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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President White noted the staff request to add Item 13.1 to the Discussion agenda, Climate Adaptation and Watershed Model Update. *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to approve the Agenda as distributed with this addition. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:*

- Hejmadi: Aye
- Loftus: Aye
- Sando: Aye
- Miller: Aye
- Olson: Aye
- Maxwell: Aye
- White: Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the February 25, 2021 Board minutes; and the following resolutions:

Resolution 21-017: Authorization to renew Metro Watershed Partners membership

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator to spend \$6,000 to renew MCWD’s Metro Watershed Partners annual membership.

Resolution 21-018: Acceptance of Tort Liability Limits on the District P&C Insurance Policy Renewal

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers accepts the statutory tort liability limits as set out in Minnesota Statute 466.04 and authorizes the Administrator to advise the LMCIT accordingly.

Resolution 21-019: Authorization for Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Watershed Assessment Contract Scope Adjustment and Extension

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute an amendment incorporating additional work

90 *into the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Nutrient Assessment and increasing*
91 *the not-to-exceed to \$61,000.*

92
93 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*

94
95 Hejmadi: Aye
96 Loftus: Aye
97 Sando: Aye
98 Miller: Aye
99 Olson: Aye
100 Maxwell: Aye
101 White: Aye

102
103 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

104
105 President’s Report: President White expressed her appreciation for the Hennepin County
106 Board’s recent appointments and noted that it reflected an affirmation of the work of the
107 District. She noted that two more commissioner briefings are planned with
108 Commissioners Conley and Fernando.

109
110 Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the
111 committee met earlier and received a staff review of active responsive model
112 opportunities, which includes four potential opportunities under consideration. The
113 committee also received an update from staff on Phase 1 of the organizational assessment
114 of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Much more work on this assessment will be
115 reported in the months to come.

116
117 Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Maxwell reported that he attended the
118 recent CAC meeting on March 3, which focused on the extensive staff briefing on
119 climate adaptation which is later on this meeting’s agenda.

120
121 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the
122 meetings listed on the agenda; all of the meetings to be noticed and held via WebEx. She
123 noted that Manager Miller would be the Board liaison to the Citizens Advisory
124 Committee meeting on April 14.

125
126 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

127
128 Permit 21-065: Target Knollwood, 8900 Hwy 7, St. Louis Park

129
130 Ms. Erin Manlick appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the permit
131 report, noting that Target is seeking a permit for the replacement of a portion of Boone
132 Avenue, a private road adjacent to the Target store parking lot. She noted that the
133 applicant is requesting a variance from the wetland buffer requirement and reviewed the

134 application in terms of compliance with the floodplain alteration, waterbody crossings
135 and stormwater management rules. She noted that the application proposes to exceed the
136 MCWD stormwater management requirements by providing excess stormwater volume
137 abstraction. She explained that the MCWD has responsibility for the Wetland
138 Conservation Act in St. Louis Park and staff recommends approval of Target's request
139 for a de minimus exemption and no-loss determination. Ms. Manlick reviewed the
140 request for a variance from the wetland buffer requirement, including site constraints due
141 to the proximity of the road to the delineated wetland boundary. The applicant proposes
142 a 40-foot buffer on the northern and southern boundaries, and the overall result is a buffer
143 area deficit of 3,482 square feet. She reviewed the requested board actions to approve the
144 WCA de minimus exemption and no-loss determination; grant the variance; and approve
145 the permit with conditions.

146
147 ***It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell to approve the***
148 ***Wetland Conservation Act de minimus exemption and no-loss determination as***
149 ***recommended by staff.*** Manager Miller commented that the entire site was once a
150 wetland and had been filled before enactment of the Wetland Conservation Act. He
151 noted past conversations with Target about potential opportunities at the site. Manager
152 Olson stated that he appreciated that the application is addressing a complex problem and
153 that staff has done good work with these issues.

154
155 ***Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:***

156
157 Hejmadi: Aye
158 Loftus: Aye
159 Sando: Aye
160 Miller: Aye
161 Olson: Aye
162 Maxwell: Aye
163 White: Aye

164
165 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to grant the requested***
166 ***variance from the Wetland Protection Rule based on the reasons set forth in the staff***
167 ***report.***

168
169 ***Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:***

170
171 Hejmadi: Aye
172 Loftus: Aye
173 Sando: Aye
174 Miller: Aye
175 Olson: Aye
176 Maxwell: Aye
177 White: Aye

178 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to approve the permit***
179 ***application with the conditions set forth in the staff report.***

180

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

182

183 Hejmadi: Aye

184 Loftus: Aye

185 Sando: Aye

186 Miller: Aye

187 Olson: Aye

188 Maxwell: Aye

189 White: Aye

190

191 **ACTION ITEMS**

192

193 **Resolution 21-020: Authorization to Release the Request for Proposals for Six Mile**
194 **Marsh Prairie Trail and Interpretation Design**

195

196 Ms. Laura Domyancich-Lee appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the
197 request for board action. She reviewed the history of the Six Mile Marsh Prairie
198 restoration and planning for the trail and interpretation.

199

200 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell to adopt Resolution***
201 ***21-020 as follows:***

202

203 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
204 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the release of the***
205 ***request for proposals for design services for Six Mile Marsh Prairie trail and***
206 ***interpretation and allows the Administrator to make non-substantive edits to the***
207 ***document and schedule based on advice of MCWD legal counsel.***

208

209 Upon a question from Manager Sando, Ms. Domyancich-Lee reviewed the trail point of
210 access to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.

211

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

213

214 Hejmadi: Aye

215 Loftus: Aye

216 Sando: Aye

217 Miller: Aye

218 Olson: Aye

219 Maxwell: Aye

220 White: Aye

221

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

222

223 Climate Adaptation and Watershed Model Update

224

225 Ms. Becky Christopher and Mr. Brian Beck appeared before the Board of Managers and
226 provided an update on the MCWD's planning efforts concerning climate adaptation and
227 improved watershed modeling. Ms. Christopher reviewed the process of engaging with
228 the CAC to explore the MCWD's potential role and contributions of value in adapting to
229 climate change. She reviewed the MCWD's emphasis on climate science, a careful
230 review of governance and roles among state, regional and local governments; and
231 consideration of the MCWD's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. She
232 noted that the primary insights include focusing on adaptation rather than mitigation;
233 taking a data-driven approach; enhancing the MCWD's data analysis capacity; develop a
234 systems understanding; and build a coalition of willing partners. Staff is developing a
235 three-part framework to approach this work across three areas: understand and predict;
236 communicate, convene and plan; and implement, measure and adapt.

237

238 Mr. Beck reviewed the MCWD work in the "understand and predict" area, which include
239 work on the Real Time Sensor Network (RESNET), development of a machine learning
240 model using real time data, and creation of a two-dimensional model integrating regional
241 landscape data and municipal infrastructure to create a high resolution planning tool.

242

243 Manager Miller reflected on his observation of rising water levels in wetlands and
244 expressed his appreciation that the staff's approach is for the MCWD to keep within its
245 lane. Upon a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Christopher and Mr. Wisker
246 explained the MCWD's effort to engage cities as partners through developing the data,
247 modeling, and analytic capacity that will provide value to partners. Manager Loftus
248 noted that she appreciated learning about climate change through this local lens and felt
249 that it would be important not to duplicate the efforts of other agencies. Manager
250 Hejmadi expressed his congratulations to the staff for excellent work. Upon a question
251 from Manager Hejmadi, Ms. Christopher reviewed the composition of the technical
252 advisory committee. Upon a question and comment from Mr. Smith, Ms. Christopher
253 and Mr. Wisker noted that watershed activities can make contributions to soil health and
254 carbon sequestration, thereby mitigating impacts of climate change. Such activities could
255 potentially be a part of the planning and communications, though the staff envisions the
256 primary role for the MCWD to be adaptation.

257

258 Upon a question from President White, Ms. Christopher noted that these issues do not
259 necessarily portend substantive changes in the MCWD rules, but the MCWD will
260 continue to learning from this work and adapt as warranted. Manager Miller referred
261 back to the discussion of soil health and mitigation, and Mr. Wisker noted that soil health
262 is another lens through which to consider the MCWD's work concerning climate change,
263 though the MCWD's mission and expertise with hydrology indicates that adaptation is
264 the key role for the District. The managers thanked the staff for this briefing and
265 discussion.

266

267 **STAFF UPDATES**

268

269 **Administrator's Report**

270

271 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

272

273 1. Sadly, former Manager Pam Blixt passed away recently. She served on the Board
274 of Managers for 24 years, many as President, and also served on the Clean Water
275 Council. The MCWD will communicate its sympathies to the Blixt family;

276

277 2. Construction on the Auburn Lake carp barrier has begun and should be completed
278 within the coming week;

279

280 3. Listening sessions are planning for the 325 Blake Road project, including a
281 session with the Hopkins City Council on March 16, and a public session on
282 March 25. A video and survey are posted on the MCWD web site; and

283

284 4. Water levels are now seeing the impact of Spring melting. Lake Minnetonka
285 remains below 928.6 and the dam is still closed. The Nokomis weir was open all
286 winter but is now closed.

287

288 **Adjournment**

289

290 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
291 Managers adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

292

293 Respectfully submitted,

294

295

296

297 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary Pro Tem

298