

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

May 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2022. President White noted that this meeting was convened electronically through Zoom, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her determination that it is not prudent for the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person, and it is not feasible to provide for any member of the Board, or of the public, to meet at the regular meeting location. For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District's presiding officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and its committees will be convened by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 accordance with §13D.021 and all other applicable terms of the Open Meeting Law. President White noted that, pursuant to §13D.021, all votes will be by roll call.

President White called the roll to note attendance:

Hejmadi:	Present
Loftus:	Present
Sando:	Present
Miller:	Present
Olson:	Present
Maxwell:	Present
White:	Present.

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Kayla Westerlund, Permitting Program Manager; Trey Jonas, Permitting Technician; Ben Rolland Permitting Assistant; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Chris Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to approve the Agenda as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:

Hejmadi:	Aye
Loftus:	Aye
Sando:	Aye

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
5-12-22

Miller: Aye
Olson: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
White: Aye

NEW EMPLOYEES INTRODUCTION

Ms. Kayla Westerlund introduced new members of the permitting staff: Trey Jonas, Ben Rolland, and Lily Hock. The managers welcomed them to the District.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Sando, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the April 28, 2022, Board meeting minutes.

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

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Operations and Programs Committee: Manager Loftus reported that the committee received an update on the Taft Legion project. An alum treatment and polymer replacement are two actions intended to improve the project's performance. The staff will provide an update again at the end of the summer.

President's Report: President White reported on the recent Minneapolis Water Summit meeting, which she attended along with Managers Miller and Hejmadi. The meeting included review of preparations for a town hall meeting on Lake Nokomis area groundwater and surface water issues, and a grounding discussion to explore a renewed partnership with the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and the

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
5-12-22

MCWD. Manager Hejmadi added that he appreciated the extensive staff preparation for the meeting, as well as the insights of Minneapolis Public Works Director Margaret Anderson Kelliher. Manager Miller stated that he appreciated the staff preparation for the Nokomis meeting and counsel's background for the partnership discussion.

Return to In-Person Meetings: President White noted the recent preference survey of managers, as well as public health data. A majority of managers prefer returning to in-person meetings; the District will not have adequate equipment to provide for hybrid meetings. Managers commented on their preferences and health concerns. Mr. Wisker will investigate the air filtration capability of the Board room, as well as other precautionary measures such as masking. President White noted that she would continue to monitor this matter and inform the Board of her decision.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Six Mile Marsh Prairie Trail Interpretive Plan

Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to follow up on the Board's direction to explore alternatives to the "sky loungers" in the April 14 contract award for the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Trail. He noted that staff also followed up on Manager Miller's question about security fencing around the barn. In 2013, the Board adopted a motion to preserve the barn and adjacent silo and authorized the staff to investigate the structural integrity of the barn and silo and identify necessary maintenance and repairs. A consultant condition review and assessment report provided recommendations to improve security, and on a staff recommendation the Board voted in May 2013 not to install fencing but adopt other security measures and repairs. These measures were implemented in the summer of 2013.

Mr. Hayman reviewed alternatives to the sky loungers, including simple Adirondack chairs, wood sun bench, timber bench, or limestone blocks. Following discussion of these alternatives, five managers affirmed support for the sky loungers, and Managers Miller and Loftus stated that they would prefer other options.

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
5-12-22

1. Meeting date changes: Mr. Wisker recommended moving the June 30 meeting to June 23, and the August 25 meeting to August 22, still at the same times. *It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Olson to approve these changes to the regular meeting schedule. 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

2. Water levels have increased with above normal Spring precipitation. Minnehaha Creek was flowing at 35 cfs, but increased to 314 cfs following the recent storm. Lake Minnetonka is at 929.12, and the dam will be closed through next week.
3. The purchase and sale agreement with Alatus for 325 Blake Road has been signed. Alatus targets a summer closing for Phase 1. The MCWD's project 90% design will be coming for Board review soon. Staff are working on exploring other partnerships and are planning a site visit with public officials.
4. A meet and greet event with the Citizens Advisory Committee is planned for June 6 at 4 p.m. at Arden Park.
5. The Research and Monitoring Program has developed a new partnership with the University of Minnesota at no cost to the MCWD for assessment of aquatic vegetation at Wassermann Lake.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Maxwell, Secretary

