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

July 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:15 p.m. on July 9, 2026, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

President White called the roll to note attendance:

William Olson:	Present
Eugene Maxwell:	Present
Ricardo Bonner:	Present
Arun Hejmadi:	Present, participating remotely
Stephen Sando:	Present
Janet Schaefer:	Present
Sherry White:	Present

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Gabe Sherman, Senior Planner - Project Manager; Rachel Baker, Planner - Project Manager; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Smith administered the oath of office to Manager Schaefer. The managers welcomed Ms. Schaefer to the Board.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Olson:	***Aye***
Bonner:	***Aye***
Maxwell:	***Aye***

Sando: *Aye*
Schaefer: *Aye*
Hejmadi: *Aye*
White: *Aye*

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Schaefer, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the June 25, 2026, Board meeting minutes, and the following resolution:

Resolution 26-058: Approval to Release Request for Qualifications for Legal Services

> ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator to issue a request for qualifications for legal services.***

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

Olson: *Aye*
Bonner: *Aye*
Maxwell: *Aye*
Sando: *Aye*
Schaefer: *Aye*
Hejmadi: *Aye*
White: *Aye*

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White stated that she would like to appoint Managers White and Schaefer to serve as liaisons for implementation of the Long Lake Creek Roadmap and would like the Board's confirmation of these appointments. ***It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Bonner, to confirm the appointment of Managers White and Schaefer as liaisons for implementation of the Long Lake Creek Roadmap. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:***

Olson: *Aye*
Bonner: *Aye*
Maxwell: *Aye*
Sando: *Aye*
Schaefer: *Aye*

Hejmadi: *Aye*
White: *Aye*

Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and received a presentation from Mr. Wisker on the preliminary 2027 budget, and a briefing on the status of the Long Lake Creek Roadmap.

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

Resolution 26-059: Award Contract to Construct the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project

Resolution 26-060: Authorization to Amend Stantec Design Contract to Include Construction Support Services

Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to present the request for board action. He reviewed the solicitation of bids for the project and the results of the bid opening, recommending that the contract be awarded to Vada Constracting LLC with the Base Bid and Bid Alternate.

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson, to adopt Resolution 26-059: Award Contract to Construct the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project as follows:

> ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers awards to Vada Contracting, LLC, the contract to construct the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project, including Base Bid and Bid Alternate, in accordance with the terms of the Vada bid submittal and by Vada and the subcontractors named therein, for the contract price of $615,392.11;***
>
> ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MCWD Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to enter into a contract with Vada Contracting, LLC for construction***

> ***services for the stated contract price, and further is authorized to execute change orders in his discretion up to an additional 10 percent, in aggregate, of the contract price; and***
>
> ***BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the MCWD Administrator is authorized to issue a formal notice to proceed to Vada Contracting, LLC, on advice of counsel and after receipt of a signed contract and required bonds and insurance documentation.***

In response to questions from Managers Olson, Maxwell, and Bonner, Mr. Sherman reviewed the bid process, possible explanations for the wide variance in bid amounts, and staff due diligence to learn more about Vada Contracting as a responsible bidder. Manager Hejmadi inquired if the City of St. Louis Park had been engaged in this process, and Mr. Sherman confirmed that City staff attended the bid opening, shared in the due diligence process, and would be involved in the preconstruction meeting and site visits during construction.

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

Olson:	***Aye***
Bonner:	***Aye***
Maxwell:	***Aye***
Schaefer:	***Aye***
Sando:	***Aye***
Hejmadi:	***Aye***
White:	***Aye***

Mr. Sherman then reviewed the completion of tasks by Stantec in their current contract, and the staff recommendation to amend the existing design contract with Stantec to include construction support services.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Bonner, to adopt Resolution 26-060: Authorization to Amend Stantec Design Contract to Include Construction Support Services for the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project as follows:

> ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the MCWD Administrator, on advice of counsel, to amend the design contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to include construction support services for the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration Project in an amount not***

> ***to exceed $90,583, and further authorizes the MCWD Administrator to execute change orders in his discretion up to an additional 10% of this fee.***

In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Sherman noted that work on the other side of the creek was explored initially but found not to be practical. ***There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:***

Olson:	*Aye*
Bonner:	*Aye*
Maxwell:	*Aye*
Schaefer:	*Aye*
Sando:	*Aye*
Hejmadi:	*Aye*
White:	*Aye*

<u>Resolution 26-061: Authorization to release a Request for Proposals for the Six Mile Marsh Halsted Bay Load Management Feasibility Study</u>

Ms. Rachel Baker appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She reviewed the background of watershed work in the Six Mile Marsh Halsted Bay Subwatershed. She noted that staff believe it is the right time to build on prior technical work addressing the loading issues in the lower portion of SMCHB subwatershed and refine our understanding of the viability, water quality benefit, and implementation considerations of an off-line phosphorus treatment facility along Six Mile Marsh. Ms. Baker reviewed the projected budget for the work and the key issues to be addressed in the feasibility study. She noted that apart from the technical questions to be addressed, there will also be important policy questions, including MCWD's role and appetite for this type of capital investment, the identification and commitment of a municipal operator, the regulatory viability, and the availability of financing mechanisms.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 26-061: Authorization to release a Request for Proposals for the Six Mile Marsh Halsted Bay Load Management Feasibility Study 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 the Six Mile Marsh Halsted Bay Load Management Feasibility Study.***

In response to questions from Manager Olson, Ms. Baker noted that Three Rivers Park District's plans for the neighboring parcel likely are focused on a future trail connection, and that Met Council sewer connection requirements will be learned through the study. In response to a question from President White, Ms. Baker stated that the site is zoned to accommodate such a use, but there will be questions of fit of a facility on the upland. Manager Schaefer asked if the feasibility study will explore alternatives to an offline facility, and Ms. Baker confirmed it will, through evaluating whether the treatment approach recommended in prior feasibility work remain the best available strategy given advances in treatment technology and other factors. In response to a question from Manager Bonner, Ms. Baker and Mr. Wisker confirmed that there are known consulting firms with the necessary expertise for this work.

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

Olson:	***Aye***
Bonner:	***Aye***
Maxwell:	***Aye***
Schaefer:	***Aye***
Sando:	***Aye***
Hejmadi:	***Aye***
White:	***Aye***

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Mr. Lake Minnetonka is at elevation 929.2, the Grays Bay control structure is discharging at 24 cubic feet per second, and Minnehaha Creek is currently flowing at 50 cfs at Hiawatha.

2. The Minneapolis Thriving Waters Partnership is a bit behind schedule, but staff anticipate bringing a cooperative agreement for the Cedar Avenue project to the Board of Managers in August.

3. Staff is planning a Board retreat for July 31, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westwood Nature Center.

4. The Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting next work to review inundation maps and the 2D model. The Committee will explore flood risk reduction strategies, city priorities, and shared goals.

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 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arun Hejmadi

Arun Hejmadi, Secretary