

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

4
5 **August 27, 2026**
6

7
8 **CALL TO ORDER**
9

10 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called
11 to order by President Sherry White at 7:00 p.m. on August 27, 2026, at the MCWD offices,
12 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.
13

14 **ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE**
15

16 President White called the roll to note attendance:
17

18 William Olson: Present
19 Stephen Sando: Present
20 Eugene Maxwell: Present
21 Ricardo Bonner Present
22 Arun Hejmadi: Present, participating remotely
23 Julie Schaefer: Absent
24 Sherry White: Present
25

26 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**
27

28 James Wisker, Administrator; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.
29

30 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
31

32 None.
33

34 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
35

36 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the Agenda*
37 *as distributed. Upon roll vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:*
38

39 *Olson: Aye*
40 *Bonner: Aye*
41 *Maxwell: Aye*
42 *Sando: Aye*
43 *Schaefer Absent*
44 *Hejmadi: Aye*
45 *White: Aye*
46

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Bonner, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the August 13, 2026 Board meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42769 through 42774 in the amount of \$89,318.39, electronic funds withdrawals of \$496,146.43, managers per diems and reimbursements of \$2,348.88, employee reimbursements of \$62.38, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of \$278,748.41, for a total of \$866,624.49; the Surety Check Register with check numbers 2279-81 and payment of \$50.00 in fees to Old National Bank for a total of \$13,150.00; wire transfers of \$0; and the following resolution:

Resolution 26-068: Approving Full Roof Replacement and Insurance Claim Submittal

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the repair of the District roof and authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to contract with J. Robert Roofing for LMCIT reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$45,758 plus permit fee reimbursement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator, in his discretion and on advice of counsel, may sign change orders increasing the contract price by an additional \$5,000 in aggregate;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the District Administrator may take all steps necessary to resolve the District damage claim with LMCIT.

Upon roll vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:

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

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: None.

Planning and Policy Committee Report: Manager Maxwell noted that the staff provided an update on learnings to date through the engagement process for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan. The report included learnings from the most recent Technical Advisory Committee meeting on July 14, providing helpful insights into shared priorities and roles for water resource management between MCWD and its communities.

Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour Report: President White and Managers Olson and Bonner reported that the Summer Tour included presentations on cyber security, history and progress of the Clean Water Council, Tera Guetter memorial, the Red River Watershed Management Board's 50th anniversary, and a tour of projects in the Pelican River and Wild Rice Watershed Districts.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

2027 Budget and Levy Public Hearing

President White opened the public hearing on the MCWD's 2027 budget and levy.

Mr. Wisker presented the proposed 2027 budget and levy, including a background on the Board's process for developing the proposed budget. He noted that the 2027 draft budget proposes budgeted expenditures of \$15,590,763, a 7.5% increase of \$1,084,075 from 2026, supported with a flat (0% change) levy of \$9,869,513. This will be accomplished by drawing on previously levied fund balances that were assigned to capital projects, reallocating funds from completed projects or programs delivered under budget, earned interest revenue, and \$444,748 in external grant funds for the development of the 2027 Watershed Plan and capital projects in Victoria, Long Lake, Deephaven, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis.

No one appeared to offer comments on the proposed budget and levy. President White closed the public hearing.

PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 26-069: Resolution 26-069: Long Lake Feasibility Acceptance

Mr. Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He presented an overview of the Long Lake Creek Roadmap, the recommended strategy for improving Long Lake, and the findings of the draft Downtown Long Lake

Stormwater Study. He noted that the Downtown Long Lake Stormwater Study is a direct implementation step flowing from the 2023 Long Lake Creek Roadmap. The Downtown Management Unit encompasses approximately 518 acres and contributes an estimated 194 pounds of phosphorus annually to Long Lake. Under MCWD's refined nutrient budget and implementation strategy, the target reduction from this area is 88 pounds annually through landscape projects.

Mr. Wisker stated that the study screened 22 potential project concepts and advanced 11 for water quality modeling, concept design, and cost estimating. Projects were evaluated based on expected water quality benefit, cost, constructability, site control, permitting, and operations and maintenance. The evaluation also considered potential community, ecological, and public realm benefits. That process resulted in five recommended projects, including two that could be advanced now and three that could be integrated into future capital improvement planning as other municipal infrastructure investment or redevelopment occurs. Together the two immediate implementation projects (Highway Pond Retrofit and Nelson Lakeside Park Restoration) are estimated to reduce phosphorus loading by approximately 33 – 65 lbs annually, representing 38 – 74% of the City's reduction target.

President White noted that she, Manager Schaefer, and Mr. Wisker had a very positive meeting with Long Lake officials and plan a similar meeting with Orono representatives.

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Bonner to adopt the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby accepts the findings of the Downtown Long Lake Stormwater Study and recognizes the study as a planning basis for continued implementation of the Long Lake Creek Roadmap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby recognizes the Downtown Village Highway Pond Retrofit and Nelson Lakeside Park Restoration as the two concepts recommended for Immediate Implementation planning, and Holbrook Park Floodplain Storage, Daniels Street Diversion, and the Downtown Village Greenway as Opportunity-Based concepts to be preserved and reconsidered as related City or private investment opportunities arise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby directs staff to continue coordination with City of Long Lake staff to develop an implementation plan for future consideration by the Board of Managers and Long Lake City

Council, that would advance the projects prioritized for immediate implementation.

In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Wisker stated that MCWD is working to understand the priorities and concerns of Medina, Orono, and Long Lake, and although all three cities have not held a meeting to discuss these issues together, it may be that each city names liaisons for this purpose in the future. In response to a question from Manager Bonner, Mr. Wisker noted that no specific discussions have yet occurred concerning cost sharing responsibilities, but a variety of sources will be explored, and MCWD always finds that strong partnerships involve local contributions. Manager Hejmadi suggested that the recording of Mr. Wisker's budget presentation be made available on the web site, as it is very helpful in explaining how the MCWD plans financially for all of its work, including this project.

Upon roll vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:

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

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

President White suggested swapping the screens in the board room, such that presentations are seen on the hallway wall and remote participants are seen on the parking lot wall.

Manager Olson suggested that MCWD provide successful project stories with the Clean Water Council.

Manager Bonner suggested gathering feedback on this Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour to assist in planning for MCWD's hosting the Tour next summer.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
8/27/26

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. The drought continues and Lake Minnetonka is at elevation 928.5 and the Grays Bay control structure is closed.
2. Staff is engaged with St. Louis Park staff on stormwater issues for a proposed housing development at the former Bremer Bank site near Knollwood Mall and Target. Some challenges have emerged late in the planning review process, and coordination with several departments at the City has been important.
3. Gabe Sherman presented a construction update on the Cedar Trail and Gateway to the Greenway projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arun Hejmadi, Secretary