

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

4
5 **August 22, 2022**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by
10 President Sherry White at 7:03 p.m. on August 22, 2022.

11
12 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

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14 Sherry White, William Olson, Jessica Loftus, Richard Miller, Eugene Maxwell and
15 Stephen Sando.

16
17 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

18
19 Arun Hejmadi.

20
21 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

22
23 James Wisker, Administrator; Abigail Ernst, Permitting Technician; Daniel Mock,
24 Planner – Project Manager; Kailey Cermak, Hydrologist; Tiffany Schaufler, Project and
25 Land Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District
26 Counsel.

27
28 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

29
30 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando to approve the*
31 *Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Hejmadi absent).*

32
33 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

34
35 None.

36
37 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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39 *It was moved by Manager Loftus, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the items*
40 *on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the August 11, 2022, Board meeting*
41 *minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42001*
42 *through 42029 in the amount of \$156,655.44, electronic funds withdrawals of*
43 *\$31,878.60, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$1,332.00, employee*
44 *reimbursements of \$152.55, payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements of*
45 *159,357.33 for a total of \$349,375.92; the Surety Check Register for check numbers*

46 *2147 through 2158 in the amount of \$52,243.00; and the Wire Check Register in the*
47 *amount of \$0.00;*

48
49 *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

50
51 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

52
53 President's Report: President White reported that she has retired from service on the
54 Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts.

55
56 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the
57 meetings listed on the agenda.

58
59 **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

60
61 Budget and Levy Public Hearing

62
63 Mr. James Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the proposed
64 2023 budget and levy. He reviewed the process to develop the proposed budget and the
65 key milestones of board engagement throughout this process. He reviewed outcomes
66 from District projects achieved over the past year, and noted the proposed 2 percent (2%)
67 increase in the annual levy for 2023. No one appeared to offer comments on the
68 proposed budget and levy, and Mr. Wisker noted that no written comments have been
69 received.

70
71 Upon a question from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Wisker confirmed that only grants that had
72 been awarded and secured were included in the proposed budget. Manager Maxwell
73 asked with the recent federal infrastructure bill would provide possible funding for the
74 MCWD, and Mr. Wisker noted that the MCWD staff would be in ongoing discussions
75 with city staff to explore potential collaboration concerning resilience and climate
76 change. Manager Miller complimented on the high quality of the presentation and
77 invited including information on water quality outcomes expected from the 325 Blake
78 Road project.

79
80 There being no further discussion or comments, President White closed the public
81 hearing on the 2023 budget and levy.

82
83 Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Public Hearing

84
85 Ms. Abigail Ernst appeared before the Board of Managers and noted that The MCWD is
86 regulated as a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) under the National Pollutant
87 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II rules because the District is the
88 drainage authority for eight public drainage systems. The NPDES Phase II rules require

89 that a public hearing be held annually to provide an opportunity for public input on the
90 District's SWPPP. She noted that no written comments have been received to date on the
91 Plan. No one appeared at the hearing to offer comments.

92
93 Manager Olson complimented Ms. Ernst on the thorough work reflected in the SWPPP.
94 Upon a question from President White, Ms. Ernst noted that compliance issues are being
95 addressed through the MCWD's rulemaking process. There being no further discussion
96 or comments, President White closed the public hearing.

97

98 **ACTION ITEMS**

99

100 **Resolution 22-052: Authorization to Execute Contract for Wassermann Lake Alum Treatment**

101

102 Mr. Daniel Mock appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
103 action. He reviewed the background of projects in the Six Mile Creek Halsted Bay
104 subwatershed, and plans for this second alum treatment for Wassermann Lake as the
105 MCWD wraps up work under a Clean Water Fund grant from the Board of Water and
106 Soil Resources. He noted the quotes received for the alum treatment and the staff
107 recommendation to contract with SOLitude Lake Management. He stated that the total
108 remaining BWSR grant funds available for the Wassermann Lake alum treatment are
109 \$182,770. Staff is requesting the Board to establish a not to exceed budget so that the
110 District Administrator can issue a change order for the remaining budget funds. Upon
111 approval of the contract with SOLitude, staff would direct SOLitude, per the
112 recommendation and guidance from Stantec, to apply the additional funds towards
113 treatment in shallower zone of Wassermann, in an amount not to exceed the remaining
114 balance of \$15,626. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to*
115 *adopt Resolution 22-052 as follows:*

116

117 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek***
118 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District***
119 ***Administrator, on the advice of counsel, to execute a contract with SOLitude***
120 ***Lake Management for \$167,144 for the second Wassermann Lake alum***
121 ***treatment, and authorizes the Administrator to execute change orders in his***
122 ***discretion in an amount not-to-exceed \$182,770.***

123

124 Upon a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board
125 of Managers and explained that given the few providers of alum treatments, it is not
126 unusual to receive quotes from firms out of state. Upon a further question from Manager
127 Maxwell, Mr. Mock reviewed the process of reaching out to landowners around the lake,
128 and Ms. Cermak noted further that signs are posted and staff is on site during the
129 treatment. Manager Miller asked whether post cards were sent to all lakeshore
130 landowners, and Ms. Cermak stated that no post cards were sent, but an email was sent to
131 all lakeshore owners through the lake association. Manager Olson asked whether activity

132 on the lake would be shut down during the alum treatment, and Ms. Cermak explained
133 that it would not be shut down per se, but general caution would be advisable and again
134 staff will be on site to answer any questions.

135

136 *There being no further discussion, upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

137

138

139 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

140

141 None. Manager Miller noted that Mr. Wisker would relate one of his recent suggestions.

142

143 **STAFF UPDATES**

144

145 Administrator's Report

146

147 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

148

- 149 1. Staff, led by Brian Beck, is working on the metrics of MCWD work and at the
150 suggestion of Manager Miller, working on communicating those metrics in plain
151 language to the public;
- 152
- 153 2. Water levels have continued to decrease with moderate drought conditions, and
154 precipitation year to date is approximately 5 inches below normal. Lake
155 Minnetonka is at 928.3, and the control structure was closed on July 21. There is
156 nominal flow in Minnehaha Creek at Hiawatha at about 6 cubic foot per second.
157
- 158 3. Manager Sando and staff presented to the Edina City Council on the work on
159 Arden Park over the past three years. Edina officials were very complimentary of
160 this work. Mr. Wisker noted that staff is also working on collaboration for the
161 Morningside Project. Manager Miller noted that the mayor of Edina was very
162 complimentary of MCWD staff.
163
- 164 4. The District's capital improvement program is out for annual comments, and
165 comments so far have been received from Edina and St. Louis Park. MCWD is
166 working on finding opportunities to reduce the waste load allocation to Hiawatha.
167
- 168 5. There has been a lot of activity for MCWD human resources. New staff includes
169 science writer Stacy Carlson.
170
- 171 6. Mr. Wisker noted that Tiffany Schaufler has decided to step down as Project and
172 Land Manager in order to focus as a senior field technician. Ms. Schaufler came
173 before the Board of Managers and shared her process of self-critical reflection on
174 her strengths and challenges. She stated that she valued the process of sharing

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175 honest and clear feedback with Mr. Wisker to acknowledge her gaps and focus on
176 her passion and place of highest value in the organization, which for her is
177 returning to field work. She reflected on several key lessons she learned in this
178 process:

- 179
- 180 • Being transparent, vulnerable, and authentic allowed me to have honest and
181 productive conversations with James; where he was involved and a part of the
182 solution;
- 183
- 184 • Being self-aware and self-identifying what is not going well saves a lot of
185 time, emotions, and avoids problems, while gaining the trust of your
186 colleagues;
- 187
- 188 • It is ok to try new things and fail. The organization will support you and have
189 your back if you deliver value and live the culture;
- 190
- 191 • The organization needs individual contributors just as much as it needs
192 managers; we need both to be successful. We need everyone at all levels
193 rowing in the same direction and playing to their core strengths;
- 194
- 195 • And regardless of what my ego says, one is not better than the other; and I
196 hope this can be an example for other colleagues at the District.
- 197
- 198 • Nothing is permanent. As I grow and the organization keeps growing, there is
199 a commitment between me and James to continue doing what we have always
200 done – to evaluate how things are going and identify new opportunities to
201 grow into the future;
- 202
- 203 • I want to end by saying how grateful I am for James’ patience, grace, and trust
204 over these past months as they have allowed us to find the best possible
205 outcome for me, the work, and the organization;
- 206
- 207 • And finally, I want to thank the Board of Managers for their leadership and
208 their energy to foster the culture and strategy we have today. I’m grateful for
209 and value the opportunity to sit before you tonight as an example of the
210 culture you have supported.
- 211

212 Manager Miller thanked Ms. Schaufler for her professional and honest process of
213 reflection and noted that she is the soul of the organization. Expressing gratitude for Ms.
214 Schaufler, Manager Olson noted the outstanding work achieved at Wassermann Park, and
215 President White noted the beauty of the Six Mile Marsh Trail.

216
217

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218 **Adjournment**

219

220 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
221 Managers adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

222

223 Respectfully submitted,

224

225

226

227 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary

DRAFT