

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

**January 8, 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 7:10 p.m. on January 8, 2026, at the MCWD offices, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

**MANAGERS PRESENT**

Sherry White, William Olson, Jessica Loftus, Eugene Maxwell, Richard Miller, Stephen Sando, and Arun Hejmadi.

**MANAGERS ABSENT**

None.

**DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

James Wisker, Administrator; Brian Beck, Research & Monitoring Program Manager; Kailey Cermak, Planner - Project Manager; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Wisker requested that Item 12.1, Discussion of 6300 Painter Road financing, be moved ahead of Item 11.2, Resolution 26-004: Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to add the Administrator's performance evaluation at the end of the Agenda. Upon vote the motion carried, 6-1, with President White voting against the motion. It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to adopt the Agenda with the changes noted above. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the December 18, 2025, Board meeting minutes, and the following resolutions:*

***Resolution 26-001: Approval of the District Funds Depository***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers: hereby names Old National Bank as the 2026 official depository of District Funds for its four bank accounts;***

***Resolution 26-002: Approval of the Official District Newspaper***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers: hereby designates the Star Tribune as the official newspaper of the District for 2026;***

***Resolution 26-003: Approval of the Depository of Noncash Financial Assurances***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers: hereby names Smith Partners as the 2026 official depository of noncash financial assurances for the District; and***

***Resolution 26-005: Approval of the District Fee Schedule***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the following District fee schedule:***

***District Fee Schedule***

<b><i>District professional staff*</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 70.07</i></b>
<b><i>District administrative staff*</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 50.74</i></b>
<b><i>Consulting Engineer/Technician</i></b>	<b><i>\$ Contracted Rate</i></b>
<b><i>District Counsel</i></b>	<b><i>\$ Contracted Rate</i></b>
<b><i>Permit Application Fee</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 10.00</i></b>
<b><i>Wetland Buffer signs</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 2.85</i></b>
<b><i>B&amp;W Copy Costs (8½ x 11 page)</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 0.25 + actual staff time</i></b>
<b><i>Color Copy (8½ x 11 page)</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 1.00 + actual staff time</i></b>
<b><i>Electronic Records</i></b>	<b><i>\$ cost of production</i></b>

***District expenses for postage, mailing labels, contracted services, and other miscellaneous services will be billed at cost. The “Application Fee” applies to all permits, including fast track permits.***

***\*Blended/burdened professional rate.***

***Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.***

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

President's Report: None.

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

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

None.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6300 Painter Road Financing

Ms. Kaily Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers. She reviewed various financing options to fund the acquisition of the property at 6300 Painter Road, which the MCWD acquired to support capital project implementation for water quality improvement in the Painter Creek-Jennings Bay Subwatershed. She explained that at the November 5, 2025, Board meeting, the Board of Managers had requested further discussion on the private placement financing option. She noted that the financial advisors consulted by staff generally consider issuance of bonded debt to be cost effective when the principal exceeds \$1 million, due to issuing costs. She noted that, although with the purchase price of \$825,000 and the cash reserves on hand, the Board may decide not to issue debt, the Board could preserve this option by adopting a reimbursement resolution. Ms. Cermak noted that such a resolution would need to be acted on at the January 22 Board meeting to be within 60 days of closing and preserve the tax-exempt financing option.

Manager Miller thanked Ms. Cermak for an excellent presentation. He said that his goal was that the MCWD remain knowledgeable about the various financing tools available. He stated that he felt the MCWD should be open to using debt to provide flexibility and spread the cost of capital improvements over various generations of taxpayers who benefit from the project. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Cermak stated that additional demolition and site restoration costs could be included in the debt financing, and that adopting the reimbursement resolution could facilitate adding additional acquisitions to the financing.

Ms. Cermak said that, based on this discussion, staff would prepare a reimbursement resolution for the Board's consideration at the January 22 meeting. Manager Loftus stated that she is comfortable with such a resolution but also noted that the MCWD annually levies for capital

project financing, and that the available funds on hand to pay for the 6300 Painter Road acquisition are not general reserves.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Resolution 26-004: Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal**

Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Manager to review the request for board action. He explained that staff have reviewed carp management issues for Parley and Mud Lakes in light of the MCWD's recent study to develop carp management guidance. He reviewed key factors including whether it is possible to block migration, suppress recruitment, and implement effective removal techniques. Mr. Beck said that consideration of these factors led staff to conclude that carp management is still feasible and warranted for Parley Lake.

***It was moved by Manager Loftus, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution 26-004: Authorization to Execute a Contract with WSB for Winter Carp Removal as follows:***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to execute a scope of work with WSB & Associates, for services to remove common carp and refine the population estimate of carp in Parley Lake within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, in an amount not to exceed \$30,911.***

In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Beck affirmed that WSB is working with the appropriate commercial fishing operation holding the DNR license for the area. Manager Maxwell expressed his concern that the removal be performed under safe ice conditions, and Mr. Beck affirmed that the work is dependent upon safe ice conditions. In response to a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Beck noted that Marsh Lake is too shallow for aeration. Manager Loftus thanked staff for the principled, studied approach to carp management. ***There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.***

#### **Officer Elections and Committee Appointments**

President White declared nominations open for President. ***It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Hejmadi that Manager White be elected President. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.***

President White declared nominations open for Vice President. ***It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Hejmadi that Manager Olson be elected Vice President. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.***

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District  
Board of Managers  
1/8/26

President White declared nominations open for Treasurer. *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando that Manager Loftus be elected Treasurer. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

President White declared nominations open for Secretary. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Loftus that Manager Maxwell be elected Secretary. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

#### Appointment of Committee Assignments

President White recommended continuing with the same committee assignments as last year, as follows:

Operations and Programs Committee: Loftus, chair; Olson; and Hejmadi.

Policy and Planning Committee: Miller, chair; Maxwell; and Sando.

*It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson, to confirm these committee assignments. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

#### **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

President White asked for a report on Smith Partners' custody of noncash financial assurances.

#### **STAFF UPDATES**

##### Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. The solicitation of bids for constructing the Gateway to the Greenway Project were released today. Staff anticipate awarding a construction contract at the February 12 Board meeting. The Outreach staff are working on appropriate signage for the project.
2. Staff is requesting quotes for buckthorn removal at the Cedar Lake Regional Trail connection to the Greenway.
3. Plans are proceeding for demolition at 6300 Painter Road.
4. Three projects are commencing construction in the coming week: County Road 6 Pond, East Auburn, and Twin Lakes.

5. Mr. Wisker spoke recently at a regional meeting on Twin Cities Metro Water Planning, where the theme was integration of water planning with land use and the urban environment. Mr. Wisker shared MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology approach, and several examples, including the Arden Park Project.
6. Plans are finalized for the January 22 kickoff events for the 2027 Plan. We will celebrate a decade of impact with partners and a vision for how we can advance together for the next ten years.
7. President White and Mr. Wisker are initiating meetings with the Hennepin and Carver County Commissioners.

The managers thanked Mr. Wisker for this report.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **Performance Evaluation of Administrator**

*It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi that the Board move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the performance evaluation of Mr. Wisker as Administrator. Upon vote the motion carried 7-0.*

The Board of Managers went into closed session.

The Board of Managers returned to open session.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Maxwell, Secretary