

1
2
3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF**
4 **THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**
5 **BOARD OF MANAGERS**
6

7 **March 9, 2017**
8
9

10 **CALL TO ORDER**

11
12 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called
13 to order by Vice President Brian Shekleton at 6:45 p.m. on March 9, 2017 at the MCWD office,
14 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.
15

16 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

17
18 Brian Shekleton, Richard Miller, Kurt Rogness, Pamela Blixt, William Becker.
19

20 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

21
22 Sherry White, William Olson.
23

24 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

25
26 Lars Erdahl, Administrator; Kelly Dooley, Water Quality Manager; Eric Fieldseth, AIS Program
27 Manager; Chris Meehan, Consulting Engineer; Chuck Holtman, Counsel.
28

29 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

30
31 None.
32

33 **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER**

34
35 Jim Rudolph introduced himself as a new District field representative. He graduated from the
36 University of Minnesota with a degree in environmental science and has worked with the Capital
37 Region Watershed District and the Washington Conservation District. The Board welcomed him.
38

39 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

40
41 *Manager Miller moved, Manager Becker seconded approval of the agenda. Upon vote, the*
42 *motion carried 5-0.*
43

44 Manager Shekleton noted the 2016 Year-End Review as an information item.
45
46

47 **CONSENT AGENDA**

48
49 *Manager Becker moved, Manager Blixt seconded approval of the consent agenda, consisting*
50 *of the February 23, 2017 Board meeting minutes, and the correction of Resolution 17-012,*
51 *adopted at the meeting of February 23, 2017, to substitute “Painter Creek and Mud Lake*
52 *sites” for “Minnehaha Creek Preserve” in the BE IT RESOLVED clause. Upon vote, the*
53 *motion carried 5-0.*

54
55 **REGULAR AGENDA**

56
57 **Board, Committee and Task Force Reports**

58
59 Manager Miller provided a Policy and Planning Committee report, noting that the Committee
60 received a presentation on subwatershed plans within the draft watershed management plan. He
61 said the document is readable and forward-looking.

62
63 Manager Shekleton noting upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda.

64
65 **2017 Monitoring Plan**

66
67 Ms. Dooley reviewed the 2017 monitoring plan, beginning by presenting the strategic direction
68 for the program previously approved by the Board. The identified purposes of the District’s
69 monitoring program are to characterize ecologic health, diagnose change, communicate results
70 and collaborate on management strategies, particularly with the planning department. The intent
71 of the plan is operationalizing these purposes. Further, the three priorities of the program are to
72 diagnose drivers of change, characterize ecologic health and identify long-term trends.

73
74 Ms. Dooley reviewed the steps staff has taken to consider and consolidate anchor monitoring
75 stations in the upper watershed lakes, the Lake Minnetonka bays, and the upper watershed creeks
76 and along Minnehaha Creek. An earlier statistical review reduced the number of anchor stations
77 from 82 to 69. Ms. Dooley reviewed the criteria used to assess anchor stations and make
78 deletions. She noted that monitoring stations losing their status as anchor stations may be used
79 for other purposes, including as diagnostic stations or to allow for performance assessment of
80 District projects or actions.

81
82 Ms. Dooley reviewed the Long Lake Creek and Minnehaha Creek subwatersheds to show how
83 diagnostic stations have been added for specific assessment purposes. Within the Minnehaha
84 Creek subwatershed, she noted as well stations maintained by the Minneapolis Park and
85 Recreation Board (MPRB) and stations maintained in preparation to measure the effectiveness of
86 proposed stormwater facilities at 325 Blake Road. For 2017, staff has further reduced the anchor
87 stations to 29.

88
89 Responding to Manager Becker’s question, Ms. Dooley noted which subwatersheds are already
90 developed and which are subject to a greater rate of change. Ms. Dooley discussed with Manager

91 Becker and Mr. Meehan how areas of land use change are taken into account in selecting anchor
92 station locations. Ms. Dooley also reviewed the locations of several stations the District
93 maintains to meet legal requirements under permits and agreements.

94
95 Finally, Ms. Dooley reviewed the monitoring approach within the Six Mile Creek Subwatershed.
96 The Three Rivers Park District monitors four lakes, and there is one legally required monitoring
97 station, a number of anchor stations and substantial diagnostic monitoring occurring in
98 conjunction with diagnostic work of the District engineer.

99
100 Contract to Conduct Stormwater Pond Sediment Surveys

101
102 Ms. Domyancich presented Resolution 17-018 to authorize the District Administrator to contract
103 with Wenck Associates, Inc. to survey six regional treatment ponds and analyze sediment
104 samples for the purpose of the District's maintenance program.

105
106 ***Manager Blixt moved, Manager Becker seconded the adoption of Resolution 17-018 providing***
107 ***as follows:***

108
109 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
110 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator to***
111 ***execute a contract with Wenck Associates, Inc. for the amount of \$30,830 and***
112 ***authorizes the administrator to execute change orders as necessary up to a not-***
113 ***to-exceed amount of \$33,913 for the survey of six ponds, composite sediment***
114 ***samples analyzed for up to six ponds, and a technical memo summarizing***
115 ***results of the analysis.***

116
117 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.***

118
119 Manager Blixt asked if the District monitors and maintains the Deer Hill and County Road 6
120 ponds. Ms. Domyancich replied that these facilities are on the District's maintenance list. The
121 District surveys them, but never has had to perform maintenance.

122
123 Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Carp Assessment

124
125 Mr. Fieldseth presented proposed Resolution 17-019, supporting a partnership with the Cities of
126 Long Lake, Medina and Orono and the Long Lake Waters Association to pursue Hennepin
127 County Natural Resource Opportunity grant funds for a carp assessment in the Long Lake
128 subwatershed and to authorize the purchase of trap nets. Mr. Fieldseth noted that letters of
129 support from all four partners have been presented. He reviewed the new District aquatic
130 invasive species priorities resulting from the District's strategic planning process and how the
131 proposed work fits with these priorities. He further reviewed the District's investments in the
132 Long Lake Creek subwatershed in recent years as well as the issues, drivers and strategies for the
133 District's investment in the subwatershed. He noted that carp are a driver of excess nutrients and
134 degraded aquatic plant communities.

135
136 Mr. Fieldseth reviewed the elements of the grant proposal, which focus initially on three years of
137 monitoring to assess the carp population, movements and spawning activities. The project cost is
138 \$205,000, which is reduced to \$159,000 by a District in-kind contribution. The maximum grant
139 is \$100,000. Mr. Fieldseth noted that the grant program is more for implementation so there is a
140 risk of not receiving funding at the requested level. He added that the three cities intend to share
141 a \$59,000 contribution and if grant funding falls short, he is not certain what further costs the
142 cities may assume. He noted, finally, that this is an example of the District's providing expertise
143 and coordination to an effort that will be led by others, consistent with the District's identified
144 strategies.

145
146 Responding to Manager Miller, Mr. Fieldseth affirmed that the similar study in the Six Mile
147 Creek subwatershed cost more than \$500,000. He noted that this subwatershed is smaller but that
148 the prior experience helped to define this scope.

149
150 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Becker to adopt Resolution 17-019***
151 ***providing as follows:***

152
153 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
154 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby supports the partnership with the***
155 ***Cities of Long Lake, Medina and Orono, and Long Lake Waters Association, to***
156 ***pursue Hennepin County Natural Resource Opportunity Grant funds to***
157 ***advance a carp assessment for the Long Lake Subwatershed; and***

158
159 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha***
160 ***Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District***
161 ***Administrator to purchase trap nets to facilitate MCWD's in-kind contribution***
162 ***to the project, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.***

163
164 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.***

165
166 2017 AIS Prevention and Watercraft Inspection Cost-Share Proposals

167
168 Mr. Fieldseth introduced proposed Resolutions 17-020 through 17-024 authorizing cost-share
169 funding to, respectively, Carver County, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, the Three
170 Rivers Park District, the City of Shorewood and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.
171 The total requested funding is \$174,902 as compared with a budget of \$175,000. Mr. Fieldseth
172 noted that staff is developing a 2018 Work Plan and has communicated to partners that the
173 present funding may wind down. The District will meet with the partners in the spring to explore
174 alternative funding for the effort.

175
176 Manager Blixt asked as to the status of starry stonewort evaluation. Mr. Fieldseth replied that
177 this falls under early detection. He said the District inspects two to three times a month at access

178 points and that boat inspectors will look for starry stonewort among the other invasive species
179 for which they inspect.

180

181 ***Manager Miller moved, Manager Blixt seconded to adopt the following Resolutions as***
182 ***follows:***

183

184 ***Resolution 17-020:***

185

186 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
187 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the execution of an***
188 ***agreement with Carver County to provide these watercraft inspection services at***
189 ***a cost not to exceed \$28,838; and***

190

191 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorizes the***
192 ***District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor***
193 ***revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into***
194 ***these agreements.***

195

196 ***Resolution 17-021:***

197

198 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
199 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the execution of an***
200 ***agreement with the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to provide these***
201 ***watercraft inspection services at a cost not to exceed \$15,444; and***

202

203 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorizes the***
204 ***District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor***
205 ***revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into***
206 ***these agreements.***

207

208 ***Resolution 17-022:***

209

210 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
211 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the execution of an***
212 ***agreement with Three Rivers Park District to provide these watercraft***
213 ***inspection services at a cost not to exceed \$7,280; and***

214

215 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorizes the***
216 ***District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor***
217 ***revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into***
218 ***these agreements.***

219

220 ***Resolution 17-023:***

221

222 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
223 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the execution of an***
224 ***agreement with the City of Shorewood to provide these watercraft inspection***
225 ***services at a cost not to exceed \$42,840; and***
226

227 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorizes the***
228 ***District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor***
229 ***revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into***
230 ***these agreements.***
231

232 ***Resolution 17-024:***
233

234 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
235 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the executions of an***
236 ***agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide these***
237 ***watercraft inspection services at a cost not to exceed \$80,500; and***
238

239 ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers authorizes the***
240 ***District Administrator, upon advice of counsel and with such further minor***
241 ***revisions as may be necessary to effect the intent of the parties, to enter into***
242 ***these agreements.***
243

244 ***Upon vote, the motion passed 5-0.***
245

246 Preliminary Budget Discussion
247

248 Mr. Erdahl noted that the Watershed Management Plan and human resources strategic plan are in
249 process and will inform the 2018 budget. Mr. Erdahl reviewed the District's recent budget and
250 levy history as well as the organizational operational framework developed recently to link
251 departments and their capacities to strategies and tactics. Mr. Erdahl reviewed the budget and
252 work plan development steps and timeline. During April, staff will develop priorities and
253 background information. In May and June, staff and committees will review preliminary work
254 plans and budget/levy scenarios in workshop session. August will see review by the Citizens'
255 Advisory Committee; work plans will be finalized and a proposed budget and levy presented. In
256 September, the Board will adopt the budget and levy.
257

258 As next steps, staff will refine the 2018 capital improvement program, define staff budget
259 development roles and responsibilities, project the anticipated carry-forward, began development
260 of budget and levy scenarios and review work plans.
261

262 Manager Miller offered that he felt very comfortable with last year's budget process. It involved
263 the board appropriately at decision points and was clear.
264
265

266 **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

267

268 Mr. Erdahl noted that he attended the Orono City Council meeting last week regarding the Big
269 Island dock issue as well as the Long Lake Creek subwatershed carp study matter. He noted that
270 the Board has received from legal counsel a memorandum on the dock issue. Mr. Erdahl also
271 noted last week's meeting of the Six Mile/Halsted Bay partnership group.

272

273 Mr. Erdahl reported that staff and the District engineer met with Lake Zumbro residents, Carver
274 County, the City of Victoria and Three Rivers Park District, with the District serving in an expert
275 advisor role while landowners determine the way forward regarding lake elevation concerns. He
276 noted that Manager Olson is involved in that discussion.

277

278 Mr. Erdahl noted the Minnesota Association of Watershed District (MAWD) legislative
279 reception on March 29-30 and the summer tour scheduled for June 21 -23. He has drafted a letter
280 that the Board could authorize to request a MAWD special meeting at the summer tour to discuss
281 potential changes to the MAWD Bylaws. It reserves a position on any changes but, under the
282 MAWD bylaws, 15 districts must request a special meeting for it to occur.

283

284 ***Manager Blixt moved, Manager Miller seconded to authorize the letter to be sent.*** On further
285 review of the proposed letter, Manager Miller withdrew his second. ***The motion failed for lack***
286 ***of a second.*** There was discussion as to whether a bylaws change would be voted on in June, or
287 whether there would simply be discussion in advance of a December vote. The Board decided
288 not to act further on the matter.

289

290 Mr. Erdahl informed the Board that the District hosted a State of the Mississippi River
291 presentation in Wayzata last night, involving a presentation by Trevor Russell of the Friends of
292 the Mississippi River and attracting about 50 attendees, including Carver County and Hennepin
293 County Commissioners and some mayors. On May 4, 2017, Steve Woods of the Freshwater
294 Society will present on the history of watershed districts in the District's next installment of its
295 series of events in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

296

297 **ADJOURNMENT**

298

299 There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
300 Board of Managers was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

301

302 Respectfully submitted,

303

304

305 Kurt Rogness, Secretary