MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF 1 THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT 2 3 **BOARD OF MANAGERS** 4 5 August 26, 2021 6 7 CALL TO ORDER 8 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by 9 10 President Sherry White at 7:00 p.m. on August 26, 2021. President White noted that this meeting was convened electronically through Zoom, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 11 13D.021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her determination that it is not prudent for 12 the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person, and it is not feasible 13 to provide for any member of the Board, or of the public, to meet at the regular meeting 14 location. For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District's presiding 15 officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and 16 17 its committees will be convened by telephone or other electronic means as the presiding officer determines appropriate. All such meetings will be noticed and conducted in 18 accordance with §13D.021 and all other applicable terms of the Open Meeting Law. 19 President White noted that, pursuant to §13D.021, all votes will be by roll call. 20 21 President White called the roll to note attendance: 22 23 Heimadi: 24 Present 25 Loftus: Present 26 Sando: Present Miller: Present 27 Olson: Present 28 29 Maxwell: Present 30 White: Present. 31 DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT 32 33 James Wisker, Administrator; Tom Dietrich, Permitting Program Manager; Abigail Ernst, 34 35 Permitting Technician; Anna Brown, Planner – Project Manager; Kailey Cermak, Hydrologist; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Janna Jonely, Project and 36 Land Management Technician; Rena Weis, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis 37 Smith, District Counsel. 38 39 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR** 40 41 42 None. 43 44 STAFF PRESENTATION

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Mr. Tom Dietrich appeared before the Board of Managers and noted his impending 46

departure from employment at the District. He thanked the Board of Managers and staff 47

for this opportunity to serve the MCWD, and the managers wished Mr. Dietrich all the

best in his future endeavors.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

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Heimadi: 56 Aye 57 Loftus: Aye

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Olson: 60 Aye

61 Maxwell: Aye Aye

White: 62

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CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the August 12, 2021 Board minutes, the General Checking Account consisting of checks 41626 through 41658 in the amount of \$426,579.19; electronic funds withdrawals in the amount of \$33,236.72; manager per diems and reimbursement direct deposits in the amount of \$4,137.58; employee reimbursements - direct deposits in the amount of \$612.91; and payroll direct deposits in the amount of \$227,435.86; for Total General Checking expenses of \$692,002.26; the surety checking account surety refund for Permit 18-414, Permit 18-053, Permit 16-040, and Permit 20-455, and a bank service charge totaling \$91,423.00; and electronic fund transfer of \$0.00; and adoption of the following resolutions:

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Resolution 21-055: Approval of Contracts for SMCHB Carp Removal as follows:

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on the basis of the specific experience of WSB & Associates and the finding of District staff that the contract fee is competitive, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers finds it appropriate to authorize a professional services contract with that firm without competitive process;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to execute a contract with WSB & Associates, for services to remove common carp in Steiger Lake within the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed, consistent with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Accomplishment Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$15,147.00;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on 90 91 advice of counsel, to execute a contract with WSB & Associates, for services to remove common carp in East Auburn Lake in an amount not to exceed 92 93 \$10,483.50; 94 95 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the District Administrator is authorized, on advice of counsel, to execute a contract with WSB & Associates, for services to 96 implant common carp with radio tags East Auburn Lake to facilitate removals 97 in an amount not to exceed \$4,669.00; and 98 99 Resolution 21-056: Amendment to the 2021 Budget as follows: 100 101 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek 102 Watershed District Board of Managers hereby amends the 2021 budget as 103 recommended by staff for a total 2021 budget of \$14,834,518. 104 105 Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows: 106 107 108 Heimadi: Aye Loftus: 109 Aye Sando: Aye 110 Miller: Aye 111 Olson: 112 Aye Maxwell: 113 Aye White: 114 Aye 115 BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS 116 117 Policy and Planning Committee: Manager Miller reported that the committee received a 118 presentation on MCWD history for the second period of study, 1980-1992. He thanked 119 Mr. Smith for the presentation. 120 121 Citizens Advisory Committee: Manager Loftus reported that the CAC received an update 122 on the redevelopment of 325 Blake Road from Michael Hayman. 123 124 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the 125 meetings listed on the agenda. 126 127 PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION 128 129 130 Permit 21-161: Interlachen Golf Course, Edina

President White noted upon inquiry that no one was present for the 2022 budget and levy

hearing, and that several persons were present at the meeting for Permit 21-161, so

without objection proceeded to this matter.

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Ms. Abigail Ernst appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the permit application. She reviewed the site, three project areas, and the application of the erosion control, wetland protection, waterbody crossings, and stormwater management rules to the project. She noted that the proposed project does not cause adverse downstream impacts, including the bounce in water level for any downstream waterbody or wetland. Ms. Ernst noted comments about tree removal and noted that the District rules do not address tree removal, but the Edina city forester has confirmed that the city's tree replacement requirements are met for this project. She reviewed concerns for potential flooding risk and confirmed that modeling for the project indicates no increase in peak runoff rates, and also provides for volume treatment in excess of the stormwater rule

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requirements.

Ms. Debra Frimerman appeared before the Board of Managers and noted she is an adjacent landowner. Ms. Frimerman noted concerns with the stormwater impacts of the proposed project and stated that she felt that a drain tile system had not been properly considered. Ms. Ernst stated that the referenced drain tile is outside of the project boundaries, and that all runoff from the project had been analyzed pursuant to District rules. Mr. Ross Bintner of the City of Edina appeared and noted that he was not sure about the drain tile cited by Ms. Frimerman, but that a storm sewer pipe is in a similar alignment, and he did not believe it had a material relationship to the project. Ms. Rene Weiss reviewed the no-rise analysis and said that there is no reason to have concern for backflow from the wetland.

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Following discussion, it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to approve the permit application with the conditions recommended by staff. Upon a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Ernst reviewed the parcel boundaries and the unconstructed section of road right of way. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

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Heimadi: 165 Aye Loftus: 166 Aye Sando: 167 Aye Miller: Aye 168 169 Olson: Aye Maxwell: Aye 170 White: 171 Aye

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PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS

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2022 Budget and Levy Public Hearing

- Mr. James Wisker reviewed the process and timeline for the development of the 2022 176
- budget. He reviewed the major elements of the budget and MCWD priorities. Mr. 177
- Wisker stated that the proposed 2022 budget reflected a two percent increase in District 178
- expenses, from \$14,716,421 in 2021 to \$15,027,532 in 2022, but a zero percent increase 179
- in the District tax levy. He noted that the District presented earlier in the day to the 180
- Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, and the MCWD's proposal 181
- for 2D modeling was included in the commission's recommendations. The legislature 182
- will act on those recommendations next session. 183

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President White invited any comments or questions on the 2022 budget and levy and there were none. Mr. Wisker confirmed also that no written comments had been received. President White closed the public hearing.

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ACTION ITEMS

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Resolution 21-057: Adoption of the Revised MCWD Capital Improvement Plan

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- Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board action. She noted that the MCWD annually updates its capital improvement plan, and the District distributed this year's plan for comment from June 30 to August 2.
- Comments were received from Chanhassen, Shorewood, Medina and Independence, and 196 197 all of the comments raised procedural questions that were responded to by staff promptly.
- Following discussion, it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Loftus 198 to adopt the following resolution:

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the attached 2022 CIP.

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Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

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Hejmadi: 206 Aye Loftus: 207 Aye

Sando: 208 Aye

Miller: 209 Aye

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White: 212 Aye

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Resolution 21-058: Approval of Change Order for trail paving at the Wassermann

Lake Preserve 215

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Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for 217 218

board action. She explained that the Victoria City Council requested the additional trail

paving, and it would result in no additional cost to the District. *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell to adopt Resolution 21-058 as follows:*

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to execute a change order for trail paving at the Wassermann Lake Preserve at a cost not to exceed \$134,440.14.

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Upon a question from Manager Olson, Ms. Brown noted that the subbase for the trail is six inches in depth. *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:*

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Hejmadi: 230 Aye 231 Loftus: Aye Sando: 232 Aye Miller: 233 Aye 234 Olson: Aye Maxwell: 235 Aye 236 White: Aye

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Resolution 21-051: Authorization to Execute Memorandum of Understanding with City of Edina

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Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She noted the District's interest in building a hydrology and hydraulics model that incorporates high resolution municipal stormsewer information, and the value of developing small-scale pilots to develop such a model. She reviewed the discussions and interest of the City of Edina in this work, and the proposed memorandum of understanding to outline the collaboration. *It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution 21-051 as follows:*

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to execute the Memorandum of Understanding in its final form between MCWD and the City of Edina.

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Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

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Hejmadi: 256 Aye Loftus: Aye 257 Sando: Aye 258 259 Miller: Aye Olson: 260 Aye Maxwell: 261 Aye 262 White: Aye

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BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

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Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk

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Closed Session: Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk Update

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Mr. Michael Hayman and Ms. Janna Jonely appeared before the Board of Managers and recommended that the Board move into a closed session. It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to convene in closed session under the Open Meeting Law to confer with District counsel on the mediation and litigation of District claims regarding the Minnehaha Preserve boardwalk construction on the finding that

274 275 confidentiality is essential to review the legal basis for the District's claims. Upon roll 276

call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

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- 278 Hejmadi: Aye
- Loftus: 279 Aye
- 280 Sando: Aye
- Miller: Aye 281
- 282 Olson: Aye
- Aye Maxwell: 283
- 284 White: Aye

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The Board of Managers went into closed session. The Board of Managers returned to open session.

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STAFF UPDATES

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Administrator's Report

293 294 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

295 296 297 1. Drought conditions are persisting across Minnesota, with now 88% of the state declared by the Department of Natural Resources to be in severe drought and 56% of the state in extreme drought. The Grays Bay dam has been closed since mid-July. With recent rain, Minnehaha Creek is flowing at 67 cubic feet per second at Hiawatha;

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2. The MCWD is in the process of hiring a new outreach manager;

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3. Mr. Wisker will attend a meeting on September 7 concerning a Lake Minnetonka management strategy;

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Upon a question from Manager Maxwell, Mr. Wisker reported that the
community engagement event for 325 Blake Road went well with about 45
people in attendance and general excitement about the project.

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Adjournment

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There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 9:24p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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318319 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary

