

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

4  
5                                   **October 10, 2019**

6  
7                                   **CALL TO ORDER**

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9                                   The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by President  
10                                   Sherry White at 7:30 p.m. on October 10, 2019, at the District offices, 15320 Minnetonka  
11                                   Boulevard, Minnetonka, Minnesota.

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13                                   **MANAGERS PRESENT**

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15                                   Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Kurt Rogness, Jessica Loftus, Arun Hejmadi and  
16                                   Eugene Maxwell.

17                                   **MANAGERS ABSENT**

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19                                   None.

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21                                   **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

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23                                   Becky Christopher, Policy Planning Manager (and as Acting Administrator); Cathy Reynolds,  
24                                   Operations Manager; Tiffany Schaufler, Project and Land Manager; Chris Meehan, Consulting  
25                                   Engineer; Chuck Holtman, Counsel.

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27                                   **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

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29                                   None.

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31                                   **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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33                                   *Manager Maxwell moved, Manager Rogness seconded to approve the agenda. Upon vote, the*  
34                                   *motion carried 7-0.*

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36                                   **CONSENT AGENDA**

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38                                   *Manager Miller moved, Manager Olson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda consisting*  
39                                   *of approval of the September 26, 2019 Board Minutes. Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.*

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41                                   **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

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43                                   President's Report: President White reported that along with Managers Hejmadi and Maxwell,  
44                                   she attended the recent Greenway tour. District staff Tiffany Schaufler, Janna Jonely and Gabe  
45                                   Sherman supported the tour. Manager Hejmadi commented that Cottageville Park is a jewel and

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46 that the development of 325 Blake Road needs to follow this example in the public benefit it will  
47 create. Manager Maxwell added that the effort and dedication of the District and its partners is  
48 obvious throughout the corridor.

49

50 Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the committee met  
51 earlier this evening. Staff provided an update on real-time water level sensors for purchase in  
52 2020. The sensors will be very useful for flood management efforts. Staff also reported on the  
53 Wassermann Lake project, which is proceeding, and on coordination with the project contractor  
54 to examine materials issues associated with the Minnehaha Preserve boardwalk. Staff also  
55 reported on a potential acquisition opportunity for land in St. Louis Park that may provide  
56 regional stormwater treatment or flood storage capacity.

57

58 Citizens Advisory Committee Report: Manager Miller reported that the CAC received a  
59 presentation on the District's strategic communications and engagement preliminary  
60 investigation. He remarked that he is concerned that the small sample size of on-line interviews  
61 will result in non-representative data. The CAC is very engaged and ready to be a full  
62 participant in the District's communications and education efforts.

63

64 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the meetings  
65 listed on the agenda. She noted that the location of the Metro Minnesota Association of  
66 Watershed Districts (MAWD) has been changed to the offices of the Mississippi Watershed  
67 Management Organization, and that she will attend the next CAC meeting.

68

69 **ACTION ITEMS**

70

71 Resolution 19-088: Selection and Authorization to Establish Banking Services

72

73 Ms. Reynolds appeared before the Board and reported that the District has completed the request  
74 for proposals (RFP) and interview process. She reviewed the District's current banking services  
75 with Alerus (formerly Beacon) Bank and the history of interest rates that have applied to District  
76 accounts. The District sent the RFP to five banks, and posted it on the District website and  
77 through the League of Minnesota Cities. Proposals were received from Alerus Bank, US Bank  
78 and Bremer Bank, and interviews were held with representatives of all three banks. Doug Green  
79 of Baker Tilly and Jean McGann of AEM Financial Services assisted District staff and  
80 participated in the interviews.

81

82 Ms. Reynolds compared the three proposals with respect to interest rates, security, support and  
83 reports. Staff recommends that the Board select Bremer Bank, principally on the basis of interest  
84 rates offered and the strength of the support features. A transition of about 60 days would be  
85 anticipated for services to be set up and for the District to arrange for the transition with its  
86 existing business relationships. This would position the District well for the beginning of the  
87 calendar year.

88

89

90 **Manager Rogness moved, Manager Hejmadi seconded to adopt Resolution 19-089 as follows:**

91

92 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District,**  
93 **Board of Managers hereby selects Bremer Bank as the new depository for District**  
94 **Funds;**

95

96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Board**  
97 **of Managers hereby directs staff to work with the bank to complete all necessary**  
98 **paperwork to establish and transition banking services.**

99

100 **Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.**

101

102 Resolution 19-089: Approval of Independence Local Water Management Plan

103

104 Ms. Christopher appeared before the Board to review the request for board action. She noted  
105 that the land encompassed by the local plan all lies within the Painter Creek subwatershed, which  
106 is a medium-term focal geography of the District. It encompasses three of the four wetlands  
107 under project review with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

108

109 The City has identified the chief issues as Painter Creek/Jennings Bay impairments; altered  
110 stream and wetland resources; and degraded/disconnected habitat. Its implementation priorities  
111 are low-impact development coordinated with District wetland restoration work; manure  
112 management enforcement; and maintaining the stormwater system. The coordination plan  
113 includes an annual meeting and coordination on land use planning and regulation, public  
114 infrastructure improvements and education. The District would continue to exercise regulatory  
115 authority and serve as the local government unit to implement the Minnesota Wetland  
116 Conservation Act.

117

118 **Manager Miller moved, Manager Olson seconded to adopt Resolution 19-089, as follows:**

119

120 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCWD hereby approves the City**  
121 **of Independence Local Water Management Plan; and**

122

123 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board approves the associated coordination**  
124 **plan and adopts it on behalf of the MCWD; and**

125

126 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City is to adopt and implement its LWMP**  
127 **within 120 days, and to notify the MCWD within 30 days thereafter that it has done so.**

128

129 **Upon vote, the motion carried, 7-0.**

130

131 Administrator's Report

132

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133 Ms. Christopher reported that District staff Tom Dietrich and the District engineer Chris Meehan  
134 will be presenting on “permitting through partnership” at the upcoming Water Resources  
135 Conference, with a focus on the Mader wetland restoration. Ms. Schaufler will co-present with  
136 the National Weather Service and Hennepin County on the subject of weather prediction and  
137 flood management at the Northern Plains Weather Workshop in St. Cloud.

138  
139 She further reported that Anna Brown represented the District at a Wassermann Lake project  
140 open house in the City of Victoria this past Monday, and that Laura Domyancich will attend a  
141 “Walk with the Mayor” that City of Edina Mayor Hovland has scheduled to tour Arden Park.  
142 The Minnehaha Preserve project is a finalist for the MAWD Project of the Year. Manager Miller  
143 expressed his hope that the project description incorporates the outcomes of the partnership with  
144 Japs Olson.

145  
146 Ms. Schaufler provided a flooding update. The District has received 37.5 inches of rain this year  
147 to date, which is 11.0 inches above average. The level of Lake Minnetonka is 929.32. The  
148 District is working to draw the lake down, but rain continues to fall. The Lake Nokomis weir  
149 was opened on Monday and closed today, with the hope to open it again in several days. Ms.  
150 Schaufler will check on the status of lakes that have been subject to pumping and report to the  
151 board.

152  
153 **Adjournment**

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155 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers  
156 adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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158 Respectfully submitted,

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161  
162 Kurt Rogness, Secretary