

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

4
5 **June 11, 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 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 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 Sherry White: Present

23
24 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

25
26 James Wisker, Administrator; and Justin Templin, Litigation Counsel.

27
28 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

29
30 None.

31
32 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

33
34 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the agenda*
35 *as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:*

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37 *Hejmadi: Aye*
38 *Olson: Aye*
39 *Bonner: Aye*
40 *Maxwell: Aye*
41 *Sando: Aye*
42 *White: Aye*

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47 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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49 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Bonner, to approve the*
50 *items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the May 28, 2026, Board*
51 *meeting minutes, and the following resolutions:*

52

53 ***Resolution 26-053: Appointment of Additional Members to the Technical Advisory***
54 ***Committee for the 2027 Watershed Management Plan***

55

56 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
57 ***Watershed District Board of Managers appoints the following individuals to***
58 ***serve on the Technical Advisory Committee for the 2027 Watershed***
59 ***Management Plan:***

- 60 • *Amy Timm, Watershed Project Manager, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*
- 61 • *Anneka Munsell, Hydrologist, Minnesota Department of Health; and*

62

63 ***Resolution 26-054: Approval of Programmatic Maintenance Agreement with***
64 ***Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority***

65

66 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
67 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the Board President,***
68 ***on advice of counsel, to execute a programmatic maintenance agreement with***
69 ***Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.***

70

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

72

73 ***Hejmadi: Aye***

74 ***Olson: Aye***

75 ***Bonner: Aye***

76 ***Maxwell: Aye***

77 ***Sando: Aye***

78 ***White: Aye***

79

80

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

82

83 **President's Report:** None.

84

85 **Operations and Programs Committee Report:** Manager Olson reported that the Committee met
86 earlier in the evening and received a presentation from Mr. Wisker on the preliminary 2027
87 budget, with a focus on programs and operations, capital improvement program, capital finance
88 and debt service, and personnel.

89

90 President White noted that staff planned and facilitated a joint Board of Managers – Citizens
91 Advisory Committee field trip last week. Managers expressed their appreciation for the great
92 staff preparation and the value of this outing.

93
94 President White noted the schedule of upcoming meetings presented in the agenda.

95
96 **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

97
98 None.

99
100 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

101
102 None.

103
104 **ACTION ITEMS**

105
106 **Resolution 26-055: Appointment of Members to MCWD's Governance Advisory Council**

107
108 Mr. Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers to present the request for board action. He
109 noted the Board's direction to manage change by providing for succession awareness and
110 planning, onboarding of new board members, reinforcing and institutionalizing board
111 governance culture, and establishing a governance advisory council. He noted how the creation
112 of this council would advance those goals, the recommended appointees to the council, and key
113 elements of a work plan for the council.

114
115 ***It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to adopt Resolution 26-055:***
116 ***Appointment of Members to MCWD's Governance Advisory Council as follows:***

117
118 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed***
119 ***District Board of Managers hereby appoints Dick Miller, Jessica Loftus, John Himle***
120 ***and Louis Smith to serve on the Governance Advisory Council for the duration of the***
121 ***Council's initial two-year pilot period ending in December 2027;***

122
123 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governance Advisory Council shall continue***
124 ***to operate consistent with the purpose, structure and limitations established in***
125 ***Resolution 26-042.***

126
127 ***There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as***
128 ***follows:***

129
130 ***Hejmadi: Aye***
131 ***Olson: Aye***
132 ***Bonner: Aye***

133 **Maxwell:** *Aye*
134 **Sando:** *Aye*
135 **White:** *Aye*

136
137

138 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

139

140 None.

141

142 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

143

144 None.

145

146 **STAFF UPDATES**

147

148 **Administrator's Report**

149

150 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

151

- 152 1. Mr. Wisker will be travelling out of the country June 19-July 3, and recommended that
153 Ms. Becky Christopher be named acting administrator in his absence. *It was moved by*
154 *Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Bonner to name Ms. Christopher as acting*
155 *administrator during Mr. Wisker's absence. Upon roll call vote, the carried, 6-0 as*
156 *follows:*

157

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

164

165

- 166 2. Water levels continue to be relatively low. A June 9 storm brought 0.2 inches of
167 precipitation in the upper watershed, and 0.5 inches in the lower watershed. Minnehaha
168 Creek peaked following this storm event as expected at 60 cubic feet per second at
169 Hiawatha and is currently flowing at 20 cubic feet per second.

170

- 171 3. Mr. Wisker, Ms. Sannes, and Ms. Hoppe recently met with Temple, the current owners of
172 the West End development in St. Louis Park. MCWD has a history with the previous
173 owner, Duke Realty, when MCWD invested funds for stormwater treatment beyond
174 regulatory compliance at the site, and the result was to remove fifty pounds of
175 phosphorus annually and remove Brownie Lake from the Impaired Waters list. One of

176 the demonstration practices in that project was a green roof which turned out not to
177 function well. Temple is requesting that the maintenance declaration for the green roof
178 be removed, and the parties are discussing alternative practices that may be the subject of
179 a superseding declaration. Staff anticipate bringing a recommended action to the Board
180 at a future meeting.

- 181
- 182 4. The Board recently approved a scope of work for Louis Smith and Kowsar Mohamed to
183 gather insights from the Greenway Corridor and other land use actors to inform the
184 MCWD's plan and programs. Interviews with other watershed districts have begun and
185 are yielding very interesting insights.
 - 186
 - 187 5. As noted at the committee meeting earlier in the evening, James McDermond-Spies and
188 James O'Brien are leaving MCWD employment. Mr. McDermond-Spies overhauled the
189 project and land maintenance program, supported a request for proposals for vegetation
190 and land management, and the supported the dredging of Twin Lakes pond. Mr. O'Brien
191 brought positivity to the Citizens Advisory Committee and contributed to the MCWD's
192 inclusive engagement protocol.
 - 193
 - 194 6. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Wisker noted that MCWD is in
195 communication with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board concerning recent fish
196 kills and algal blooms at Lake Nokomis. The MPRB leads in managing public health and
197 other aspects of this issue as the park and recreation authority.
 - 198
 - 199 7. In response to a question from Manager Sando, Mr. Wisker said that he had no further
200 news on the status of the TCAAP development in Arden Hills.
 - 201
 - 202 8. In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Wisker noted that the findings
203 from interviews conducted by Mr. Smith and Ms. Mohamed will be shared together with
204 the other elements of the project at a future committee meeting.

205

206 The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.

207

208 **CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION**

209

210 Alatus Development v. MCWD

211

212 *Upon recommendation of counsel and pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.05,*
213 *subdivision 3(b), it was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Bonner, to*
214 *move into closed session for the purpose of receiving confidential legal advice*
215 *concerning litigation strategy in the case of Alatus Development v. MCWD, Case No.*
216 *27-CV-25-8066. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 6-0 as follows:*

217

218 *Hejmadi: Aye*

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Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
6/11/26

219 **Olson:** *Aye*
220 **Bonner:** *Aye*
221 **Maxwell:** *Aye*
222 **Sando:** *Aye*
223 **White:** *Aye*

224
225

226 The Board of Managers went into closed session.

227

228 The Board of Managers returned to open session.

229

230

231 **Adjournment**

232

233 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers
234 adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

235

236 Respectfully submitted,

237

238

239

240 Arun Hejmadi, Secretary