

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

4
5 **June 24, 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 7:00 p.m. on June 24, 2021 at the MCWD Office, 15320
11 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota. President White welcomed everyone to
12 the District's first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March
13 2020. President White read a statement explaining that she has determined that it is no
14 longer imprudent or impractical to hold meetings in person due to the pandemic, and
15 accordingly she has withdrawn her declaration of March 20, 2020 providing the basis for
16 meeting electronically pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021.

17
18 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

19
20 Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Jessica Loftus, Eugene Maxwell, Arun
21 Hejmadi and Steve Sando.

22
23 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

24
25 James Wisker, Administrator; Alex Steele, GIS Technician; Deb Johnson, Office
26 Manager; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Gabe Sherman, Planner-Project
27 Manager; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

28
29
30 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

31
32 None.

33
34 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

35
36 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Sando to approve the*
37 *Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.*

38
39 **CONSENT AGENDA**

40
41 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the*
42 *Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the June 10, 2021 Board minutes, the*
43 *General Checking Account consisting of checks 41562 through 41589 in the amount of*
44 *\$354,724.21; electronic funds withdrawals in the amount of \$37,607.42; manager per*
45 *diems and reimbursement direct deposits in the amount of \$3,759.52; employee*
46 *reimbursements - direct deposits in the amount of \$93.00; and payroll direct deposits in*

47 *the amount of \$157,375.93; for Total General Checking expenses of \$553,560.08; the*
48 *surety checking account bank service charge of \$30.00; and electronic fund transfer of*
49 *\$56,100.00 for 325 Blake Road refinance; and adoption of the following resolutions:*

50

51 *Resolution 21-043: Authorization to Issue RFP for Accounting Services as follows:*

52

53 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
54 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes staff to release the*
55 *request for proposal for accounting services;*

56

57 *Resolution 21-044: Authorization to Release the 2020 MS4 Annual Report to the*
58 *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as follows:*

59

60 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
61 *Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the 2020 MS4 Annual Report*
62 *and authorizes its release to the MPCA;*

63

64 *Resolution 21-045: Approval to Purchase Replacement Laptops and Firewall as*
65 *follows:*

66

67 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
68 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the purchase of 8*
69 *replacement laptops for an amount not to exceed \$12,636.59; and*

70

71 *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District*
72 *Board of Managers hereby approves the purchase of replacement firewall,*
73 *licenses and installation fees for an amount not to exceed \$7,689.01; and*

74

75 *Resolution 21-046: Authorizing Administrator to Commit District Funds to Complete*
76 *Carp Removal as follows:*

77

78 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
79 *Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District administrator to*
80 *commit additional district funds to complete carp removal if required in the*
81 *event of a government shutdown, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.*

82

83 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

84

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

86

87 President's Report: President White acknowledged the joint meeting with the Hopkins
88 City Council on June 17 and thanked the managers and staff for a successful meeting.
89 She noted that this project will be discussed later in the agenda, but she was encouraged

90 that the City had a strong desire to proceed with the Alatus proposal and was willing to
91 commit to address the District’s concerns for risks in the proposal.

92

93 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the
94 meetings listed on the agenda.

95

96

97 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

98

99 **325 Blake Road Planning Discussion**

100

101 Mr. Michael Hayman and Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers
102 and provided a design status update and review of the outcome of the June 17 joint
103 meeting of the Board of Managers and the Hopkins City Council. Mr. Hayman noted the
104 upcoming virtual meeting and in-person event, and the design charette planned for July
105 13-14. Upon questions from Managers Loftus and Hejmadi, Mr. Hayman explained the
106 follow up on the listening sessions and the process now moving into explicit design
107 components. In response to a question from Manager Loftus, Mr. Hayman reviewed the
108 status of HDR’s work and the adjustments to their scope of services. Manager Loftus
109 expressed concern that there was not a parallel track in development planning scenarios.
110 Mr. Wisker noted that staff would reflect on the need to align expectations on
111 deliverables and progress reports.

112

113 Mr. Hayman reviewed the key outcomes of the joint board-council meeting. He noted a
114 unanimous decision to select Alatus as the developer, and Wellington as the alternate,
115 and key considerations with the city council being that the Alatus purchase price of
116 \$11.25 million is firm, to be paid in two phases of \$8 million and \$3.25 million; the city
117 will not rely on the purchase price to address any financial gaps, but rather use tax
118 increment finance or other subsidy tools; and long term operations and maintenance of
119 the public realm at the site would be funded through shared contributions of the city,
120 developer, and MCWD, with MCWD’s contribution focused in its remaining parcel and
121 water resource related facilities. Mr. Hayman further noted the discussion of the Joint
122 Liaisons Group remaining engaged in the process.

123

124 **Closed Session: 325 Blake Road Development, Hopkins**

125

126 Mr. Hayman recommended going into closed session for the purpose of discussing the
127 development of potential terms for the sale of 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. ***It was moved***
128 ***by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller to move into closed session for the***
129 ***purpose of discussing the development of potential terms for the sale of 325 Blake***
130 ***Road in Hopkins. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:***

131

132 Hejmadi: Aye

133 Loftus: Aye

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
6-24-21

134 Sando: Aye
135 Miller: Aye
136 Olson: Aye
137 Maxwell: Aye
138 White: Aye

139

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

142

143 **STAFF UPDATES**

144

145 **Administrator's Report**

146

147 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

148

- 149 1. Staff is engaging in development of options with the landowner at the site of the
150 MCWD County Road 6 pond;
- 151 2. The City of Richfield has agreed to complete a process of evaluating the need for
152 substantial modifications to the Taft Legion alum dosing facility by the end of this
153 year;
- 154 3. Lake Minnetonka is currently at 928.87' and will soon hit the runout elevation;
155 75% of Minnesota is currently in a drought; and the upper watershed streams
156 draining into Lake Minnetonka are dry;
- 157 4. The board retreat is planned for July 26 from 6-9 p.m.

158

159 Mr. Wisker thanked the Board of Managers for support of the District's mission, noting
160 that today was his 40th birthday. The managers expressed warm birthday wishes to Mr.
161 Wisker.

162

163 **Adjournment**

164

165 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
166 Managers adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

167

168 Respectfully submitted,

169

170

171

172 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary