

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

4
5 **August 8, 2024**

6
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 7:00 p.m. on August 8, 2024, at the MCWD
11 offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

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13 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

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

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18 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

19
20 Arun Hejmadi.

21
22 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

23
24 James Wisker, Administrator; Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning; Deb
25 Johnson, Office Manager; Rena Weis, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith,
26 District Counsel.

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28 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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33 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

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35 None.

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37 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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47 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

55
56 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
57 *Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to*
58 *execute a contract with Bartlett Tree Experts, on advice of District Counsel, to*
59 *provide tree care services in an amount not to exceed \$9,269.*

60
61 *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

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63 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

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

68
69 Operations and Programs Committee: Manager Loftus reported that the Committee met
70 earlier in the evening and received a briefing on Carver County transportation projects
71 planned in the District. She noted that Abigail Couture, the new permitting assistant at
72 the District, was introduced at the committee meeting.

73
74 President White noted the upcoming meeting schedule presented in the agenda.

75
76 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

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78 None.

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80 **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

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82 None.

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84 **ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

99
100 Mr. Hayman noted that the MCWD received a comment from the City of Edina which
101 was procedural in nature, noting a desire to continue collaboration on anticipated projects
102 in the future to support clean water and flood protection initiatives. The MCWD also
103 received a comment from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board expressing support
104 for renewed exploration of ecological restoration at the Meadowbrook golf course. In
105 response to a question from Manager Miller, Mr. Hayman reviewed past attempts in
106 2015/16 and 2017/18 with a project at Meadowbrook and the MPRB’s decision not to
107 move forward with the projects at that time.

108
109 ***It was moved by Manager Loftus, seconded by Manager Sando, to adopt Resolution 24-***
110 ***044: Adoption of the 2025 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement***
111 ***Plan as follows:***

112
113 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
114 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the***
115 ***attached 2025 CIP.***

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

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

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

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126 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 24-***
127 ***047: Adoption of the 2024 Strategic Action Plan as follows:***

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

131 *Plan, and directs the District Administrator to implement and routinely report*
132 *on progress.*
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134 Manager Miller stated that he was proud to be associated with this plan and its clear,
135 profound expression of the MCWD’s purpose and focus. Manager Olson said that he
136 noted the way in which this recent draft of the plan reflected the detailed input from
137 earlier discussions. President White stated that she could see many fingerprints in the
138 plan reflecting this input. Manager Loftus said that she appreciated the succinct
139 presentation of the plan and found it clear and accessible.
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141 *There being no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 24-047 carried, 6-0.*
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144 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**
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146 None.
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148 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**
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150 None.
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152 **STAFF UPDATES**
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154 Administrator’s Report
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156 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:
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- 158 1. Rain continues above normal averages. Precipitation is 28.26 inches year to
159 date, which is 8.5 inches above normal and 1.4 inches shy of the wettest year
160 of record. Over the past two weeks, the Gray’s Bay Dam has been
161 discharging at 100 cubic feet per second. Monitoring has detected local flash
162 bouncing along the Creek with precipitation events. Lake Minnetonka is at
163 elevation 929.6, having receded with evaporation. Minnehaha Creek is
164 flowing at 268 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha. MCWD will be sending a
165 water levels update in the next day or so.
166
- 167 2. Staff has been working actively with JTS and the City of St. Louis Park on the
168 plans to repair the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk. A meeting is planned
169 with the City to review the repair plan, and both MCWD (with SRF) and St.
170 Louis Park will have staff on site during the entire repair process.
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- 172 3. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board continues to discuss the future of
173 the Hiawatha golf course, and staff will follow up to learn further details.

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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

