

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

4
5 **October 8, 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 7:14 p.m. on October 8, 2026, at the MCWD offices,
11 15320 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, participating remotely
20 Ricardo Bonner Present
21 Arun Hejmadi: Present, participating remotely
22 Janet Schaefer: Present
23 Sherry White: Present
24

25 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**
26

27 James Wisker, Administrator; Kailey Cermak, Planner - Project Manager; Justin
28 Templin, Litigation Counsel; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.
29

30 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
31

32 None.
33

34 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
35

36 President White requested that 325 Blake Road/Alatus Litigation Update be added to the
37 Agenda as Item 15.1. *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson,*
38 *to approve the agenda with this change. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as*
39 *follows:*
40

41 *William Olson: Aye*
42 *Stephen Sando: Aye*
43 *Eugene Maxwell: Aye*
44 *Ricardo Bonner Aye*
45 *Arun Hejmadi: Aye*
46 *Janet Schaefer: Aye*

Sherry White: *Aye*

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Bonner, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 24, 2026, Board meeting minutes, and the following resolution:

Resolution 26-078: Selection and Authorization to Execute a Contract for Audit Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator to enter into an audit contract for fiscal years 2026-2027 with Redpath and Company, at a price not to exceed the amount stated in its proposal, on advice of legal counsel.

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:

William Olson: *Aye*
Stephen Sando: *Aye*
Eugene Maxwell: *Aye*
Ricardo Bonner *Aye*
Arun Hejmadi: *Aye*
Janet Schaefer: *Aye*
Sherry White: *Aye*

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President's Report: President White noted that she attended a planning session to prepare for the 2027 Plan Policy Advisory Committee meeting, an onboarding session with the Governance Advisory Council for Managers Schaefer and Bonner, and a Minnesota Watersheds Finance Committee meeting.

Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Olson reported that the committee met earlier in the evening and had a briefing and discussion of the evolution of the Land & Water Partnership Program to reflect a more strategic approach to forge more effective collaboration with local land use partners.

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 26-079: Authorizing Amendment to Campus Improvement Design

Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She reviewed the background and lengthy process to pursue reconstruction of the parking lots at the MCWD office. She explained the need to amend the contract with LHB, as the previously developed landscaping plan cannot be incorporated back into the project as-is and requires an array of revisions for a variety of reasons, including a shift in landscape goals to prioritize simpler, lower-maintenance planting areas; changes to civil design, including revised parallel parking and curblin along the drive aisle and removal of the proposed cistern; and new landscape areas, including the front lawn and window sill area in the front parking lot. She noted that the City's adjacent trail project and associated utility changes also create a well-timed opportunity to improve this public-facing area.

It was moved by Manager Schaefer, seconded by Manager Sando, to adopt Resolution 26-079: Authorizing Amendment to Campus Improvement Design as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to amend the agreement with LHB, Inc. for design services for the Campus Improvement Project to include the additional services described in the proposed scope of work, in an amount not to exceed \$12,950.

In response to questions from Managers Olson and Maxwell, Ms. Cermak reviewed more detail of the right of way, plant bed, sidewalk, side yard, and parallel parking areas.

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. The roof and gutters for the MCWD office building were recently replaced and the cost will be covered by insurance.
2. The City of Deephaven is planning a groundbreaking event for the Montgomery Stormwater Treatment Project on October 19.
3. The Izaak Walton League will be honoring the MCWD for its Balanced Urban Ecology approach to watershed management at an event on October 23.

The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

325 Blake Road, Hopkins and Alatus v. MCWD, City of Hopkins

On advice of legal counsel, it was moved by Manager Bonner, seconded by Manager Sando, to move into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05, subdivision 3 to consider potential terms for the sale of 325 Blake Road in Hopkins, and for the purpose of receiving confidential legal advice concerning litigation strategy in the case of Alatus v. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and City of Hopkins. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:

Olson: *Aye*

Bonner: *Aye*

Maxwell: *Aye*

Schaefer: *Aye*

Sando: *Aye*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
10/8/26

176 ***Hejmadi:*** *Aye*
177 ***White:*** *Aye*

178
179 The Board of Managers went into Closed Session.

180
181 The Board of Managers came into Open Session.

182
183 **Adjournment**
184

185 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers
186 adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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188 Respectfully submitted,

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191
192 Arun Hejmadi, Secretary