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3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF**
4 **THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
5 **BOARD OF MANAGERS**
6

7 December 10, 2015
8

9 **CALL TO ORDER**

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11 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called
12 to order by President Sherry White at 6:45 p.m., at the District office, 15320 Minnetonka
13 Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345.
14

15 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

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17 Sherry White, Brian Shekleton, Richard Miller, Kurt Rogness, Pamela Blixt, Jim Calkins.
18

19 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

20
21 William Olson.
22

23 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANT'S PRESENT**

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25 Lars Erdahl, District Administrator; James Wisker, Planning and Projects Director; Telly
26 Mamayek, Communications and Education Director; Darren Lochner, Education Program
27 Manager; Sarah Fellows, Education Coordinator; Chuck Holtman, District Counsel.
28

29 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

30
31 None.
32

33 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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35 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness to approve the agenda with*
36 *the addition at item 7.1 of updates on the meeting of the Wayzata Lake Effect Steering*
37 *Committee, the Meadowbrook Project, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts*
38 *(MAWD) conference and the Blake Station Area Subcommittee of Southwest LRT Community*
39 *Works.*
40

41 *Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.*
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43 **INFORMATION ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE**

44
45 Ms. Mamayek reviewed a brochure that the District has produced regarding climate change
46 adaptation. The document was created with the involvement of Lois Eberhardt, City of

47 Minnesota; Cara Geheren, City of Victoria; Leslie Yetka, University of Minnesota Arboretum;
48 and University of Minnesota student Trisha Moore. The brochure already has been distributed at
49 meetings in Cities of Hopkins and Minneapolis and in conjunction with presentations by Michael
50 Simpson of Antioch University New England. Ms. Mamayek played a short companion video.

51
52 (Manager Shekleton arrived at this time.)

53
54 **CONSENT AGENDA**

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56 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Shekleton to approve the consent*
57 *agenda consisting of the November 19, 2015 board minutes. Upon vote, the motion carried*
58 *6-0.*

59
60 **REGULAR AGENDA**

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62 **Board, Committee and Task Force Reports**

63 **Board Updates**

64
65 Manager White reported on her attendance at the recent Wayzata Lake Effect Steering
66 Committee meeting. She noted that the Department of Natural Resources is not inclined towards
67 the concept of a floating island east of the Depot and wants to reduce armoring. The City Council
68 is setting up a conservancy to help with fundraising and there's a community meeting next
69 month.

70
71 Manager White also reported on the recent MAWD annual conference. Transition and strategic
72 planning committees have been set up. The transition committee will be sending a questionnaire
73 to all managers and response is encouraged. For the eighteen largest watershed districts, dues
74 are increased from \$3,500 to \$4,000 a year. Perry Forster has replaced Brian Johnson on the
75 MAWD Board representing Region 3. Manager White also briefly noted the resolutions passed
76 by the MAWD assembly.

77
78 Manager Miller advised that the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) met last night and the
79 chief subject of discussion is a new process for cost-share review and approval. At the request of
80 Manager Miller, Mr. Lochner and Ms. Mamayek reviewed the effort to date. Mr. Lochner
81 reported that both the CAC and Brett Eidem are seeking to streamline the process, giving staff
82 with CAC subcommittee review the authority to approve cost shares below a certain funding
83 level or above a certain score. One purpose is to reduce the amount of CAC meeting time
84 involved in application review. Ms. Mamayek added that staff will return to the CAC in January
85 with a detailed recommendation. She explained that part of the structure is to treat homeowner,
86 community engagement and green infrastructure cost-share categories differently, with different
87 criteria and weightings and with different deadlines. This will allow applications in one category
88 to be compared and also will allow for the staff processing effort to be distributed throughout the
89 year.

90

91 Manager Rogness added that he attended good technical reports at MAWD concerning CHS
92 Field in St. Paul and a carp management project by the Shell Rock River Watershed District. He
93 also noted substantial discussion about a Minnesota River basin commission and Lake Pepin
94 sediment issues. Manager Blixt added that there is unhappiness and anxiety particularly among
95 outstate watershed districts regarding the new buffer law and how it will be implemented.

96

97 Manager Miller reported that Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison is chairing the Blake
98 Station Area Subcommittee of Southwest LRT Community Works with representatives from
99 affected cities, the District and other public and private representatives. The subcommittee will
100 explore opportunities for best utilizing the Blake Road station area.

101

102 Manager Shekleton reported that water flows in the Hiawatha Golf Course area are still being
103 studied. As to the Meadowbrook Golf Course, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is
104 exploring with the City of St. Louis Park the basis for a variance from the city's floodplain
105 ordinance for the proposed project. Mr. Wisker further clarified that the city has an unorthodox
106 ordinance that requires flood storage replacement to be located outside of the 100-year
107 floodplain, which would render the proposed floodplain reconfiguration infeasible. At the urging
108 of City staff, the District has submitted a project description for review by staff and council
109 members at a December 14 City Council work session. Mr. Erdahl added that he spoke with Tom
110 Harmening, City Manager, who has suggested that the variance should be a viable course of
111 action. Mr. Wisker added that ultimately the City may be interested in reviewing and adjusting
112 the ordinance, but that for the immediate purpose of the District's project, a variance request
113 makes the most sense.

114

115 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule

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117 Manager White reviewed the meetings and events on the agenda.

118

119 **Public Hearings and Presentations: Public Comment on 2016 Budget and Levy**

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121 No member of the public wished to comment on the 2016 budget and levy.

122

123 **Action Items**

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125 Freshwater Society Contract Renewal

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127 Mr. Lochner presented the proposed request for board action authorizing renewal of the
128 Freshwater Society contract for the 10th year of the Watershed Association Initiative, for the
129 amount of \$25,000 with an additional \$5,000 budgeted. ***It was moved by Manager Shekleton,***
130 ***seconded by Manager Blixt to place the matter on the December 17 consent agenda. Upon***
131 ***vote, the motion carried 6-0.***

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Cynthia Krieg Grant Awards

Ms. Fellows presented the proposed request for board action, which would authorize funding 13 applications for a total of \$122,888 as recommended by staff and the CAC. She noted that application review was multidisciplinary, with more than 20 staff involved. The purpose is to connect applications with District goals. Mr. Lochner noted that a record number of applications was received requesting \$280,000 of support.

It was moved by Manager Blixt, seconded by Manager Rogness to place the matter on the December 17 consent agenda. Manager White commented that she attended the CAC discussion and noted that reduction in awards primarily are due to a reduced linkage to District goals. Mr. Lochner noted that the District in particular looked at education/outreach components, collaboration opportunities and innovation. Review of budgets were exacting to link funding to these purposes. Manager Blixt asked if partial funding would make some of these projects infeasible. Mr. Lochner replied that in many cases there is additional funding available from other sources and that if a project is infeasible, the applicant will simply decline the funding.
Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

2016 CAC Appointments

Mr. Lochner reported that the District received 23 applications for the CAC. This includes 14 of 15 current members and 9 new applications, one of which is from a person residing outside the District and therefore ineligible. Manager Miller suggested that the size of the CAC should be limited to better ensure that members remain participatory and engaged. ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Shekleton that the CAC consist of 17 members. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-1 (Manager Calkins opposed).***

The Board considered how to determine appointments. Manager Shekleton observed that the CAC has been very engaged during the past year and that this should be rewarded through reappointment. Manager White noted that of the eight new applicants, three live in Minneapolis, two live in Minnetonka and three live in other lake communities. She noted that there is one applicant from Carver County, a returning member. Manager White suggested that three of the new applicants do not speak to experience with water issues. Mr. Lochner noted that staff is interested in water quality and volunteer experience.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager White to reappoint the 14 CAC members seeking reappointment. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.

The Board further considered the selection of three new members. Manager White postponed further consideration to later in the agenda to allow board members to further review information concerning the new applicants.

178
179 2016 Meeting Calendar
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181 *It was moved by Manager Shekleton, seconded by Manager Calkins to approve the 2016*
182 *meeting calendar. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

183
184 Administrator's Report
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186 Mr. Erdahl distributed proposed resolution 15-096 expressing appreciation and recognition of
187 Eugene Maxwell for his years of service as the Mayor of the City of Hopkins. *It was moved by*
188 *Manager White, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt the proposed resolution providing as*
189 *follows:*

190
191 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
192 *Watershed District Board of Managers extends its gratitude and appreciation*
193 *for Hopkins Mayor Eugene Maxwell's leadership and contribution to*
194 *facilitating the strong partnership between the City of Hopkins and the*
195 *Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.*

196
197 Manager Shekleton stated that Mayor Maxwell has been a tremendous partner for work within
198 the Blake Road corridor and areas surrounding and that much of what has been accomplished
199 could not have been accomplished without his efforts. Manager White added that he has been a
200 great friend of the District's work. *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

201
202 Mr. Erdahl briefly reviewed his impressions from the MAWD conference. He noted that staff
203 will attend a meeting on Monday concerning the Board of Water and Soil Resources "One
204 Watershed – One Plan" program and its potential impact on metropolitan watershed districts.

205
206 He attended a meeting recently with Hennepin County city managers and administrators. This
207 informal meeting included discussion of budgeting and levy experience and training programs.
208 He noted that the District received a good response to its request for qualifications for managed
209 care providers and providers are being interviewed. Staff also is reviewing the District's
210 telephone service with potential new providers.

211
212 On December 9 Becky Christopher met with the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association to
213 discuss Hiawatha Golf Course issues. More than 60 people attended and attendees reported that
214 they found the meeting technically informative. District staff met recently with representatives of
215 the Cities of Chanhassen and Victoria, the Carver Watershed Management Organization and the
216 Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to discuss a potential boundary adjustment. Mr.
217 Erdahl, Mr. Wisker and Tiffany Schaufler were invited by Manager Blixt to present at an
218 emergency preparedness meeting, which gave the District a good chance to introduce folks in
219 that field to the role of the District in such matters.

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
12-10-2015

221 Mr. Erdahl reported that staff continues to work with the City of Shorewood and Mattamy
222 Homes to advance the development and permitting process with respect to the Minnetonka
223 Country Club property redevelopment.

224
225 Finally, Mr. Erdahl reported that the Gray's Bay dam remains open in consequence of the
226 unusual late-season precipitation and that Minnehaha Creek was running at about 150 cubic feet
227 per second today.

228
229 2016 CAC Appointments (continued)

230
231 After further discussion and straw polling, *it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by*
232 *Manager White to appoint new applicants Joseph Lutz, Val McGruder, and Richard Nyquist*
233 *to the CAC. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0.*

234
235 **ADJOURNMENT**

236
237 There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
238 was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

239
240 Respectfully Submitted,

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242
243
244 Kurt Rogness, Secretary

DRAFT