



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

Meeting: Board of Managers

Meeting date: 10/22/2026

Agenda Item #: 11.1

Item type: Action

Title: Authorizing Contract with AE2S for Supplemental Permitting Support

Resolution Number: 26-080

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Reviewed by: James Wisker, District Administrator; Louis Smith, Smith Partners

Recommended action: Authorize execution of contract with AE2S for supplemental District permitting services in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

Budget Considerations: Fund name: Permitting Engineering Expense 2-2001-4340
2026 Fund budget: \$290,000

Past Board actions: Res # 25-062: Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for Engineering Services
Res # 25-078: Authorization to Extend Engineering Services Contract
Res # 26-021: Awarding Contract for District Engineering Services

Background:

Under Minnesota Statutes §103B.227, MCWD is required to solicit proposals for professional or technical consultant services at least every two years. In 2025, the Board of Managers authorized the release of a request for proposals for engineering services. Throughout the selection process, permitting was identified as a core District service, with an emphasis on maintaining consistent, high quality technical review. In February 2026, the Board selected HDR as District Engineer, recognizing the firm's technical expertise, collaborative approach, and vision for supporting District services.

Summary:

Since HDR's selection, MCWD staff and HDR have worked collaboratively to establish expectations, refine working processes, and maintain consistent, high-quality permitting reviews.

The Board has also encouraged a broader approach to diversifying the District's consulting resources to expand access to specialized expertise and strengthen organizational capacity. The District's periodic engagement of Moore engineering for wetland expertise is one example of this approach.

Consistent with this direction, District leadership and the permitting department have discussed opportunities to complement existing engineering services through supplemental engagement with AE2S. This engagement would provide additional technical review capacity for selected permit applications, while broadening staff exposure to different engineering perspectives and expertise. Access to multiple consulting resources can strengthen internal knowledge, provide greater flexibility in meeting permitting needs, and support the long-term consistency and resilience of the District's permitting program.

AE2S was among the firms interviewed during the 2025 engineering services selection process, providing staff with familiarity with the firm's qualifications and approach. AE2S personnel are also familiar with MCWD, have experience with MCWD permitting, and provide supplemental permitting review services to other metropolitan watershed districts.

Recommendation and Next Steps:

Staff recommend that the Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with AE2S for supplemental permitting engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

Following authorization, staff will coordinate with AE2S to provide technical review of selected permits. This engagement will broaden access to engineering expertise, support staff knowledge development, and strengthen the District's capacity to deliver consistent, high-quality permitting services.



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 26-080

Title: Authorizing Contract with AE2S for Supplemental Engineering Services

- WHEREAS Minnesota Statutes §103B.227 requires watershed districts to solicit proposals for professional services, including engineering services, every two years;
- WHEREAS on October 23, 2025, the Board of Managers authorized the release of a request for proposals for engineering services, and on February 12, 2026, selected HDR as District Engineer, recognizing the firm's technical expertise, collaborative approach, and vision;
- WHEREAS the Board has encouraged the diversification of the District's consulting resources to expand access to specialized expertise, strengthen organization capacity, and provide flexibility in delivering core District services;
- WHEREAS staff have identified an opportunity to complement existing engineering services through supplemental engagement with AE2S, providing additional technical review capacity and access to engineering expertise;
- WHEREAS AE2S was among the firms interviewed during the 2025 engineering selection process and brings familiarity with MCWD, experience with District permitting, and experience providing supplemental permitting review services to other metropolitan watershed districts;
- WHEREAS the Board of Managers finds that engaging supplemental engineering resources supports the District's strategic direction for delivering consistent, high-quality permitting services by broadening access to technical expertise, strengthening staff knowledge and organizational capacity, providing responsive technical assistance, and maximizing flexibility and resilience in meeting the needs of the permitting program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the MCWD Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with AE2S for supplemental engineering services, in accordance with the developed scope of work as the Administrator may refine it, and in an amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the proposal.

Resolution Number 26-080 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____.
Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, _____ abstentions. Date: 10/22/2026

Secretary Date: _____