



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

Meeting: Board of Managers

Meeting date: 8/13/2026

Agenda Item #: 7.3

Action type: Consent

Title: Selection and Authorization to Enter into Contract for Legal Services

Resolution number: 26-065

Prepared by: Name: Lauren Stretar
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Reviewed by: Name/Title: Deb Johnson, Office Manager

Recommended action: Approve Proposal and Authorize Administrator to Execute Contract

Past Board action: Res #: 26-058 Title: Approval to Release Request for Qualifications for Legal Services

Summary:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103B.227, a watershed district is required to solicit proposals for professional services, including legal services, at least every two years. The MCWD legal services contract with Smith Partners expires on August 31, 2026.

At the July 9, 2026 meeting the Board of Managers authorized the release of a request for qualifications (RFQ) for legal services.

Staff posted this RFQ on the MCWD website and on the League of Minnesota Cities website.

The Smith Partners proposal was the only proposal received. Staff is recommending the Board authorize the District Administrator to execute a legal services agreement with Smith Partners based on its history with and knowledge of the MCWD specifically, as well as the Smith Partners staff's years of experience and knowledge in water resources laws and watershed statutes.



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 26-065

Title: Selection and Authorization to Enter into Contract for Legal Services

- WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.227 at least every two years a watershed district is required to solicit interest proposals for professional services before retaining the services of a consultant;
- WHEREAS, professional services needed by the MCWD and subject to 103B.227 include legal services;
- WHEREAS, the Board authorized publication of a request for qualifications for legal services at the July 9, 2026, Board meeting;
- WHEREAS, the District received one response from the placement of the request for qualifications, from Smith Partners; and
- WHEREAS, District staff has reviewed the proposal for legal services and recommends the Board of Managers select Smith partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District Administrator to execute a legal services agreement with Smith Partners for the period of September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2028.

Resolution Number 26-065 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. 08/13/2026.

Secretary

Date: _____