

46 **REGULAR AGENDA**

47

48 **Board, Committee, and Task Force Reports**

49

50 **President's Report:**

51

52 President White reported on the following items:

53

- 54 • The next meeting of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Minnesota Association of
55 Watershed Districts will be on July 19; Managers Olson and Blixt indicated that
56 they plan to attend;
- 57
- 58 • The latest issue of Minnesota Cities features a story on resiliency and climate
59 change, reflecting that the District and cities share a common concern on this
60 issue;
- 61
- 62 • The Lakeshore Weekly News has invited the District to contribute to its annual
63 lifestyle guide, which is an opportunity to highlight recent partnership initiatives
64 in the watershed.

65

66 **Planning and Policy Committee Report:**

67

68 Manager Miller referred to the minutes of the Committee meeting in the meeting
69 materials.

70

71 **Citizen Advisory Committee Report**

72

73 Manager Olson reported that Ms. Becky Christopher attended the meeting and provided a
74 review of issues in the update to the District Comprehensive Plan. There was a lengthy
75 discussion of priorities and helpful input from the CAC. The CAC also reviewed and
76 recommended approval of five cost share grant applications.

77

78 **2015 Research and Monitoring Report**

79

80 Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board and presented the results of the 2015
81 monitoring report. The managers thanked Ms. Cermak for her report.

82

83 **Public Hearings**

84

85 Ms. Yvette Christianson and Ms. Diane Spector appeared before the Board of Managers
86 and provided an update on the Ecosystem evaluation project. Manager Blixt asked why
87 the water quantity indicator was not a part of the recreational values. Ms. Spector noted
88 that it had been primarily considered an indicator for habitat. Manager Becker asked
89 whether chemical data had been obtained on insecticides, for example. Ms. Spector stated

90 that this data is typically not available but that staff could check with the United States
91 Geological Survey.

92

93 The managers thanked Ms. Spector and Ms. Christianson for their presentation.

94

95 **Action Items**

96

97 Resolution 16-060 Authorization to Execute a Purchase Agreement for Lake Town 9th
98 Wetland Restoration Easement

99

100 Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
101 action. Manager Olson noted that he attended a Victoria City Council meeting recently
102 where the Mayor, Councilmembers, and the City Engineer expressed appreciation for the
103 benefits of this project compared to the ordinary wetland banking option. Manager Olson
104 expressed his gratitude to staff for success with this project. *Following discussion, it was*
105 *moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Miller, to adopt resolution 16-060:*

106

107 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
108 *Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the administrator to*
109 *execute, on advice and consent of counsel, the agreement for the*
110 *purchase, at a cost not to exceed \$80,000, of the easement on the Hesse*
111 *property, with nonsubstantive revisions to effect the purposes of the*
112 *transaction as necessary, and take such other further actions necessary*
113 *to effect the transaction, including but not limited to the payment of not*
114 *to exceed \$5,000 in closing and related costs.*

115

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

117

118 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

119

120 Review Preliminary Design for the Highway 101 Causeway Shoreline Reconstruction
121 Project

122

123 Ms. Tiffany Schaufler appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on
124 the plans for this project. The managers thanked Ms. Schaufler for her presentation.

125

126 State Buffer Program and Draft Policies

127

128 Ms. Becky Christopher appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an overview of
129 draft policies developed by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to
130 implement the new buffer law. She recommended that the Board of Managers consider
131 whether it wishes to exercise enforcement jurisdiction for the buffer law, and then
132 develop comments on the draft policies in light of that consideration. Ms. Christopher
133 noted that in general, the Board of Managers has directed that the District move away

134 from a regulatory focus, and accordingly the managers may wish to decline to exercise
135 jurisdiction in this area.

136

137 Manager Shekleton stated that he appreciated the shift away from a regulatory focus, but
138 also wondered whether buffer enforcement maybe an appropriate additional tool in the
139 District's toolkit. Manager Olson noted that the District is already involved in buffers in a
140 variety of settings on a voluntary basis and that it may not be necessary to expand beyond
141 that role. President White noted that given the definition of buffers as any perennial
142 vegetation in the State law, there is not necessarily much benefit to be gained through
143 local enforcement. Manager Rogness stated that he appreciated Manager Shekleton's
144 suggestion and noted that there seems to be a wide variety of practices with buffers
145 around water bodies.

146

147 Mr. Smith provided some additional legislative background. Mr. James Wisker appeared
148 before the Board of Managers and stated that he felt that in terms of mission and focus on
149 District priorities, there would seem to be little value to involvement in buffer law
150 enforcement. He asked what additional information the managers needed in order to
151 determine the proper course of action. Mr. Erdahl noted that many of these issues are
152 addressed also through local shoreland ordinances. ***Following discussion, it was moved***
153 ***by Manager Shekleton, seconded by Manager Rogness, to direct the staff and legal***
154 ***counsel to develop proposed comments on the draft polices for consideration by the***
155 ***Board at its Joint Committee meeting on July 21. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.***

156

157 West 54th Street/Arden Park Stream Restoration Project Briefing

158

159 Ms. Renae Clark appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the concept plan
160 for the Arden Park Stream Restoration Project. She noted that this item would be on the
161 agenda of the July 28 meeting for action. The managers thanked Ms. Clark for her
162 presentation.

163

164 Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital Partnership Briefing

165

166 Mr. Wisker provided an overview of the current plans for the cooperative project with
167 Methodist Hospital involving a three acre wetland restoration and long-term easement
168 and management responsibilities for vegetation by the District. The managers thanked
169 Mr. Wisker for his presentation.

170

171 Administrators Report:

172

173 Mr. Erdahl reported on the following items:

174

175 • The MCWD Workshop on the Water is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3;

176

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
7-14-2016

- 177 • Eric Fieldseth was invited to serve on the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species
178 Research Center (MAISRC) technical committee, which consists of 8 members
179 from MAISRC & DNR and 2 members from other organizations. This will be a
180 great way for MCWD to participate, influence and stay in the loop with the latest
181 from MAISRC and other AIS partners;
182
- 183 • A letter was sent to residents in the Robinson Bay area to inform them of the
184 study of zebra mussel veliger control that will start soon in their bay;
185
- 186 • The Minnehaha Creek Clean will be on Sunday, July 24.
187

188 **ADJOURNMENT**

189

190 There being no further business the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 9:10
191 pm.

192

193 Respectfully submitted,

194

195

196

197 Kurt Rogness, Secretary