

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

4
5 **February 11, 2021**
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 7:01 p.m. on February 11, 2021. President White noted that
11 this meeting was convened electronically through WebEx, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes
12 13D.021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her determination that it is not prudent for
13 the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person, and it is not feasible
14 to provide for any member of the Board, or of the public, to meet at the regular meeting
15 location. For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District's presiding
16 officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and
17 its committees will be convened by telephone or other electronic means as the presiding
18 officer determines appropriate. All such meetings will be noticed and conducted in
19 accordance with §13D.021 and all other applicable terms of the Open Meeting Law.
20 President White noted that, pursuant to §13D.021, all votes will be by roll call.
21

22 President White called the roll to note attendance:
23

24 Hejmadi: Present
25 Loftus: Present
26 Rogness: Present
27 Miller: Present
28 Olson: Present
29 Maxwell: Present
30 White: Present
31

32 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**
33

34 James Wisker, Administrator; Chris Meehan, Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith,
35 District Counsel.
36

37 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**
38

39 None.
40

41 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
42

43 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller to approve the*
44 *Agenda as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:*
45

46 Hejmadi: Aye

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
2-11-21

47 Loftus: Aye
48 Rogness: Aye
49 Miller: Absent
50 Olson: Aye
51 Maxwell: Aye
52 White: Aye

53

54 **CONSENT AGENDA**

55

56 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the*
57 *Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the January 28, 2021 Board minutes.*

58

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

60

61

62 Hejmadi: Aye
63 Loftus: Aye
64 Rogness: Aye
65 Miller: Aye
66 Olson: Aye
67 Maxwell: Aye
68 White: Aye

69

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

71

72 President's Report:

73

74 Summary of Administrator's Performance Evaluation: President White noted that on
75 January 28, 2021, the board of managers conducted a performance review of District
76 Administrator James Wisker. The board rated his performance as excellent and elected to
77 give Mr. Wisker a salary increase of 5%, effective January 1, 2021.

78

79 President White reported on a good meeting with Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff
80 Lunde. She noted that Joel Carlson has reported a bill introduced at the legislature that
81 would allow county commissioners to serve as watershed district managers.

82

83 Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the
84 committee met earlier and had a valuable presentation and listening session with the
85 HDR design team to envision priorities and goals for the 325 Blake Road project. The
86 committee also received a briefing from staff on Phase 1 of the organizational assessment
87 of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Much more work on this assessment will be
88 reported in the months to come.

89

90 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the
91 meetings listed on the agenda; all of the meetings to be noticed and held via WebEx. She
92 noted that Manager Olson would be the Board liaison to the Citizens Advisory
93 Committee meeting on February 17.

94

95 **ACTION ITEMS**

96

97 Resolution 21-013: Approve PPC Strategic Discussion Process and Authorize Contact
98 with Smith Partners PLLP

99

100 Mr. Wisker reviewed the request for board action, noting prior discussions in committee
101 to frame the goals and scope of this project. He said that he hoped the project would
102 produce findings to guide successful watershed management.

103

104 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 21-*
105 *013 as follows:*

106

107 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
108 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the process for strategic***
109 ***organizational dialog and authorizes the District Administrator to execute a***
110 ***contract with Smith Partners PLLP to complete Phase 1 work in accordance***
111 ***with the attached scope of services in an amount not to exceed \$50,350.***

112

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

114

115 Hejmadi: Aye
116 Loftus: Aye
117 Rogness: Aye
118 Miller: Aye
119 Olson: Aye
120 Maxwell: Aye
121 White: Aye

122

123 Resolution 21-014: Recognition of Kurt Rogness' Service on the MCWD Board

124

125 President White read the full resolution recognizing the service of Manager Rogness on
126 the Board of Managers. Each member of the board took a moment to express their
127 gratitude for Manager Rogness' invaluable insight and comprehensive vision, his warmth
128 and kindness, and generous spirit to share his professional expertise for public benefit. *It*
129 *was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Loftus to adopt Resolution 21-*
130 *014 as follows:*

131

132 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
133 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby formally acknowledges Kurt***

134 *Rogness' contribution to the organization and expresses its deep gratitude and*
135 *thanks for his service.*

136

137 *There being no further discussion, upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as*
138 *follows:*

139

140 Hejmadi: Aye

141 Loftus: Aye

142 Rogness: Aye

143 Miller: Aye

144 Olson: Aye

145 Maxwell: Aye

146 White: Aye

147

148 **STAFF UPDATES**

149

150 Administrator's Report

151

152 Mr. Wisker reported that Senator Patricia Torres Ray is seeking a hearing on funding a
153 study on high water issues. There will be a public hearing on the Hiawatha golf course
154 park master plan on February 17. The District is continuing its development of remote
155 sensing and machine learning which will improve capacity to monitor and analyze high
156 water conditions. Mr. Wisker will continue to follow up on these matters as needed.

157

158 **Adjournment**

159

160 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
161 Managers adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

162

163 Respectfully submitted,

164

165

166

167 Kurt Rogness, Secretary

168