

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

4
5 **November 20, 2025**

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 7:04 p.m. on November 20, 2025, at the
11 MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.
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13 **ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE**
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15 President White called the roll to note attendance:
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17 Richard Miller: Present
18 Jessica Loftus: Present
19 Stephen Sando: Present
20 Eugene Maxwell: Present
21 Arun Hejmadi: Present, participating remotely
22 Sherry White: Present
23 William Olson: Present
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26 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**
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28 James Wisker, Administrator; Erin Larson, Permitting Assistant; Kate Moran, Policy
29 Planning Coordinator; Gabe Sherman, Planner-Project Manager; Brian Beck, Research &
30 Monitoring Program Manager; Nick Wyers, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis
31 Smith, District Counsel.
32

33 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
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35 None.
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37 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
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39 President White requested that a presentation on the 2D Model be added as Item 12.1 to
40 the Agenda. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to approve*
41 *the Agenda with this change. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*
42

43 *Miller: Aye*
44 *Loftus: Aye*
45 *Hejmadi: Aye*
46 *Maxwell: Aye*

Sando: Aye
White: Aye
Olson: Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the November 6, 2025, Board meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42715 through 42718 in the amount of \$6,887.50, electronic funds withdrawals of \$207,690.77, credit card charges of \$5,598.91, managers per diems and reimbursements of \$2,504.17, employee reimbursements of \$723.57, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$183,389.39, for a total of \$406,794.31; the Surety Check Register with payment of \$30.00 in fees to Bremer Bank and check numbers 2262 through 2267 for a total of \$21,530.00; wire transfers of \$828,643.75 for payment to Hennepin County for 2020B and 2013 bond payments; and the following resolutions:

Resolution 25-067: Authorization to Apply for MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant and BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to prepare and submit grant applications to the MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience Planning Grant program and BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant program; and

Resolution 25-068: Approving Contract for Pre-Demolition Regulated Materials Survey at 6300 Painter Road

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of Counsel, to execute an agreement with Stantec in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,940 to conduct a regulated materials survey at 6300 Painter Road, Minnetrista.

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

Miller: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Hejmadi: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
Sando: Aye

White: *Aye*
Olson: *Aye*

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White requested that the Board designate Manager Olson and her as delegates to the annual meeting of Minnesota Watersheds. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell to designate President White and Manager Olson as MCWD's delegates to the annual meeting of Minnesota Watersheds. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:*

Miller: *Aye*
Loftus: *Aye*
Hejmadi: *Aye*
Maxwell: *Aye*
Sando: *Aye*
White: *Aye*
Olson: *Aye*

Policy and Planning Committee Report: Manager Miller reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a staff briefing on the community engagement plans for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Sando reported that the CAC met on November 12 and received an update and held a good discussion of the MCWD's diversity, equity and inclusion work. This discussion included the CAC's interest in recruiting more diverse applications to the CAC. The CAC also received a briefing on the acquisition of 6300 Painter Road and the request for proposals for District consulting engineer.

President White noted the schedule of upcoming meetings presented in the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Public Comment on 2026 Budget and Levy

Mr. Wisker stated that the Board of Managers adopted the 2026 budget and levy at its meeting of September 11, 2025. There is no increase for the tax levy in 2026. He noted that the Truth in Taxation law requires that local taxing authorities hold a public information meeting in late November or early December to allow for any further comments from the public.

No one from the public appeared to offer comments.

Annual Public Hearing for MCWD's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

President White opened the public hearing. Ms. Erin Larson appeared before the Board of Managers to review the annual preparation of the MCWD's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. She explained that the MCWD is the drainage authority for eight public drainage systems and therefore is regulated as a municipal separate storm sewer system under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II rules. Ms. Larson reviewed the six minimum control measures in the MCWD's plan.

President White invited public comments, and no one appeared to provide comments. President White closed the public hearing. Manager Olson commented on the extensive SWPPP application and expressed his appreciation for the staff work involved.

PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 25-069: Gateway to the Greenway: Approval of Design Plans and Authorization to Solicit Bids

Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He explained that the Board had previously approved the design for the entire regional stormwater project for 325 Blake Road and adjacent Cottageville Park, which was planned to be coordinated with private development. When it became clear that the developer could not meet the terms of the purchase and sale agreement, the Board of Managers eventually determined that it would be prudent to advance the Gateway to the Greenway portion as a standalone project. HDR and Damon Farber have completed the separation of the design plans for Gateway to the Greenway to be a separate project. Mr. Sherman reviewed the engineer's updated cost estimate which is \$987,841 for the base bid with granite pavers in the pergola area, and a deduct alternative estimate of \$912, 634 with decorative concrete in the pergola area.

Manager Loftus inquired whether the two alternatives had different long-term maintenance and replacement costs. Mr. Sherman explained that snow removal in this area will be done by hand, and both alternatives are expected to be suitable and require minimal maintenance or replacement for long-term use at the site. Mr. Sherman reviewed the timeline for bidding and plans for construction in the Spring.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 25--069: Gateway to the Greenway: Approval of Design Plans and Authorization to Solicit Bids as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers approves the final design for the Gateway to the Greenway;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to solicit bids for construction.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Sherman explained that there is not likely to be an ADA issue with the swings in the pergola area, as there will be space for wheelchair access. Manager Maxwell inquired whether it would be helpful to provide a presentation on the project design to the Hopkins City Council to generate community interest. Mr. Sherman noted that there already seems to be some excitement with this project as the crowning element of Cottageville Park. Mr. Wisker noted that there are some plans for general outreach on this project, along with the upcoming Greenway trail connection project.

There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

Miller: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Hejmadi: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
Sando: Aye
White: Aye
Olson: Aye

Resolution 25-070: Ordering the Montgomerie Avenue Stormwater Management Project and Authorizing the District Administrator to Enter into Project Agreement

Ms. Kate Moran appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She reviewed the project background and its evolution through the Land and Water Partnership program. She reviewed the project funding sources and status of project approvals.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Loftus to adopt Resolution 25-070: Ordering the Montgomerie Avenue Stormwater Management Project and Authorizing the District Administrator to Enter into Project Agreement as follows:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to §103B.251 and the WMP, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby orders the Montgomerie Avenue Stormwater Management Project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the District Administrator to execute the LWP Funding Agreement and WBIF Grant Administration Agreement between the District and City of Deephaven, with non-material changes and on advice of counsel.

There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

*Miller: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Hejmadi: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
Sando: Aye
White: Aye
Olson: Aye*

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

2D Model Update

Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on the MCWD's development of the 2D model for the purpose of building a data-driven understanding of current and future precipitation impacts, in fulfillment of the MCWD's Climate Action Framework. He reviewed the extensive layers of detail in building this two-dimensional model to simulate how water flows across the land surface, calculating flood depth and velocity in two dimensions, length and width. Mr. Beck noted that as a result of the extensive data collection, the 2D model now includes 40,411 inlets/outlets, 52,620 pipes, 19,132 manholes, and 2,000 culvert inlets/outlets.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Brian Beck and the Research & Monitoring team have performed incredible field work to gather data for the 2D model, and this work should serve MCWD partners well;
2. Seven firms participated in an information meeting concerning the request for proposals for District engineering services; proposals will be due December 19;
3. Discussions are continuing on Hennepin County's plans for the North Arm launch; the planning commission denied the County's application, and it will be revised; MCWD staff are meeting with County representatives on wetlands and shoreline issues as they relate to MCWD rules;
4. Becky Christopher has now completed 17 years of service to MCWD; her work has included Arden Park, Long Lake, the 2017 Plan, Balanced Urban Ecology, focal geographies, the responsive model for the Land & Water Partnership, the Climate Action Framework, deep strategic thinking for the 2027 Plan, and sensitive attention to the MCWD culture and vibe. The managers thanked Ms. Christopher for her amazing years of service.

The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Maxwell, Secretary