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

September 25, 2025

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 September 25, 2025, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

President White called the roll to note attendance:

William Olson:	Present
Richard Miller:	Present
Jessica Loftus:	Present
Stephen Sando:	Present
Eugene Maxwell:	Present
Arun Hejmadi:	Present, participating remotely
Sherry White:	Present

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Becky Christopher, Director of Policy Planning; James McDermond-Spies, Project Maintenance and Land Management Manager; Gabe Sherman, Planner – Project Manager; Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning; Nick Wyers, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:

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

Sando: ***Aye***
White: ***Aye***

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 11, 2025, Board meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42700 through 42705 in the amount of $9,063.32, electronic funds withdrawals of $189,259.36, credit card charges of $2,742.56, managers per diems and reimbursements of $2,154.42, employee reimbursements of $372.01, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of $188,568.18, for a total of $392,159.85; the Surety Check Register with payment of $30.00 in fees to Bremer Bank and check numbers 2252 through 2258 for a total of $46,090.00; and wire transfers of $0.

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

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

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White noted the schedule for the annual conference of Minnesota Watersheds and recommended that the Board's regular meeting schedule be amended to change the December 4 meeting to December 1 at the same time. ***It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Loftus to amend the Board's regular meeting schedule by changing the December 4 meeting date to December 1.***

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

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

Sando: ***Aye***
White: ***Aye***

<u>Policy and Planning Committee Report</u>: Manager Olson reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a staff briefing on the messaging and engagement for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

<u>Citizens Advisory Committee</u>: Manager Hejmadi reported that he attended the CAC meeting on September 17, which also focused on the messaging and engagement for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan. He said that the CAC members asked good questions, had extensive feedback, and offered thoughtful comments in framing community messages.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION ITEMS

<u>Resolution 25-052: Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for Watershed Management Plan Support</u>

Ms. Becky Christopher appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board action. She noted that the Board's Operations and Programs Committee discussed this effort at its September 11, 2025, meeting. She reviewed the 2027 Plan Framework and a structure for collaborative development of a coordinated flood management strategy by technical staff and policymakers. Ms. Christopher reviewed the key elements of the request for proposals intended to attract a consultant firm with a strong track record of collaborating on complex projects, demonstrated experience in scenario development and modeling, and expertise in stakeholder engagement and communications.

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 25-052: Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for Watershed Management Plan Support as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to release a request for proposals for consultant support of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan update, with final edits on the advice of counsel.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Christopher noted that the RFP will be sent to a list of about 35 engineering firms. In response to a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Christopher stated that many engineering firms have communications staff or may partner with a firm specializing in community engagement and communications. Manager Hejmadi asked about how the MCWD would be reaching people at the community level, apart from the Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Advisory Committee. Ms. Christopher said that staff plans to develop advice on greater community engagement and will discuss ideas with Himle Horner and Smith Partners among others. Mr. Wisker noted discussions with Smith Partners have recently offered several ideas about reaching communities connected to the Minnehaha Greenway and ways to incorporate indigenous and ancestral wisdom.

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

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

Resolution 25-053: Approval of Final Design for Twin Lakes Park Pond Maintenance and Authorization to Solicit Bids

Mr. James McDermond-Spies appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He reviewed the scope of the MCWD's maintenance responsibilities for 26 stormwater ponds. He noted the Board's past decision to authorize Stantec to separate and update plans and specifications from a previous 2023-2024 package, provide bid documents and support, and provide construction administration and observation for winter 2025-2026 maintenance dredging of Twin Lakes Park Pond. Mr. McDermond-Spies noted that the proposed plans include all the work in the previous plan set and were updated to include an additional 360 cubic yards of sediment, that is estimated to have accumulated since the 2023-2024 contract, for a total of 3870 cubic yards to be excavated. He stated that the opinion of probable cost for work in winter of 2025-2026 is $368,885, which includes a 10% contingency.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 25-053: Approval of Final Design for Twin Lakes Park Pond Maintenance 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 Maintenance of Twin Lakes Park Pond;***
>
> ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to solicit bids for work in the winter of 2025-2026.***

In response to a question from Manager Miller, Mr. McDermond-Spies said that the Twin Lakes Pond is 1.2 acres in size, with a larger wetland complex that drains to Twin Lakes. ***There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote the motion carried 7-0 as follows:***

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

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection & Streambank Restoration 60% Briefing

Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on the progress of the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection & Streambank Restoration project, including a review of the 60% design and cost estimate, permitting considerations, and the status of several project agreements. In response to a question from Manager Miller, Mr. Sherman reviewed neighborhood access to this area. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Sherman reviewed the history of a railroad bridge abutment and granite blocks left in the streambank in this area. In response to a question from Manager

Hejmadi, Mr. Sherman stated that he did not anticipate difficult in obtaining permits for the project. The managers thanked Mr. Sherman for his presentation.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. MCWD will host a community open house for the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection at the St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center on September 30 at 6:30 p.m.
2. The 2026 budget and levy work plan document was distributed to stakeholders earlier in the day.
3. In consultation with counsel, staff and SRF representatives, staff have determined that it will not be feasible to contract for remedial work at the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk this winter. Plans are to bid the work in late Spring for work to be performed in the Winter of 2026-27.
4. The Board will hold a special meeting on October 1 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the mediation process in the Alatus lawsuit concerning 325 Blake Road.
5. Staff is coordinating with Mike Kelly at the City of Wayzata as he assumes the duties of interim city manager, specifically concerning the regulatory review of MnDOT work on I-394.
6. Eric Megow has notified MCWD that he will be leaving Stantec to work at the EOR firm.

The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

Land Acquisition Along Painter Creek, Minnetrista

Mr. Mike Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers and asked legal counsel to guide the Board into closed session for the purpose of discussing the terms of potential acquisition of 6300 Painter Road in Minnetrista.

Pursuant to legal counsel's recommendation, it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the terms of potential acquisition of 6300 Painter Road in Minnetrista. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:

Olson: ***Aye***
Miller: ***Aye***
Loftus: ***Aye***
Hejmadi: ***Aye***

Maxwell: ***Aye***
Sando: ***Aye***
White: ***Aye***

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 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Maxwell, Secretary