hopkins and Alatus representatives, along with Managers Maxwell and Hejmadi, and later that day attended a meeting concerning the Cedar Meadows wetland.

Operations and Program Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a briefing on the results and analysis of the 2024 local and state elections.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Resolution 24-064: Appointment of 2025 Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. James O’Brien appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He noted that the Board’s Operations and Programs Committee had reviewed the applicants and appointment recommendations with staff at length at its November 7 meeting. Manager Hejmadi arrived at this point in the meeting (7:18 p.m.).

*It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson, to adopt Resolution 24-064: Appointment of the 2025 Citizens Advisory Committee, as follows:*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby appoints the following individuals to the 2025 Citizen Advisory Committee.***

*Serving 2025*  
*Lisa Fowler*  
*Laurie Goldsmith*  
*John Iverson*

*Serving 2025-2026*  
*Ricardo Bonner*  
*Joshua Foschi*  
*Robert Glisky*

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*Drew McGovern  
Janet Schaefer  
Sheri Wallace*

*Steve Hage  
Suzanne Jiwani  
Rich Nyquist  
Denise Tennen  
Kevin Zahler*

*There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

Resolution 24-065: Authorization to Purchase and Install Upgraded Boardroom Technology

Ms. Tessa Vacek appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She explained the need for improved audio-visual technology to serve the public and noted that available funds to support this request are in the 2024 Information Technology budget.

*It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 24-065: Authorization to Purchase and Install Upgraded Boardroom Technology as follows:*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute an agreement with iSpace Environments in accordance with the quote and associated scope of work as the Administrator may refine it, and in an amount not to exceed \$55,831.21, and authorizes the Administrator to execute contract amendments in his discretion up to an additional five (5) percent, in aggregate, of the quoted amount.***

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Vacek stated that staff could explore integration of the A-V technology in the Board room with other conference rooms. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Vacek explained that the maintenance of the equipment would be provided at an hourly rate.

*There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

**BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

None.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Ice is almost in at Gray's Bay and the dam is closed. Current elevation of Lake Minnetonka is 928.59. Mr. Wisker expressed his appreciation to the Minnetonka Public Works staff for their assistance with the dam.
2. Interviews are underway to fill the Project Maintenance and Land Management Program Manager position.
3. Staff will be attending the annual conference of Minnesota Watersheds, along with President White and Manager Olson. Mr. Wisker and Brian Beck will present on the MCWD climate action framework at the conference.
4. Staff participated in a successful meeting with a permit applicant, adjoining landowner and City of Orono staff to develop an agreement on an approach to a challenging stream crossing and culvert project on West Branch Road.
5. Managers Hejmadi, Maxwell, and Olson are in the process of seeking reappointment, as their terms expire next March.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment**

Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on redevelopment and the MCWD project at 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. He requested that the Board of Managers go into closed session. *Pursuant to legal counsel's recommendation, it was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller for the Board to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing the potential expiration or revision of terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement of 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

The Board of Managers went into closed session.

The Board of Managers returned to open session.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Eugene Maxwell, Secretary