



47 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

48  
49 None.

50  
51 **CONSENT AGENDA**

52  
53 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the items*  
54 *on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 12, 2024, Board*  
55 *meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers*  
56 *42594 through 42606 in the amount of \$81,712.40, electronic funds withdrawals of*  
57 *\$241,822.34, credit card charges of \$4,522.71, managers per diems and*  
58 *reimbursements of \$1,508.46, employee reimbursements of \$550.67, and payroll*  
59 *electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$150,368.62, for a total of*  
60 *\$480,485.20; the Surety Check Register including payment of \$30.00 in fees to Bremer*  
61 *Bank, and check numbers 2221 - 2225, for a total of \$38,113.00; wire transfers of \$0,*  
62 *and the following resolution:*

63  
64 *Resolution 24-053: Authorization to Reschedule the December 5 Committee and Board*  
65 *Meetings to December 3*

66  
67 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*  
68 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby directs staff to update and*  
69 *publish notice indicating the December 5, 2024 MCWD committee and board*  
70 *meetings have been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 3, 2024.*

71  
72 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*

73  
74 Olson: Aye  
75 Miller: Aye  
76 Loftus: Aye  
77 Hejmadi: Aye  
78 Maxwell: Aye  
79 Sando: Aye  
80 White: Aye

81  
82  
83 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

84  
85 President's Report: President White reported that along with Managers Maxwell and  
86 Hejmadi she recently joined a liaison meeting with Hopkins officials to discuss the 325  
87 Blake Road project. She also met recently with Hennepin County Commissioner Heather  
88 Edelson and Mr. Wisker at the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk to discuss District  
89 projects and its climate action framework.

90

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

92

93 Projects and Planning Committee Report: Manager Miller noted that the Committee met  
94 earlier in the evening and heard introductions of three new staff members, and a  
95 preliminary overview of the process for the District's 2027 water resources management  
96 plan.

97

98 **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

99

100 Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Public Hearing

101

102 Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to provide background  
103 information and explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public input  
104 on the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project in the  
105 city of St. Louis Park. Mr. Sherman explained that the trail connection will bring the  
106 Greenway trail under the newly constructed SWLRT corridor, creating the final trail  
107 connection between the Minnehaha Creek Preserve and the Cedar Lake LRT Regional  
108 Trail near 325 Blake Road, providing uninterrupted pedestrian infrastructure along  
109 Minnehaha Creek between Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park and Cottageville Park in  
110 Hopkins. This project also provides an opportunity to stabilize the streambanks and  
111 enhance the riparian zone of the stretch of Minnehaha Creek between 325 Blake Road  
112 and the Minnehaha Creek Preserve.

113

114 Mr. Sherman reviewed the feasibility study work performed initially in 2015-16 and then  
115 updated with more detail recently. He reviewed the alignment options for the trail and  
116 further design considerations to be addressed in the next phase of the project. Mr.  
117 Sherman noted the other partners involved in the project, including St. Louis Park, the  
118 Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, and several private property owners.

119

120 President White invited public comments. Mr. Sherman described an anonymous  
121 comment received by the District expressing concerns for public safety in the area. Ms.  
122 Margaret Sullivan appeared and noted that her residence had a retaining wall along the  
123 trail, and she was concerned with the potential of erosion or flooding from the project.  
124 Mr. Sherman reviewed the site and how the design process would address replacement of  
125 all or part of the retaining wall/embankment, and that Ms. Sullivan would be informed  
126 about this process in the coming months. President White thanked Ms. Sullivan for her  
127 comment.

128

129 There being no further comments, President White closed the public hearing.

130

131

132

133 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

134

135 None.

136

137 **ACTION ITEMS**

138

139 **Resolution 24-054: Ordering the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank**  
140 **Restoration Project**

141

142 Mr. Sherman reviewed the proposed action to order the project, noting that the St. Louis  
143 Park City Council had adopted a resolution expressing the City’s support for the project.  
144 He noted the general timetable for the project and the outline of cooperative agreements  
145 involved in the project.

146

147 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando, to adopt Resolution 24-***  
148 ***054: Ordering the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration***  
149 ***Project as follows:***

150

151 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes***  
152 ***§103B.251 and the WMP, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of***  
153 ***Managers orders the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank***  
154 ***Restoration Project.***

155

156 In response to questions from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Sherman noted that the three  
157 parcels with retaining walls would be addressed in a uniform manner, and that St. Louis  
158 Park and Three Rivers Park District would be responsible for trail maintenance. In  
159 response to questions from Manager Olson, Mr. Sherman noted that encroachment into  
160 the creek would be minimized, and the trail would be constructed on solid ground; he  
161 reviewed the concept design for the guardrail, explained that the creek access was for  
162 construction and not a canoe landing, and explained that the vegetation for stabilization  
163 of the creek bank would be addressed in detailed design. In response to questions from  
164 Manager Sando, Mr. Sherman noted that the trail section is not in walkable condition  
165 presently, and that the project is targeted for completion in 2026.

166

167 ***Upon roll call vote, the motion to adopt Resolution 24-054 carried, 7-0 as follows:***

168

169 Maxwell: Aye  
170 Olson: Aye  
171 Miller: Aye  
172 Sando: Aye  
173 Loftus: Aye  
174 Hejmadi: Aye  
175 White: Aye

176

177 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

178

179 **County Road 6 Pond Retrofit: 60% Design Briefing**

180

181 Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the 60% design of  
182 the County Road 6 pond project. She noted that in 1998, MCWD constructed the County  
183 Road 6 Stormwater Pond to capture and treat 3,370 acres of runoff, reducing sediment  
184 and nutrient loading to impaired Long Lake, which sits just downstream of the pond. The  
185 2.5-acre pond was designed to remove approximately 50% of the total phosphorus load,  
186 when considered in conjunction with Deerhill Pond, which was constructed upstream of  
187 the CR-6 pond in 1996. An easement, encompassing the pond and maintenance trail, was  
188 obtained from the private landowner to ensure that long-term maintenance, monitoring,  
189 and retrofits to the pond could occur.

190

191 Ms. Cermak reviewed the Long Lake Creek Roadmap planning process, which identified  
192 retrofit of the County Road 6 Pond as a priority opportunity. She reviewed the initial  
193 30% design phase, which reflected some key decisions, including (1) selecting a sand-  
194 only unvegetated filter media, (2) confirming the feasibility and benefits of the earthen  
195 berm, and (3) identifying the general position of the filter bench to maintain a  
196 maintenance corridor off the county road. Ms. Cermak reviewed the updates with the  
197 60% design and components that will require further refinement for the 90% design. She  
198 noted ongoing discussions with the landowner about access alternatives, cost estimates,  
199 and the deferral of the project construction for one year, targeting January 2026.

200

201 In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Cermak noted the 60% removal  
202 efficiency target for the project. Manager Olson requested that the design consider ways  
203 to use boulders to obscure the weir and provide a more natural appearance, and Ms.  
204 Cermak noted the presence of a carp barrier and expressed that site aesthetics would be  
205 considered in the final design for the project. The managers thanked Ms. Cermak for her  
206 presentation.

207

208 President White requested that Mr. Wisker provide the Administrator's report before  
209 turning to discuss 325 Blake Road in closed session.

210

211 **STAFF UPDATES**

212

213 **Administrator's Report**

214

215 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

216

- 217 1. The District just received the sad news that Larry Blackstad, a former Three  
218 Rivers Park District Commissioner and advisor to the MCWD, recently

219 passed away. Mr. Wisker noted that staff would bring forward a resolution of  
220 appreciation for Mr. Blackstad to an upcoming meeting.

221  
222 2. With continued warm and dry weather, the area has experienced the driest  
223 September on record. Lake Minnetonka elevation is now at 928.86. The  
224 Gray's Bay Dam will be closed in October in anticipation of bringing the  
225 Lake Minnetonka level to 928.6 for the winter. Minnehaha Creek is flowing  
226 at 25 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha.

227  
228 3. Staff and legal counsel are continuing to meet and work with the City of St.  
229 Louis Park and JTS Construction to address necessary repairs to the  
230 Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk. The City is nearing approval of the proposed  
231 remedial methods, and the parties will be addressing the logistics of  
232 uncovering and correcting the number problems with the Boardwalk. JTS has  
233 expressed concern with the costs of repair and claims it is a shared  
234 responsibility but has provided no evidence to support this claim.

235  
236 4. The MCWD staff and legal counsel are nearing agreement with Campbell-  
237 Sevey on parking lot improvements and a revised easement. Mr. Wisker is  
238 hoping that an agreement can be reached in time to clarify the 2025 budget's  
239 inclusion of this work.

240  
241 5. As noted by President White, she and Mr. Wisker met with Commissioner  
242 Edelson to discuss the MCWD's work in the Minnehaha Greenway and 325  
243 Blake Road.

244  
245 6. MCWD staff will be presenting at the upcoming Water Resources conference  
246 convened by the University of Minnesota.

247  
248 7. Minnesota Watersheds executive director Jan Voit has asked MCWD to  
249 consider hosting the summer tour in 2027.

250  
251 8. Minnehaha Creek was recently profiled in an article in Big River magazine.

252  
253

254 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

255  
256 None.

257  
258  
259  
260  
261

262 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS, continued**

263

264 Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on  
265 redevelopment and the MCWD project at 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. He noted recent  
266 meetings with the Hopkins liaisons in which the Board's concerns identified at the  
267 September 12 meeting were discussed.

268

269 *Pursuant to legal counsel's recommendation, it was moved by Manager Maxwell,*  
270 *seconded by Manager Sando for the Board to go into a closed session for the purpose*  
271 *of discussing the potential expiration or revision of terms of the Purchase and Sale*  
272 *Agreement of 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0*  
273 *as follows:*

274

275 Maxwell: Aye

276 Olson: Aye

277 Miller: Aye

278 Sando: Aye

279 Loftus: Aye

280 Hejmadi: Aye

281 White: Aye

282

283 The Board of Managers went into closed session.

284

285 The Board of Managers returned to open session.

286

287 **Adjournment**

288

289 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of  
290 Managers adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

291

292 Respectfully submitted,

293

294

295

296 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary