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

February 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:11 p.m. at the District office, 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

Sherry White, Richard Miller, Brian Shekleton, Kurt Rogness, Jessica Loftus, William Olson.

MANAGERS ABSENT

Bill Becker.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lars Erdahl, Administrator; James Wisker, Planning and Projects Director; Katherine Sylvia, Permitting Program Lead; Elizabeth Showalter, Permitting Technician; Darren Lochner, Education Program Manager; Heidi Quinn, Permitting Technician; Anna Brown, Planner-Project Manager; Laura Domyancich, Project and Land Technician; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Manager Shekleton requested that Item 8.1 be amended to include a report on the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. *It was moved by Manager Shekleton, seconded by Manager Rogness to approve the Agenda with this change. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*

CONSENT AGNEDA

It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items: approval of the February 8, 2018 Board minutes; and approval of the check register of the general checking account, checks numbered 38836 to 38888 for a total of \$180,888.45, payroll direct deposits of \$143,378.24 and approve electronic fund withdrawals totaling \$32,404.79 for total expenses of \$356,6712.48, and surety account

47 *check registers, as well as acceptance of the 325 Blake Road checking account; and approval*
48 *of Resolution 18-0013: MAWD 2018 Annual Dues:*

49
50 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
51 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves payment of \$7,500 for*
52 *MAWD 2018 annual dues, payable to the Minnesota Association of Watershed*
53 *Districts.*

54
55 *Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*

56
57 **REGULAR AGENDA**

58
59 **Board, Committee, and Task Force Reports**

60
61 President's Report

62
63 President White reported on the following items:

- 64
- 65 • an upcoming Executive Committee will be scheduled to review the 2017 Audit;
 - 66
 - 67 • A Joint Working Group to review the responses to the request for qualifications for 325
 - 68 Blake Road Master Development will be meeting soon;
 - 69
 - 70 • President White noted that this is Mr. Erdahl's last meeting as District Administrator. She
 - 71 thanked him for his service to the District and looked forward to his continuing service
 - 72 to the District as a Citizen Ambassador.
 - 73

74 Policy and Planning Committee Report:

75
76 Manager Miller reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening to receive an update on
77 325 Blake Road and hear a presentation from the NTH Consultants about their role in advising
78 the District in the process; a program update on the Six Mile Creek Subwatershed work for carp
79 management; and an update on a feasibility study to address flooding in the area of Lake
80 Harriett in southwest Minneapolis.

81
82 Citizens Advisory Committee

83
84 Manager Shekleton reported that he and Manager Olson attended the meeting. Mr. Wisker
85 presented an overview of the Strategic Planning for the District and roles in which the CAC could
86 assist. Bill Bushnell was elected Chair of the Citizen Advisor Committee.

87
88 Permits Requiring a Variance or Discussion

89
90

91 Permit 17-561: South View Middle School

92
93 Ms. Elizabeth Schowalter appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
94 action. She reviewed the configuration of parcels and phasing of the project and noted that it
95 was reviewed in aggregate as a common scheme of development. She reviewed the erosion
96 control plan and stormwater management plan for the site. She noted that a resident had
97 expressed concerns with flooding in the area and requested this hearing on the permit
98 application. The District staff and engineer evaluated downstream impacts, and determined that
99 the proposed project will maintain or reduce runoff rates and volumes. President White invited
100 any public comments on the permit application, and there were none. ***Following discussion, it***
101 ***was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness to approve the permit with the***
102 ***conditions recommended by staff. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.***

103
104 Permit 17-512: Edina Flats

105
106 Ms. Schowalter reviewed the permit application and noted that it was set for hearing before the
107 Board of Managers at the request of a resident who was concerned about the proposed
108 infiltration mobilizing contaminants from a previous vehicle fueling station at the site. She noted
109 the engineer found, after a review of soil testing data, that there is no reason to recommend that
110 the District disallow infiltration at the site. Ms. Schowalter also noted that the site is within the
111 Nine Mile Creek Watershed District hydrology, but legally located within the Minnehaha Creek
112 Watershed District. President White invited any public comments on the permit application and
113 there were none. ***It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve***
114 ***the permit with the conditions recommended by staff.*** Manager Shekleton asked whether the
115 Nine Mile Creek rules provided similar standards for reviewing this project. Mr. Smith noted
116 that the substantive stormwater management standards for the two watershed districts are
117 generally similar, and that both districts follow a similar approach to addressing potential
118 contamination concerns regarding infiltration. ***There being no further discussion, upon vote,***
119 ***the motion carried, 6-0.***

120
121 Action Items

122
123 Resolution 18-014: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement for the Minnehaha Greenway –
124 325 Blake Road Stormwater Management Project

125
126 Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board
127 action. ***It was moved by Manager Shekleton, seconded by Manager Miller, to adopt Resolution***
128 ***18-014 as follows:***

129
130 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers hereby***
131 ***approves the Grant Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its***
132 ***Board of Water and Soil Resources for appropriated Clean Water Funds in the amount***
133 ***of \$370,000 for work related to the Minnehaha Greenway – 325 Blake Road***

134 ***Stormwater Management Project, and authorizes the District Administrator to execute***
135 ***the Grant Agreement.***

136

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

138

139 Resolution 18-016: National American Planning Association Conference Attendance

140

141 Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board
142 action. She noted that the total estimated cost for three staff members to attend the conference
143 would be approximately \$7,500, and that this expense would exceed the training budget and so
144 board approval is requested. She noted that the conference attendance would advance the
145 District's commitment to Balanced Urban Ecology. ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded***
146 ***by Manager Olson, to approve Resolution 18-016 as follows:***

147

148 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed***
149 ***District Board of Managers authorize three (3) staff to attend the 2018 National***
150 ***American Planning Association conference for a cost not to exceed \$7,500 for***
151 ***registration, travel, and accommodations.***

152

153 ***Manager Shekleton expressed his support for this action. Manager Loftus stated that she was***
154 ***concerned that the expense was outside of the budget and that the information was provided***
155 ***late, so she would abstain. Upon vote, the motion carried, 5-0-1, with Manager Loftus***
156 ***abstaining.***

157

158 Resolution 18-017: Approval of Employment Agreement Between MCWD and Mr. Wisker

159

160 Mr. Smith reviewed the Board process to develop the proposed agreement, and stated that he
161 would be pleased to answer any questions. There being no questions, ***it was moved by Manager***
162 ***Miller, seconded by Manager Shekleton, to approve Resolution 18-017 to approve the***
163 ***Employment Agreement. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.***

164

165 Board Discussion Items

166

167 Big Island Nature Park Easement Engagement Framework

168

169 Ms. Laura Domyancich appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed recent issues
170 under discussion with the City of Orono concerning proposed improvements at Big Island. She
171 reviewed the issues of concern as it relates to the District's conservation easement, and noted the
172 framework for discussion those issues with the City as its planning process continues. The
173 managers thanked Ms. Domyancich for her presentation and ongoing work.

174

175 Staff Updates

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177

178 Administrator's Report

179

180 Mr. Erdahl reported on the following items:

181

- 182 • Ms. Domyancich recently appeared before the Medina City Council as it reviewed the
- 183 plat for the Marx property which includes the District's conservation easement;
- 184 • A draft of the 2017 audit has been reviewed by staff in preparation for an upcoming
- 185 Executive Committee review, and there are no surprises or concerns; and
- 186 • The District recently received correspondence about the Governor's 25 by 25 water
- 187 agenda, and plans for the upcoming MAWD legislative meetings on March 7-8.
- 188

189 Mr. Erdahl also noted that his first meeting with the Board of Managers had been almost exactly
190 three years ago. He reviewed the important work of the District accomplished over the past three
191 years through the Board's leadership and a talented staff. He noted that there had been a very
192 smooth leadership transition, and that the District would be in good hands. He thanked the
193 Board and staff for the past three years, and wished everyone well. President White thanked Mr.
194 Erdahl for his service and wished him well.

195

196 **ADJOURNMENT**

197

198 There being no further business, the meeting of the Board of Managers was adjourned at
199 8:08 p.m.

200

201 Respectfully submitted,

202

203

204

205 Kurt Rogness, Secretary

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