

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

4
5 **March 26, 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 7:01 p.m. on March 26, 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 Stephen Sando: Present
19 Eugene Maxwell: Present
20 Ricardo Bonnerr Present
21 Arun Hejmadi: Present, participating remotely
22 Sherry White: Present

23
24 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

25
26 James Wisker, Administrator; Rachel Baker, Planner – Project Manager; Nick Wyers,
27 District Consulting Engineer; Jay Lindgren, Development Counsel; and Louis Smith,
28 District Counsel.

29
30 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

31
32 Mr. Gary Dukes, 5128 – 44th Avenue South, Minneapolis, appeared before the Board of
33 Managers to express his support for the minor plan amendment which would allow for an
34 alum treatment for Lake Nokomis. He noted that it is an important project to address
35 water quality in Lake Nokomis.

36
37 President White acknowledged Ms. Stephanie Musich and invited her to come before the
38 Board of Managers so that President White could read the resolution adopted by the
39 Board honoring her leadership and service as a member of the Minneapolis Park and
40 Recreation Board. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Musich’s steadfast leadership in
41 advancing science-based water resource policy, encouraging policy makers, community
42 members, and partner agencies to ground decisions in an understanding of natural
43 systems – living the principles of MCWD’s vision for Balanced Urban Ecology.
44 President White also expressed gratitude for Ms. Musich for being catalytic in
45 establishing and leading the Minneapolis Thriving Waters Partnership, among MCWD,
46 the MPRB and City of Minneapolis, which now serves to guide the long-term planning

47 and investment in projects that address water quality and resilience for Minneapolis
48 waters.

49
50 Mr. Wisker presented Ms. Musich with a plaque and a framed copy of the Board's
51 resolution. Ms. Musich thanked the Board of Managers for working together to make
52 lasting changes to improve water quality and for forging a structure to work together
53 through the Thriving Waters Partnership.

54

55 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

56

57 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the*
58 *Agenda as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:*

59

60 *Hejmadi: Aye*

61 *Olson: Aye*

62 *Bonner: Aye*

63 *Maxwell: Aye*

64 *Sando: Aye*

65 *White: Aye*

66

67 **CONSENT AGENDA**

68

69 President White requested to pull Item 7.1 from the Consent Agenda and place it on the
70 Action Items portion of the Agenda as Item 11.2. *It was moved by Manager Maxwell,*
71 *seconded by Manager Hejmadi to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda*
72 *consisting of approval of the March 12, 2026 Board meeting minutes; approval of the*
73 *General Check Register, including check numbers 42747 through 42748 in the amount*
74 *of \$82,924.33, electronic funds withdrawals of \$469,706.82, managers per diems and*
75 *reimbursements of \$1,600.92, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and*
76 *disbursements of \$187,112.71, for a total of \$741,344.78; the Surety Check Register*
77 *with payment of \$30.00 in fees to Old National Bank and check number 22272 in the*
78 *amount of \$5,735.92 to Target Corporation for surety return, for a total of \$5,765.92;*
79 *wire transfers of \$0; and the following resolution:*

80

81 *Resolution 26-034: Approval of Transition to Internal Management of Noncash*
82 *Financial Assurances*

83

84 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
85 *Watershed District Board of Managers approves the transition to internal*
86 *management of noncash financial assurances received by the District.*

87

88

89

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

91

92 *Hejmadi: Aye*

93 *Olson: Aye*

94 *Bonner: Aye*

95 *Maxwell: Aye*

96 *Sando: Aye*

97 *White: Aye*

98

99

100 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

101

102 President's Report: None.

103

104 Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that he attended the CAC
105 meeting on March 18. The agenda included updates on the 2027 Plan Evaluation Framework
106 and CAC members offered great engagement and helpful recommendations. The CAC received
107 other staff briefings and elected two new officers.

108

109 Policy and Planning Committee Report: Manager Maxwell invited Manager Sando to give the
110 committee report. Manager Sando noted that the Committee met earlier in the evening and
111 received a staff briefing on the Downtown Long Lake Feasibility Report and an update on the
112 Long Lake Creek Sub-watershed implementation strategy.

113

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

115

116 **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

117

118 None.

119

120 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

121

122 None.

123

124 **ACTION ITEMS**

125

126 Resolution 26-035: Approval of Minor Plan Amendment

127

128 Ms. Rachel Baker appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action.
129 She described the background of the proposed minor plan amendment arising through MCWD's
130 work in the Thriving Waters Partnership in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park &
131 Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis. She explained that the MPRB has
132 studied the problem of algal blooms in Cedar Lake and is interested in pursuing a state grant to

133 support an alum treatment of the lake. The requirements of a Clean Water grant include that
134 such a project must be encompassed within a watershed district's watershed management plan.
135 MCWD. Has undertaken a planning process for the Cedar Lake Management Unit, which should
136 provide a detailed implementation plan and a replicable model for other lake management units
137 in this sub-watershed. Ms. Baker noted that the proposed plan amendment adds text to the
138 MCWD watershed management plan to address internal pollutant loading issues and would
139 cover water bodies such as Cedar Lake and Lake Nokomis.

140
141 Ms. Baker stated that the MCWD received favorable comments on the proposed plan amendment
142 from six state agencies, as well as a favorable resident comment. She noted further that on
143 March 24, 2026, the Board of Water and Soil Resources confirmed that this would be a minor
144 plan amendment.

145
146 ***It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Bonner, to adopt Resolution 26-035:***
147 ***Approval of Minor Plan Amendment as follows:***

148
149 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed***
150 ***District Board of Managers adopts the proposed minor plan amendment; and***

151
152 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is to distribute the***
153 ***revised pages to the required review agencies and otherwise incorporate the***
154 ***amendment into the District WMP in accordance with MN Rules 8410.***

155
156 Manager Maxwell expressed his appreciation for the collaboration in this effort. ***Upon***
157 ***roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:***

158
159 ***Hejmadi: Aye***
160 ***Olson: Aye***
161 ***Bonner: Aye***
162 ***Maxwell: Aye***
163 ***Sando: Aye***
164 ***White: Aye***

165
166 **Resolution 26-033: Authorization to Extend Contract with McGough Facility**
167 **Management**

168
169 Mr. Wisker reviewed the request for board action. He explained that staff recommends
170 the District continue utilizing McGough's services and extend the agreement for a new
171 two-year period commencing April 1, 2026. In discussion with Manager Bonner, it was
172 noted that the Resolution does not specify that the contract provide a not-to-exceed
173 amount, which is intended to be \$40,000. Mr. Wisker recommended that the resolution
174 be revised to include this not-to-exceed amount.

175

176 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to adopt Resolution*
177 *26-033: Authorization to Extend Contract with McGough Facility Management as*
178 *follows:*

179
180 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
181 *Watershed District Board of Managers s hereby authorizes the District*
182 *Administrator to extend the contract with McGough Facilities Management*
183 *effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028 per the fees and services set*
184 *forth above on advice of legal counsel.*

185
186 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Bonner, to amend the resolution as*
187 *follows:*

188
189 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
190 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District*
191 *Administrator to extend the contract with McGough Facilities Management*
192 *effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028 per the fees and services set*
193 *forth above and for a total contract amount not to exceed \$40,000 on advice of*
194 *legal counsel.*

195
196 *Upon roll call vote, the amendment was adopted 6-0 as follows:*

197
198 *Hejmadi: Aye*
199 *Olson: Aye*
200 *Bonner: Aye*
201 *Maxwell: Aye*
202 *Sando: Aye*
203 *White: Aye*

204
205 *Upon roll call vote, the motion to adopt the resolution as amended carried 6-0 as follows:*

206
207 *Hejmadi: Aye*
208 *Olson: Aye*
209 *Bonner: Aye*
210 *Maxwell: Aye*
211 *Sando: Aye*
212 *White: Aye*

213
214
215 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

216
217 None.
218

219 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

220

221 None.

222

223 **STAFF UPDATES**

224

225 Administrator's Report

226

227 None.

228

229 **CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION**

230

231 325 Blake Road, Hopkins; Alatus v. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

232

233 Mr. Smith recommended that the Board of Managers move into closed session for two
234 reasons: first, for the Board to discuss the terms of the potential sale of 325 Blake Road in
235 Hopkins, and second, to receive confidential legal advice concerning litigation strategy in
236 the lawsuit of Alatus v. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (involving the same site).

237 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson, that the Board move*
238 *into closed session for these two reasons. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0*
239 *as follows:*

240

241 *Hejmadi: Aye*

242 *Olson: Aye*

243 *Bonner: Aye*

244 *Maxwell: Aye*

245 *Sando: Aye*

246 *White: Aye*

247

248 The Board of Managers went into closed session.

249

250 The Board of Managers returned to open session.

251

252 **Adjournment**

253

254 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers
255 adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

256

257 Respectfully submitted,

258

259

260

261 Arun Hejmadi, Secretary