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

October 22, 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 7:00 p.m. on October 22, 2026, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

Sherry White, William Olson, Eugene Maxwell, Stephen Sando, Ricardo Bonner, and Janet Schaefer.

MANAGER ABSENT

Arun Hejmadi.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Veronica Sannes, Permitting Manager; Gabe Sherman, Senior Planner- Project Manager; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0, with Manager Hejmadi absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Bonner, seconded by Manager Schaefer, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the October 8, 2026 Board meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42780 through 42785 in the amount of $3,731.78, electronic funds withdrawals of $576,370.18, managers per diems and reimbursements of $2,858.38, employee reimbursements of $556.51, and payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of $189,164.50, for a total of $772,681.35; the Surety Check Register with check numbers 22884 and

payment of $50.00 in fees to Old National Bank for a total of $4,734.05; and wire transfers of $52,461.58 for the Bremer Note 2019 principal and interest, and $5,000 to Professional Instruments Company for Deed for Cedar Trail connection project, totaling $57,461.53.

Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White reported that, together with Manager Schaefer and Mr. Wisker, she attended a meeting with the mayor and a council member of Orono to discuss the Long Lake Subwatershed Road Map. She noted that along with four managers, she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Montgomerie Avenue Stormwater Project in Deephaven.

Planning and Policy Committee Report: Manager Maxwell noted that the staff presented an update on recent engagement with members of the land use community to compile insights to inform the MCWD's Land & Water Integration Strategy.

Minnesota Watersheds Metro Chapter Quarterly Meeting Report: Manager Maxwell reported that at the meeting on October 19, Minnesota Watersheds received the 2026 Partner of the Year Award from the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association for collaboration, expertise, and a shared commitment to advancing stormwater reuse solutions and sustainable green spaces. The meeting also included discussions of upcoming municipal comprehensive plan updates, as well as agency reports.

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 26-080: Authorize a Contract with AE2S for Supplemental Permitting Support

Ms. Veronica Sannes appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She noted that while staff is working collaboratively with HDR on permit reviews, the Board has also encouraged a broader approach to diversifying the District's

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consulting resources to expand access to specialized expertise and strengthen organizational capacity. She noted that consistent with this direction, District leadership and the permitting department have discussed opportunities to complement existing engineering services through supplemental engagement with AE2S. Staff believe that this engagement would provide additional technical review capacity for selected permit applications, while broadening staff exposure to different engineering perspectives and expertise. She noted that 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.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to adopt Resolution 26-080: Authorizing Contract with AE2S for Supplemental Engineering Services, as follows:

> ***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.***

Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.

<u>Resolution 26-081: Authorize Execution of an Agreement to Amend the West End Redevelopment Maintenance Declaration (Permit #07-297)</u>

Ms. Sannes appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She explained that in 2007, MCWD issued a permit for the redevelopment of the 35-acre West End site in St. Louis Park. At that time, MCWD recognized an opportunity to achieve water quality benefits beyond its regulatory requirements, and partnered with Duke Realty, the developer and applicant, to incorporate innovative stormwater management practices, including underground infiltration chambers, boulevard tree trenches, and a demonstration green roof adjacent to commercial office space. The green roof has now reached the end of its useful life, and MCWD staff have worked with the new owner, Hempel, to preserve the educational intent while creating greater public visibility for the MCWD's clean water investments at the site.

It was moved by Manager Schaefer, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolultion 26-081: Authorize Execution of an Agreement to Amend the West End Redevelopment Maintenance Declaration (Permit #07-297) as follows:

> ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on***

advice of counsel, to execute the Agreement to amend the Maintenance Declaration with Hempel Real Estate in substantially the form presented to the Board and, upon satisfaction of the conditions specified therein, to execute the related Maintenance Declaration Amendment.

In response to a question from Manager Bonner, Ms. Sannes reviewed the original educational purpose for the green roof and noted its more limited visibility from upper floors of adjacent buildings. Manager Olson commented that he liked the proposed signs and suggested use of resilient material.

There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 26-082: Authorization to Award Contract for Cedar Avenue Stormwater and Restoration Design

Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He briefly reviewed the project background, request for proposals process, staff recommendation for contract award, and the timeline for project implementation. He noted that seven firms submitted proposals for this design work. He explained that a selection team of two staff from each of the partner agencies (MCWD, MPRB, and the City) evaluated the written proposals. Two firms were selected for interviews. Mr. Sherman noted that the evaluation team unanimously recommended AE2S, based on their proposal's deep understanding of the project area, creative approach to landscape architecture, and solid grounding in the technical modeling and civil engineering tasks necessary to design new stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure that is integrated with the existing networks.

It was moved by Manager Bonner, seconded by Manager Sando, to adopt Resolution 26-082: Authorization to Award Contract for Cedar Avenue Stormwater and Restoration Design, as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to execute a contract with AE2S, LLC for engineering, design, and consulting services for the Cedar Avenue Stormwater and Restoration Project, 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, and authorizes the Administrator to execute contract amendments in his discretion up to an additional 10 percent, in aggregate, of the contract amount.

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Sherman explained that the community engagement process would begin during the 30% design phase. President White noted that the Board and staff toured this project site in 2024. In response to a question from Manager Bonner,

Mr. Sherman noted that the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board would be leading the community engagement and communications process.

There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS

None.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Staff and the consulting engineer have noted soil settling at the berm edges of the new County Road 6 Pond. They are working with the contractor to investigate these conditions and will be reporting back to the Board with relevant updates;

2. President White, Mr. Wisker, Mr. Smith, and MCWD consultant Kowsar Mohamed met recently with the Mayor Mohamed and staff at the City of St. Louis Park. The meeting included a great discussion on MCWD – City collaboration, comprehensive planning, the Cedar Trail connection, and other potential Creek Corridor initiatives;

3. As President White noted, the recent meeting with Mayor Tunheim, Council Member Benson, and Orono staff was very productive in anticipation of an upcoming city council meeting on October 26 for an update on the Long Lake Subwatershed Road Map; and

4. Staff is preparing for a presentation to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners on October 27 concerning the 2027 Plan update, the 2D model, and short-term and long-term flood management strategies.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Arun Hejmadi, Secretary

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