

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

4
5 **July 9, 2026**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**
8

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

12
13 **ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE**
14

15 President White called the roll to note attendance:

16
17 William Olson: Present
18 Eugene Maxwell: Present
19 Ricardo Bonner: Present
20 Arun Hejmadi: Present, participating remotely
21 Stephen Sando: Present
22 Janet Schaefer: Present
23 Sherry White: Present
24

25 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**
26

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

29
30 **OATH OF OFFICE**
31

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

34
35 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
36

37 None.

38
39 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
40

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

43
44 *Olson: Aye*
45 *Bonner: Aye*
46 *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 Contracting 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

175 *to exceed \$90,583, and further authorizes the MCWD Administrator to execute*
176 *change orders in his discretion up to an additional 10% of this fee.*
177

178 In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Sherman noted that work on the
179 other side of the creek was explored initially but found not to be practical. *There being*
180 *no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*
181

182 *Olson: Aye*
183 *Bonner: Aye*
184 *Maxwell: Aye*
185 *Schaefer: Aye*
186 *Sando: Aye*
187 *Hejmadi: Aye*
188 *White: Aye*
189

190 Resolution 26-061: Authorization to release a Request for Proposals for the Six Mile
191 Marsh Halsted Bay Load Management Feasibility Study
192

193 Ms. Rachel Baker appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
194 action. She reviewed the background of watershed work in the Six Mile Marsh Halsted
195 Bay Subwatershed. She noted that staff believe it is the right time to build on prior
196 technical work addressing the loading issues in the lower portion of SMCHB
197 subwatershed and refine our understanding of the viability, water quality benefit, and
198 implementation considerations of an off-line phosphorus treatment facility along Six Mile
199 Marsh. Ms. Baker reviewed the projected budget for the work and the key issues to be
200 addressed in the feasibility study. She noted that apart from the technical questions to be
201 addressed, there will also be important policy questions, including MCWD's role and
202 appetite for this type of capital investment, the identification and commitment of a
203 municipal operator, the regulatory viability, and the availability of financing mechanisms.
204

205 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 26-*
206 *061: Authorization to release a Request for Proposals for the Six Mile Marsh Halsted*
207 *Bay Load Management Feasibility Study as follows:*
208

209 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
210 *Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District administrator to*
211 *release a Request for Proposals for the Six Mile Marsh Halsted Bay Load*
212 *Management Feasibility Study.*
213

214 In response to questions from Manager Olson, Ms. Baker noted that Three Rivers Park
215 District's plans for the neighboring parcel likely are focused on a future trail connection,
216 and that Met Council sewer connection requirements will be learned through the study.
217 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.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
7/9/26

- 260 3. Staff is planning a Board retreat for July 31, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westwood Nature
261 Center.
262
- 263 4. The Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting next week to review inundation
264 maps and the 2D model. The Committee will explore flood risk reduction strategies, city
265 priorities, and shared goals.
266

267 The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.
268
269

270 **Adjournment**
271

272 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers
273 adjourned at 8:21 p.m.
274

275 Respectfully submitted,
276
277

278
279 Arun Hejmadi, Secretary