MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF 1 THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT 2 3 **BOARD OF MANAGERS** 4 5 **September 10, 2020** 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 September 10, 2020. President White noted that this meeting was convened electronically through WebEx, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 11 13D.021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her determination that it is not prudent for 12 the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person, and it is not feasible 13 to provide for any member of the Board, or of the public, to meet at the regular meeting 14 location. For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District's presiding 15 officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and 16 17 its committees will be convened by telephone or other electronic means as the presiding officer determines appropriate. All such meetings will be noticed and conducted in 18 accordance with §13D.021 and all other applicable terms of the Open Meeting Law. 19 President White noted that, pursuant to §13D.021, all votes will be by roll call. 20 21 President White called the roll to note attendance: 22 23 24 Heimadi: Present 25 Loftus: Present Rogness: Present 26 27 Miller: Present 28 Olson: Present 29 Maxwell: Present 30 White: Present 31 DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT 32 33 James Wisker, Administrator; Will Roach, Permitting Assistant; Tiffany Schaufler, 34 35 Project and Land Manager; Anna Brown, Planner – Project Manager; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Gabe Sherman, Planner – Project Manager; Chris Meehan, 36 Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel. 37 38 39 MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR 40 41 None. 42 43 44

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President White proposed to switch the order of Items 12 and 13. It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to approve the Agenda with this change. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

54	Hejmadi:	Aye
55	Loftus:	Aye
56	Rogness:	Aye
57	Miller:	Aye
58	Olson:	Aye

59 Maxwell:

Maxwell: Aye White: Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the August 27, 2020 Board minutes, and the following resolutions:

Resolution 20-068: Authorization to Execute Agreements with Great River Greening for Vegetation Management at Three Sites:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Administrator, on the advice of counsel, to execute agreements with Great River Greening to perform vegetation management at the District properties of Broin and Diercks and the conservation easement held over Methodist Hospital and to supply the local cost-share element for that work, not to exceed \$15,000.

Resolution 20-069: Selection and Authorization to Contract for Audit Services:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby selects Redpath and Company as the audit services provider for fiscal years ending 2020 and 2021. AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers directs the District Administrator to enter into a contract with Redpath and Company with the review and assistance of legal counsel.

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

Hejmadi: Aye 91 92 Loftus: Aye Rogness: Aye 93 Miller: 94 Aye 95 Olson: Aye

96 Maxwell: Aye

97 White: Aye

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

100 101 102

103

98

99

President's Report: President White reported that she and Manager Maxwell have continued their work as liaisons for the 325 Blake Road project, which will be discussed later in the agenda. She thanked everyone for continuing commitment to the District's mission through the challenge of COVID-19.

104 105 106

Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the Committee received detailed briefings from staff on the update of the District web site. and consideration of strategies for volunteer engagement.

108 109 110

111

107

Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Maxwell reported that the recent CAC meeting included an update on the web site design and a discussion of the CAC's schedule and strategies to keep members informed of District initiatives.

112 113 114

Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the meetings listed on the agenda; all of the meetings to be noticed and held via WebEx.

115 116

PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION

117 118 119

Permit 20-071: 4512 North Avenue, Edina; Resolution 20-062: Adopting Findings and Denying Floodplain Variance Request for 4512 North Ave, Edina

120 121

- Mr. Will Roach appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for 122 board action. He noted that at the August 13, 2020 board meeting, a motion to adopt the 123
- staff recommendation to deny the requested variance had been tabled. The Board of 124
- Managers had directed the staff to continue discussions with the applicant to seek a 125
- project solution that involved less fill in the floodplain and some compensatory storage 126
- on the site. Mr. Roach noted that the initial proposal involved 24 cubic yards of fill in the 127
- floodplain; staff and the applicant now agreed on a project plan involving 16 cubic yards 128
- of fill, 6.7 cubic yards of compensatory storage on site, and net fill of 9.3 cubic yards. 129
- Staff now recommends approval of this requested variance with the findings and 130
- 131 conditions noted in the staff memorandum, including payment of fees in the amount of

\$2,963.57. 132

Mr. Matt Pavek, engineer for the applicant appeared before the Board of Managers and 134 thanked the staff for cooperation, noting that the current proposal is a good solution. 135

136

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to take up the 137 previous motion from the table. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows: 138

139

140 Heimadi: Aye Loftus: Aye 141 Rogness: 142 Aye 143 Miller: Aye

Olson: 144 Aye Maxwell: 145 Aye

146

White: Aye

147 148

It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to amend and substitute a motion to approve the variance based on the findings and conditions set forth in the September 10 staff memorandum.

150 151 152

153

154

149

Manager Miller stated that care should be taken to avoid downstream impacts from flooding. Manager Loftus thanked the staff and applicants' representative for working to minimize fill and maximize compensatory storage on site. Manager Maxwell expressed his appreciation to the staff in finding an alternative solution.

155 156 157

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 5-2 as follows:

158

Hejmadi: Aye 159 Loftus: 160 Aye Rogness: Aye 161 Miller: 162 Nay Olson: 163 Aye

164 Maxwell: Aye

White: 165 Nay

166

It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Maxwell to approve Permit 167 168 No. 20-071 with the conditions recommended by staff. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 5-2 as follows: 169

170

171 Hejmadi: Aye Loftus: Aye 172 Rogness: 173 Aye 174 Miller: Nay 175 Olson: Aye

Maxwell: 176 Aye

177 White: Nay

178

ACTION ITEMS

179 180 181

Adoption of the 2021 Budget and Certification of the 2021 Tax Levy

182 183

184

185

Mr. Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the budget process, and the proposed budget of \$14,716,421 of expenditures, supported by a zero increase District levy of \$9,675,993. He noted that no comments were received at the public hearing or since the hearing was held on August 27.

186 187 188

189

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness to adopt Resolution 20-070, Adoption of the 2021 Budget and Workplan, and Notice of November 26, 2020 Public Meeting as follows:

190 191 192

193

194

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the 2021 budget of \$14,716,421, and associated workplans and fund transfers, presented to the Board of September 10, 2020.

195 196 197

198

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby announces a public meeting for further comment on the 2021 budget, scheduled for November 19, 2020.

199 200

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

201202

Hejmadi: Aye 203 Loftus: 204 Aye 205 Rogness: Aye Miller: 206 Aye Olson: 207 Aye 208 Maxwell: Aye 209 White: Aye

210 211

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 20-071 Adoption of Certified 2021 Tax Levy, as follows:

212213214

215

216

217

218

219

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, shall certify to the Auditors of Hennepin and Carver Counties, in amounts bearing the same proportion to the total levy as the net tax capacity of the area of county within the watershed bears to the net tax capacity of the entire watershed district, the following sums to be raised by a levy on all taxable property in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Number 3 for the year 2021 and the purposes noted below.

2021 Levy: \$9,675,993 for the purpose of paying the cost of watershed 223 management and implementation as provided by Minnesota Statutes Sections 224 103B.241 and 103B.251.

225226

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

227

Hejmadi: AyeLoftus: AyeRogness: Aye

231 Miller: Aye 232 Olson: Aye

233 Maxwell: Aye 234 White: Aye

235236

Resolution 20-072: Authorization to Submit a Letter to MPRB Regarding MCWD's Comments on the Draft Hiawatha Golf Course Area Master Plan

237238239

240

241

242243

244

245

Ms. Tiffany Schaufler appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She reviewed the impact on the golf course from the 2014 flood event, the water management assessment, and the draft master plan. She noted the District's early coordination efforts in the master planning process, connection to the Minnehaha Creek corridor planning through the regional trail master plan, and the identification of the Hiawatha Golf Course Restoration Project in the District's 10-year capital improvement program. It was moved by Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution 20-072 as follows:

246247248

249

250

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the Board President to submit the attached letter to the MPRB which summarizes MCWD's comments on the draft Hiawatha Golf Course Master Plan.

251252253

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

254

255 Hejmadi: Aye256 Loftus: Aye

257 Rogness: Aye258 Miller: Aye

258 Miller: Aye 259 Olson: Aye

260 Maxwell: Aye

261 White: Aye

262263

264

STAFF UPDATES 266

267 268

Wassermann Lake Preserve Construction Update

269 270

271

272

Ms. Anna Brown appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the latest construction activity at the Wassermann Lake Preserve project. The managers thanked Ms. Brown for this update.

273 274

Administrator's Report

275 276

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

277 278

1. The District is holding first round interviews with applicants for the outreach manager position;

279 280 281

2. President White, Manager Loftus and Mr. Wisker will be meeting with two Greenwood City Councilmembers on September 21 to discuss the city's comments on the District's capital improvement program.

283 284

282

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

285 286 287

325 Blake Road Financial Framework Dynamic Evaluation and Advisory Services

288 289

290

291

Mr. Michael Hayman and Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to provide an update on the financial framework evaluation for the potential redevelopment of 325 Blake Road. They reviewed the status of the planning process, and the upcoming feasibility milestone pursuant to the cooperative agreement with the City of Hopkins.

292 293

294

295

Mr. Jon Commers of Donjek and Ms. Mary Bujold of Maxfield Research and Consulting provided a brief overview of their work to advise the District on the financial realities of the site under a variety of market-based development scenarios.

296 297 298

299

300

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller to move the meeting into closed session for the purpose of discussing the development of possible terms of an offer to sell real property at 325 Blake Road in Hopkins. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

7

- Hejmadi: 303 Aye Loftus: Aye 304 Rogness: Aye 305 306 Miller: Aye Aye
- Olson: 307
- Maxwell: 308 Aye Aye

310	Whereupon the Board of Managers went into closed session.	
311		
312	The Board of Managers returned to open session.	
313		
314	<u>Adjournment</u>	
315		
316	There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of	
317	Managers adjourned at 9:21 p.m.	
318		
319	Respectfully submitted,	
320		
321		
322		
323	Kurt Rogness, Secretary	