

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

4
5 **October 20, 2022**

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 October 20, 2022.

11
12 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

13
14 Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Arun Hejmadi,
15 Eugene Maxwell and Stephen Sando.

16
17 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

18
19 Jessica Loftus.

20
21 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

22
23 Becky Christopher, Policy Planning Manager; Kayla Westerlund, Permitting Program
24 Manager; Daniel Mock, Planner – Project Manager; Kailey Cermak, Hydrologist; Abigail
25 Ernst, Permitting Technician; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis
26 Smith, District Counsel.

27
28 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

29
30 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to approve the Agenda*
31 *as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).*

32
33 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

34
35 None.

36
37 **CONSENT AGENDA**

38
39 *It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the*
40 *items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the October 6, 2022, Board*
41 *meeting minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers*
42 *42057 through 42086 in the amount of \$334,194.36, electronic funds withdrawals of*
43 *\$39,950.08, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$2,730.00, employee*
44 *reimbursements of \$1,791.09, payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements*
45 *of \$151,693.11 for a total of \$530,358.64; the Surety Check Register for check*
46 *numbers 2174 through 2180 in the amount of \$50,927.00; and the Wire Check Register*

47 *in the amount of \$52,461.58 to Bremer Bank for Office Building Refinance; and the*
48 *following resolution:*

49

50 *Resolution 22-061: Appointment of Additional TAC Member for the Land*
51 *& Water Partnership Initiative*

52

53 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
54 *Watershed District Board of Managers appoints the following individuals to*
55 *represent the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board on the Technical Advisory*
56 *Committee for the Land & Water Partnership Initiative:*

57

- 58 • *Madeline Hudek, Data Insights Analyst – primary representative*
- 59 • *Adam Arvidson, Director of Strategic Planning - alternate*

60

61 *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).*

62

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

64

65 President’s Report: President White noted the recent groundbreaking event for 325 Blake
66 Road and praised the partnership and collaboration leading to this step.

67

68 Policy and Planning Committee: Manager Miller noted that the Committee met earlier in
69 the evening and received a staff presentation on the Edina Local Water Management
70 Plan. Some important concerns and long-term issues relating to climate impacts were
71 identified for ongoing discussion with the City.

72

73 Metro MAWD: Managers Maxwell, Hejmadi and White attended the recent meeting of
74 the Metro Chapter of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. The meeting
75 included presentations on septic programs, street sweeping, and funding opportunities
76 concerning climate impacts and water management and nutrient reduction. President
77 White noted that some leadership changes are coming in Metro MAWD. She also noted
78 that the Metropolitan Council reported upcoming policy papers on subjects such as reuse
79 and source protection, and that the Stormwater Research Council has openings on its
80 citizen advisory committee.

81

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

84

85 **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

86

87 Public Hearing for the Lamplighter Pond Water Quality Project

88

89 Ms. Kayla Westerlund appeared before the Board of Managers to present the background
90 and feasibility study for the Project. She noted that District staff and the District
91 Engineer reviewed the feasibility study with City of St. Louis Park staff, and
92 collectively have recommended a manufactured treatment device be constructed at
93 Northside Park, 2200 Louisiana Ave S in St Louis Park, in the eastern boulevard to
94 Nevada Avenue adjacent to the Northside Park parking lot. The project consists of
95 pumping water through a Contech StormFilter (CSF), from where it will drain via gravity
96 downstream to Lamplighter Pond, ultimately making its way to Twin Lake.

97
98 President White invited comments from the public and there were none. Ms. Westerlund
99 confirmed that no written comments on the project had been received by staff. President
100 White thanked Ms. Westerlund and closed the public hearing.

101

102 **ACTION ITEMS**

103

104 **Permit 22-106 Morningside Amendment Approval and**
105 **Cooperative Agreement Update**

106

107 Ms. Abigail Ernst appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
108 action. She explained that the City of Edina is seeking approval to amend the permit to
109 reflect grading changes within Weber Pond. By operating Weber Pond at a slightly
110 higher normal water level and by predictively pumping ~1 foot of volume prior to smaller
111 (~1 inch or less events) rain events, the project can reduce TP and TSS at the point of
112 discharge to Bde Maka Ska.

113

114 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to approve the***
115 ***amendment of Permit 22-062, incorporating the revised Weber Pond grading plans.***
116 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.***

117

118 **Resolution 22-062: Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for East Auburn**
119 **Wetlands Feasibility Study**

120

121 Mr. Daniel Mock appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
122 action. He reviewed the setting within the Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed,
123 and the concerns about phosphorus loading. He explained that previous water quality
124 sampling, hydrology, and vegetation analysis in the wetland system between
125 Wassermann Lake and East Auburn Lake identified a relatively small portion of the
126 wetland as the primary driver of phosphorus export. A wetland monitoring assessment
127 was completed in late September 2022, and the key findings are: water quality sampling
128 in the groundwater wells and stream samples indicated that median total phosphorus
129 concentrations in groundwater were approximately 4.5-times higher than the median total
130 phosphorus concentrations in the stream channel; solid-phase mobile phosphorus from
131 soils is likely driving elevated groundwater concentrations; and phosphorus-rich

132 groundwater is then transported downstream, via Six Mile Creek, to East Auburn Lake.
133 The next step in project development is to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for
134 feasibility to identify opportunities to address phosphorus export from the wetland.

135
136 *It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution 22-*
137 *063 as follows:*

138
139 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
140 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes staff to release a Request for***
141 ***Proposals for the East Auburn Wetlands feasibility study.***

142
143 *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

144
145 Resolution 22-064: Authorization to Release RFP for Stormwater Infrastructure Data
146 Standardization

147
148 Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for
149 board action. She noted the context of the MCWD climate action framework, and the
150 status of the 2D modeling pilot project. She explained how the proposed work of the
151 stormwater infrastructure data standardization fits with the 2D model build.

152
153 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution*
154 *22-064 as follows:*

155
156 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
157 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the release of the request for***
158 ***proposals for stormwater infrastructure data standardization, and allows for the***
159 ***administrator to make non-substantive edits to the document and schedule***
160 ***based on advice of MCWD legal counsel.***

161
162 *Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*

163
164 Resolution 22-065: Authorization to Contract for Stream Channel LiDAR Collection

165
166 Ms. Cermak reviewed the request for board action, explaining that the current severe
167 drought conditions created the opportunity to capture high-resolution creek morphology
168 data using LiDAR, as the creek bed is fully dry in most locations. This approach would
169 also be a significant cost savings compared to manual data collection.

170
171 *It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution*
172 *22-065 as follows:*

173

174 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
175 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to***
176 ***contract, on advice of MCWD legal counsel, for a not to exceed amount of***
177 ***\$32,800 with MnDOT for stream channel LiDAR collection in accordance with***
178 ***the proposed vendor/MnDOT scope.***

179
180 Upon questions from Managers Sando, Olson and Miller, Ms. Cermak explained the
181 LiDAR data collection in further detail and its potential applications beyond the 2D
182 model work. ***Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.***

183
184 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

185
186 Manager Sando noted the opportunity to explore creek restoration work given the drought
187 conditions and dry creek bed.

188
189 **STAFF UPDATES**

190
191 **Administrator's Report**

192
193 Ms Christopher reported on the following items:

- 194
195 1. Harrison's Bay: the Harrison's Bay Association formed non-profit status within the last
196 year, and through their process of formation, Harrison's Bay leadership has had repeated
197 points of engagement with MCWD, on topics including understanding the water quality
198 profile and sources of nutrient loading to Harrison's Bay; seeking guidance on potentially
199 evaluating and managing carp populations; and investigation of County Road 110 as a
200 potential source of sediment to the west end of the bay, where, in part due to drought,
201 residents are exploring dredging to maintain navigable access to the lake. Communication
202 with the Association has been coordinated with the Mound City Manager, and most
203 recently, Harrison's Bay Association appeared before the Mound City Council during the
204 MS4 public hearing, and raised concerns over stormwater runoff. The City Council
205 appointed a liaison councilmember, Paula Larson, to meet with MCWD and Hennepin
206 County, to investigate the source of silt into the bay. Staff will keep the Board informed
207 about these developments.
208
209 2. CAC Diagnostic: At this point, managers should have received an invitation to the CAC
210 diagnostic survey from Samantha Maul. This survey is the first step in the CAC
211 diagnostic which aims to check in about operational changes implemented with the 2021
212 CAC Alignment Report. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the results of this
213 diagnostic will be used to produce any new operational recommendations for the CAC.
214
215 3. CAC Appointments: Through the ongoing recruitment and reappointment process for the
216 CAC, John Salditt and Peter Rechelbacher have both communicated that they will be

217 stepping down from the CAC this cycle. Both expressed a deep appreciation for
218 MCWD's work. Mr. Salditt noted, in part that with the new format and fewer meetings,
219 he felt the opportunity for impact was more constrained than in the past. The
220 Administrator has reached out to both members, and will be making a connection and
221 debriefing with both when he returns.

222

223 4. Permitting New Hire: Maria Friedges will be joining the permitting team on October
224 25th in the permitting technician role. Maria studied Environmental Science at the
225 College of Saint Benedict. She started at the City of Shoreview as an intern in 2019, and
226 since 2020 has continued her work at the City as a Natural Resources Specialist where
227 she coordinates the NPDES erosion control program. Maria also has experience with the
228 MS4 permit, coordinating stakeholders, and various conservation programs. She will
229 make a great addition to the permitting team.

230

231 5. Water Level Update:

232 a. The Twin Cities has received 18.67 inches of precipitation this year, which is 9.38
233 inches below normal; AND ~ 3 inches less than we had received by this time last
234 year (10/20/21).

235 i. Currently 2022 ranks as the 20th driest year to date on record.

236 b. Today, the U.S. Drought Monitor update identified that MCWD remains in
237 Extreme Drought. This is the first time MCWD has been classified with Extreme
238 Drought since the U.S. Drought Monitor was created 22 years ago.

239 i. Currently 4.2% of the state is experiencing Extreme Drought.

240 c. The current level for lake Minnetonka is 927.50 feet, which is 22.8 inches below
241 the OHW of 929.40; and 13.2 inches below the runout elevation of 928.60 feet.

242 i. This is the lowest the lake has been in 10 years

243 ii. Last year on this date, Lake Minnetonka was at 928.07 feet, which is 6.1
244 inches higher than it is today.

245 d. The dam has remained closed since July 21, as is required by the operating plan
246 when Lake Minnetonka falls below its runout elevation of 928.60 feet.

247 i. Since the dam's closure on July 21, the lake's level has fallen 13 inches
248 due to evaporation.

249 e. Minnehaha Creek is no longer flowing in most areas.

250 f. There is approximately 0.5 inches of rain predicted Sunday night into Monday.

251 g. Over the past couple of weeks there have been a few media inquiries on the low
252 water levels. Staff will package these media stories in an email and share with the
253 Board.

254

255 Adjournment

256

257 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
258 Managers adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

259

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
10-20-22

260 Respectfully submitted,
261
262
263
264 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary

DRAFT