

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

4
5 **April 25, 2019**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by President
10 Sherry White at 7:05 p.m. on April 25, 2019, at the MCWD office, 15320 Minnetonka
11 Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

12
13 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

14
15 Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Kurt Rogness, Jessica Loftus, and Arun Hejmadi.

16
17 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

18
19 Eugene Maxwell (Manager designate).

20
21 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

22
23 James Wisker, Administrator; Brian Beck, Research & Monitoring Program Manager; Anna
24 Brown, Planner-Project Manager; Cathy Reynolds, Operations Manager; Tiffany Schaufler,
25 Project and Land Manager; Chris Meehan, Consulting Engineer; Louis Smith, Counsel.

26
27 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

28
29 None.

30
31 **OATH OF OFFICE**

32
33 Mr. Smith administered the oath of office to Manager Arun Hejmadi. The managers welcomed
34 Mr. Hejmadi to the Board.

35
36 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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38 *It was moved by Manager Miller and seconded by Manager Olson to approve the agenda as*
39 *distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

40
41 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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43 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Rogness, to approve the consent*
44 *agenda, consisting of the minutes of the April 11, 2019, meeting; approval of the Check*
45 *Register, with the general checking account register, voiding check 39687, 39696 and 39737,*
46 *consisting of checks 39688 through 39736 totaling \$ 675,903.34; payroll direct deposits*

47 ***totaling \$147,184.28; electronic fund withdrawals- general checking totaling \$116,954.41;***
48 ***and electronic fund withdrawals – surety checking totaling \$10.00; for total expenses of***
49 ***\$940,052.03; and adoption of Resolution 19-048: Authorization to submit BWSR Annual***
50 ***Report:***

51

52 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek***
53 ***Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the 2018 Annual Report and***
54 ***authorizes its release to BWSR and DNR.***

55

56 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.***

57

58 **REGULAR AGENDA**

59

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

61

62 President’s Report: President White thanked Manager Miller for serving on the panel to
63 interview strategic communications consultants.

64

65 Policy and Planning Committee Report: Manager Miller noted that the committee reviewed an
66 initial draft of the Capital Improvement Program for the upcoming 2020 budget. The committee
67 noted the need for some more flexibility in the timing of projects, depending upon various
68 factors such as local partner readiness.

69

70 President White noted the upcoming meetings on the calendar as noted in the agenda.

71

72 **Permits Requiring a Variance or Discussion**

73

74 **Permit 19-064: 28th Avenue South Bridge Replacement & Trail Improvements**

75

76 Ms. Heidi Quinn appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board
77 action. She noted that the City of Minneapolis is requesting an exception to the minimum buffer
78 requirement. She reviewed the various applicable rules, and explained that the site constraints do
79 not allow for compliance with the minimum buffer provision. Ms. Quinn explained that the staff
80 and District Engineer have found that the applicant has submitted sufficient evidence for the
81 MCWD Board of Managers to consider the Exception request that the project will achieve a
82 greater natural resources benefit by the incorporation of stormwater management BMP than that
83 would be achieved by strict compliance with the buffer provisions of the Wetland Protection
84 rule. ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness, to grant the exception***
85 ***from the minimum buffer requirement as requested, based on staff finding that the project will***
86 ***achieve a greater overall natural resources benefit.*** Mr. Smith noted the additional condition
87 noted in the report that the pre-treatment sump be amended from a one-foot in depth sump to a
88 four-foot in depth sump, which staff notes as a pre-treatment practice is in conformance with the
89 District’s BMP design criteria; he stated that this change is properly viewed as part of
90 consideration in overall natural resources impact of the project to justify the exception. ***Upon***

91 *vote, the motion to grant the exception carried, 6-0. It was moved by Manager Rogness,*
92 *seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the permit application with the conditions*
93 *recommended in the staff report. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*
94

95 **Action Items**

96
97 **Resolution 19-049: Authorization to Execute Contract with Carp Solutions for Carp Removal**
98 **Services in Six Mile Creek-Halstad Bay Subwatershed**
99

100 Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action.
101 She noted that carp removal is a key strategy for the District's work in the Six Mile Creek –
102 Halstad Bay Subwatershed, and this work is supported by a grant from the Lessard Same
103 Outdoor Heritage Council. Upon a question from Manager Miller, Ms. Brown and Mr. Brian
104 Beck explained the electrofishing process used in carp surveys. In response to a question from
105 Manager Hejmadi, Ms. Brown reviewed the field monitoring process for tracking biomass
106 removal, and the stocking of bluegills as natural predators of carp eggs. ***It was moved by***
107 ***Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Rogness, to adopt Resolution 19-049. Upon vote, the***
108 ***motion carried, 6-0.***
109

110 **Resolution 19-050: Authorization to Execute Contract with Consultant to Conduct the Long**
111 **Lake Creek Subwatershed Carp Assessment**
112

113 Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action.
114 He reviewed the partnership history to pursue improvements in the Long Lake Subwatershed,
115 and the issues and drivers to address the subwatershed's water quality problems. He reviewed
116 the RFP process and the staff recommendation of WSB for this work. ***Following discussion, it***
117 ***was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to adopt Resolution 19-050.***
118 ***Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.***
119

120 **Resolution 19-051: Authorization to Execute Contract with Wenck to Draft a White Paper**
121 **Synthesis on the Evaluation of Surface and Groundwater Interactions in South Minneapolis**
122

123 Ms. Tiffany Schaufler appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
124 action. She reviewed the background of the District's involvement with partner agencies in
125 analyzing the high water problems in South Minneapolis. ***It was moved by Manager Olson,***
126 ***seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to adopt Resolution 19-051.*** Manager Miller asked whether
127 staff had an estimate of the costs to remedy the impacts of high water conditions on the affected
128 residences. Mr. Meehan stated that a rough estimate would be approximately \$5,000 – 10,000
129 per house, or a total of approximately \$200,000 – 300,000. Manager Miller suggested that this
130 might be an option to address this issue. Mr. Wisker noted that while such a measure may be a
131 policy option, to date, the science about the high water problems has not been widely accepted,
132 and the cause of the problem has not been widely understood, hence this proposed effort to
133 synthesize the research and prepare for wider discussions of potential policy responses. Manager
134 Olson asked whether a perched water table can be effectively mitigated, and Mr. Meehan stated

135 no. In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Ms. Schaufler explained that this project
136 would not be focused on solutions, but rather the analysis of the problem. Manager Hejmadi
137 asked about the timeline for a potential broader review of these issues for the metropolitan area
138 by the University of Minnesota, and Ms. Schaufler explained that that would be a legislative
139 funding decision. ***Upon vote, the motion to adopt Resolution 19-051 carried, 5-1, with***
140 ***Manager Miller voting against the motion.*** Manager Miller stated that he voted in the negative
141 because he believes that the science and explanation for this problem is already known.
142

143 Resolution 19-052: Authorization to Approve IT Consultant Contract
144

145 Ms. Cathy Reynolds appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
146 action. President White noted that the materials for this item appeared to have been omitted
147 from the meeting packet. ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to***
148 ***table Resolution 19-052. Upon vote, the motion carried.***
149

150 Resolution 19-053: Renewal of MCWD Employee Benefits
151

152 Mr. Wisker reviewed the request for board action. ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded***
153 ***by Manager Rogness, to adopt Resolution 19-053.*** In response to a question from Manager
154 Loftus, Mr. Wisker reviewed the board authorization for salary and benefit increases in the
155 current budget. Manager Loftus stated that it would be helpful in the future to track salaries and
156 benefits as separate line items in the budget. ***Following discussion, upon vote, the motion to***
157 ***adopt Resolution 19-053 carried, 6-0.***
158

159 Staff Updates
160

161 Administrator's Report
162

163 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:
164

- 165 1. The District received an award from the Minnesota Association of Government
166 Communicators, and Telly Mamayek has been elected President of the Association;
- 167 2. Interviews have been held or are scheduled for hiring of a planning/program manager; IT
168 consultant; web site consultant; and strategic communications consultant;
- 169 3. Mr. Wisker made presentations to the Sensible Land Use Coalition and the Minneapolis
170 Real Estate Journal; and
- 171 4. Mr. Wisker, Ms. Schaufler, and Ms. Christopher recently attended the American Planning
172 Association conference.
173

174 Ms. Schaufler reviewed up to date spring flooding conditions.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
4-11-2019

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178

179 **Adjournment**

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181 There being no further business, the meeting of the board of managers adjourned at 8.38 p.m.

182

183 Respectfully submitted,

184

185

186 Kurt Rogness, Secretary

DRAFT