



Title:	Appointment of Manager Miller as Liaison to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment Design Process	
Resolution number:	21-023	
Prepared by:	Name: President Sherry Davis White	
Recommended action:	The recommended action designates Manager Miller to serve as liaison to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment design process, along with the previously appointed design process liaisons of Managers Loftus and Olson.	
Schedule:	March 2021: Listening sessions with project stakeholders April – May 2021: Scenario planning and triple-bottom line analysis; public meeting June – July 2021: Design charrette, schematic design concepts and selection of preferred concept August – October 2021: 60-90% design	
Past Board action:	Res # 20-066	Authorization to Execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Hopkins for Coordinated Planning, Improvements and Development for 325 Blake Road
	Res # 20-080	Appointing Board Liaisons to Public Improvement Project at 325 Blake Road
	Res # 20-091	Authorization to Contract for Design Services for the 325 Blake Road Regional Stormwater and Greenway Project
	Res # 21-010	Appointment of Manager Hejmadi to the 325 Blake Road Developer Engagement Process Review Committee

Summary:

In 2011, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) made a strategic acquisition of land at 325 Blake Road, Hopkins as part of a regional scale effort to establish the Minnehaha Creek Greenway. This effort identified opportunities for area wide stormwater improvement, ecological restoration of the Minnehaha Creek riparian zone and corridor linkage with upstream/downstream restoration projects. It is envisioned that, through strategic partnership with the City of Hopkins (City), a development partner will be selected to deliver an integrated project on the portion of the site not utilized for watershed restoration.

In order to maintain a high level of Board engagement and strategic guidance in both the restoration and redevelopment components of the project, the Board has appointed two sets of liaisons. President White and Manager Maxwell serve as MCWD's Board liaisons to the joint redevelopment process, along with two City of Hopkins Council Members, in fulfillment of the terms of the August 2020 cooperative agreement with the City. The cooperative agreement guides the coordinated planning, improvements and redevelopment of the site, and establishes a clear partnership framework to successfully deliver on the partners' shared vision for the site. This Joint Liaison Group, along with Manager Hejmadi, comprise the Review Committee which is charged with the review and selection of prospective development partners.

In addition to the Joint Liaison Group, the Board of Managers also appointed Managers Loftus and Olson and former Manager Kurt Rogness to serve as liaisons to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment design process. The

three liaisons to the design process are available to meet with staff during key phases of the capital project design effort and report to the Board of Managers with recommendations on critical milestones or policy questions that arise.

The use of dual liaison groups – for development partnership and design – ensures that the two parallel aspects of the project are effectively integrated during project planning, design, and implementation, and keeps managers informed on all aspects of the potential redevelopment and restoration, from visioning through completion. The retirement of Manager Rogness from the MCWD Board of Managers leaves a vacancy in the design liaison group. Resolution # 21-023 designates Manager Miller to serve as the third liaison to the design process.



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 21-023

Title: Appointment of Manager Miller as Liaison to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment Design Process

WHEREAS the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) acquired 325 Blake Road in 2011 as a key piece of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway, which will provide approximately 109 acres of a connected corridor of restored creek and habitat through St. Louis Park and Hopkins; the MCWD and other public partners have made substantial investments in the preparation and planning of the site to date; the driving vision of the project is to create a uniquely water-centric redevelopment of a formerly industrialized segment of the Minnehaha Creek corridor; the project will provide layered ecological and societal benefits and will serve as a centerpiece of the larger Minnehaha Creek Greenway restoration;

WHEREAS the MCWD and City of Hopkins (City) have entered into a cooperative agreement to guide the coordinated planning, improvements and redevelopment of the site, focusing on approximately 11-13 acres for transformation into a transit-oriented neighborhood; the MCWD will retain ownership of approximately four – six acres to treat polluted stormwater that flows into the creek from approximately 270 acres of surrounding area and to restore more than 1,000 feet of creek frontage;

WHEREAS the Board of Managers has appointed President White and Manager Maxwell to serve as members of the Joint Liaison Group to the City to promote strong alignment of purpose and coordination with the City in the potential redevelopment of the 11-13 acre portion of the site designated for redevelopment;

WHEREAS the Board of Managers has appointed Manager Hejmadi to serve as the third member of the Review Committee for potential development partners, along with the members of the Joint Liaison Group;

WHEREAS the Board of Managers has appointed Managers Olson and Loftus and former Manager Kurt Rogness to serve as liaisons to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment design process; these three managers are available to meet with staff on key phases of the project and report to the Board of Managers with recommendations on critical milestones or policy questions that arise in project planning, design, or implementation on aspects of the capital improvement project;

WHEREAS the retirement of Manager Rogness from the MCWD Board of Managers leaves a vacancy in the design liaison group;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby designates Manager Miller to serve as the third Board liaison to the 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment design process.

Resolution Number 21-023 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 3/25/2021

 Secretary Date: March 25, 2021