



43 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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45 President White noted that Item 10.4, Big Island Master Plan, would be moved from 10.4 to 10.0  
46 on the Agenda. *It was moved by Manager Becker, seconded by Manager Rogness to approve*  
47 *the Agenda with this change. Upon vote, the motion carried.*

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49 **Introduction of Staff:**

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51 Ms. Janna Jonely appeared before the Board of Managers to introduce herself as the new Project  
52 and Land Management Technician. Ms. Jonely described her past experience with the Ramsey  
53 Washington Metro Watershed District; her B.S. in Botany and Biological Aspects of  
54 Conservation, and M.P.S., Horticulture (Ecological Restoration Emphasis); and her interest in  
55 reconciliation ecology which aligns nicely with the MCWD's commitment to balanced urban  
56 ecology. The managers welcomed Ms. Jonely to the District.

57  
58 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:**

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60 Mr. Gabriel Jabbour appeared before the Board of Managers and noted the consideration of the  
61 Big Island Master Plan later on the agenda. He stated that while the plan in concept included  
62 items from the original vision for Big Island, he was concerned that a strong environmental  
63 commitment is missing from the City of Orono. He stated that he is also concerned that a  
64 number of the proposed improvements in the plan will require significant maintenance, and he  
65 has not seen the City's commitment to funding these maintenance activities. He urged the Board  
66 of Managers to be cautious about this proposed plan in light of these concerns.

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68 **CONSENT AGNEDA**

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70 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness to approve the Consent*  
71 *Agenda, consisting of the Minutes of the Meetings of March 8 and March 22, 2018. Upon*  
72 *vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*

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74 **REGULAR AGENDA**

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

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78 **President's Report:**

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80 President White noted the unanimous vote by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in  
81 the reappointment of Managers White and Rogness, and stated that this was the result of the  
82 cooperative team efforts of the managers and staff. President White noted that she had attended  
83 meetings of the Joint Working Group and Blake Road Subcommittee, and this work would be  
84 discussed later in the agenda. She also noted attending the recent State of the County address by  
85 Commissioner Callison and the theme of commitment to excellence.

86

87 Operations and Programs Committee:

88  
89 Manager Loftus noted that the Committee held a meeting earlier in the evening and received  
90 reports on the 325 Blake Road RFQ process, a review of employee benefits, and the  
91 implementation of the Human Resources Plan.  
92 President White noted the upcoming meeting schedule, including a meeting of the Executive  
93 Committee to review legislative matters on April 26.

94

95 **PERMITS REQUIRING A VARIANCE OR DISCUSSION**

96

97 Permit 17.584 Metropolitan Council Environmental Services L-38 Interceptor Replacement

98

99 Ms. Heidi Quinn appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the permit application  
100 and variance request. She reviewed the proposed project and the application of the erosion  
101 control, wetland protection, shoreline stabilization, flood plain, and water body crossings rules,  
102 as well as the criteria for considering a variance request. She noted that the applicant has  
103 requested a variance from the required setback for tunneling under a watercourse for the 48-foot  
104 shortfall from compliance with the required 100-foot setback for the southern tunnel pit location.  
105 The applicant has also submitted a variance request for a 22.5-foot shortfall from the from  
106 compliance with the required 37.5-foot minimum buffer width and a 555-square foot shortfall  
107 from the required total square footage of buffer area of 8,633-square feet provided at Wetland 6  
108 for the placement of a permanent clean-out structure at the same location as the southern  
109 entrance pit for the interceptor line. Ms. Quinn noted the existing bridge abutments and site  
110 topography which present the site constraints, and she reviewed the analysis of the variance  
111 criteria in detail. Ms. Quinn also reviewed the proposed conditions on the permit, and noted that  
112 the applicant is requesting that the permit be valid for two years, given the length of time  
113 involved for construction of the project. *Following discussion, it was moved by Manager  
114 Miller, seconded by Manager Olson, to approve the variance request based on the findings  
115 and reasons set forth in the staff report. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0. It was moved by  
116 Manager Rogness, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the permit application with the  
117 conditions recommended by staff, including the permit term of two years. Upon vote, the  
118 motion carried, 6-0.*

119

120 **ACTION ITEMS**

121

122 Resolution 18-039 Approval of Big Island Nature Park Plan in Concept

123

124 Ms. Laura Domyancich appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for  
125 board action. She noted prior discussions with Orono staff about the concept plan, and referred  
126 to the action analysis prepared by MCWD staff to consider how the conservation easement and  
127 management plan inform, guide, or restrict elements of the concept plan. Ms. Domyancich  
128 highlighted several issues to be addressed in further consideration of the master plan. She noted  
129 that the proposed restroom facilities would need a plan for long term maintenance; the proposed  
130 picnic tables are not in compliance with the conservation easement, and she recommended that

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131 the City assess the need and level of improvement for the picnic tables for further consideration;  
132 and she recommended that the project use natural boulders for the proposed bollards.  
133

134 Manager Loftus noted the presence of Orono city engineer Adam Edwards, and invited him to  
135 respond to the issues highlighted by Ms. Domyancich. Mr. Edwards appeared before the Board  
136 of Managers and he stated that the proposed restroom facilities would be similar to those  
137 constructed by the Three Rivers Park District, with a vaulted toilet and modular structure  
138 maintained by a septic service. He reviewed the interest in picnic tables and suggested that they  
139 be constructed of a natural stone material, and he suggested that natural stone for the bollards  
140 would be appropriate.  
141

142 Manager Becker suggested the consideration of a minimum impact analysis concerning the  
143 picnic tables, such that establishing a picnic area may result in minimal impacts to the remainder  
144 of the Conservation Area. Manager Miller noted that the MCWD had invested \$850,000 in the  
145 Big Island acquisition, and another \$1.2 million in shoreline restoration. He stated that he was  
146 very concerned about protecting the public investment in conservation, and that he did not feel  
147 supportive of the proposed improvements in that they risked turning Big Island into more of a  
148 playground that would not be accessible to 98% of the MCWD residents.  
149

150 Manager Loftus asked Mr. Edwards if the City had developed estimated costs and a budget  
151 commitment to address the maintenance needs related to the proposed improvements. Mr.  
152 Edwards stated that the City would be seeking grant funding for the project, and that he hoped  
153 there would be a maintenance budget. Manager Loftus noted the presence of Citizen Advisory  
154 Committee member Brian Girard and asked if he had any comments on this project. Mr. Girard  
155 appeared before the Board of Managers and stated that he was concerned that there was no  
156 operating budget; he felt it is important to improve law enforcement access to the site; he  
157 appreciated improving the ADA accessibility of the trails; and he agreed with the need for  
158 restroom facilities.  
159

160 President White invited a motion to adopt Resolution 18-039. No manager offered a motion.  
161 Mr. Wisker asked for Board direction to the staff. President White stated that she felt there  
162 should be more dialogue with the City of Orono. Manager Becker stated that he was concerned  
163 with the posture of the MCWD approving a master plan, whereas the focus should be on  
164 evaluating the proposed improvements as the holder of the Conservation Easement with  
165 emphasis on public investments in the conservation values and shoreline restoration. He noted  
166 an example with Glacier National Park, where a boardwalk was a helpful minimal impact  
167 solution that involved a minimal intrusion preserved the larger remainder of a meadow.  
168 Manager Becker suggested the possibility of picnic tables following this minimal impact  
169 approach. Manager Miller expressed his interest in partnership with the City and the need for  
170 more dialogue on natural resources and conversation values.  
171

172 Managers Loftus and Olson expressed their support for addressing the issues highlighted by Ms.  
173 Domyancich in more detail before adopting a resolution of support for the concept plan.  
174 President White summarized the discussion for direction to staff as follows: continue discussion

175 with Orono staff to resolve the outstanding issues and address conditions as identified in the  
176 action analysis and the Board’s discussion; focus on stewardship of the MCWD and other public  
177 investments and preservation of conservation values; and refine the proposed resolution to focus  
178 on the MCWD’s role, interests in conservation easement. Manager Becker emphasized that the  
179 concepts for the improvements should be in keeping with the requirements of the conservation  
180 easement. Manager Loftus stated that it would be important to fully understand the maintenance  
181 commitments.

182

183 Resolution 18-037 Amendments to Employee Handbook

184

185 Ms. Cathy Reynolds appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board  
186 action. She noted that the Employee Handbook had been completed most recently in 2015.  
187 Manager Miller noted that the Board had not adopted the Handbook, and Ms. Reynolds  
188 confirmed that pursuant to a delegation resolution of the Board, the Administrator had completed  
189 the Handbook revisions in October 2015. Ms. Reynolds briefly reviewed the proposed revisions,  
190 stating that the intention is to empower the Administrator to implement the Human Resources  
191 Plan, and also that the staff intends to work on further review and revisions to the Handbook over  
192 the next 90 – 120 days. ***Following discussion, it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by  
193 Manager Becker, to adopt Resolution 18-037 approving the proposed amendments to the  
194 Employee Handbook, and also directing that the Handbook be referred to the Operations  
195 Committee for review. Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.***

196

197 Resolution 18-038 Approval of Respondents for Advancement into the Interview Portion of the  
198 325 Blake Road Master Developer Selection Process

199

200 Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for board  
201 action. He noted that on April 11, the Blake Road Subcommittee of Southwest Community  
202 Works voted to support the recommendation of the Joint Working Group in the selection of three  
203 developers to advance to the interview process. Mr. Hayman reviewed the responses to the  
204 requests for supplemental information and summarized the recommendations from the Joint  
205 Working Group and the Blake Road Subcommittee to proceed with three master developer  
206 candidates – Anderson Companies, Doran and Kraus-Anderson – and initiate the interview  
207 portion of the master developer selection process.

208

209 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Loftus to adopt Resolution 18-038 to***  
210 ***approve the three respondents for advancement into the interview portion of the 325 Blake***  
211 ***Road master developer selection process.*** Mr. Smith suggested the second to the last ‘Whereas’  
212 paragraph be revised as follows: “. . . on April 11, 2018, MCWD staff and joint working group  
213 members met with the Subcommittee to review the responses to the supplemental information  
214 request and the joint working group recommendation to advance three respondents into the  
215 interview portion of the selection process, and the Subcommittee voted to support this  
216 recommendation of the Joint Working Group.” Managers Miller and Loftus agreed with this  
217 suggestion and it was adopted as an amendment to the resolution by unanimous consent. ***Upon***  
218 ***vote, the motion carried to adopt the resolution as amended, 6-0.***

219 Resolution 18-040 Authorization to Purchase Stormwater Monitoring Equipment

220  
221 Ms. Kailey Cermak appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board  
222 action. She explained that the proposed equipment purchase is to assist the project specific  
223 monitoring plans, and reviewed the monitoring plans for Arden Park and Minnehaha Creek  
224 stormwater management projects. *Following discussion, it was moved by Manager Miller,*  
225 *seconded by Manager Olson, to adopt Resolution 18-040 to authorize the equipment purchase.*  
226 *Upon vote, the motion carried, 6-0.*

227

228 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

229

230 MAWD Priorities

231

232 Mr. Wisker reviewed the memo in the meeting packet that outlined an invitation for the Board of  
233 Managers to suggest priorities for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. President  
234 White suggested that MAWD continue to examine the question of dues and benefits for metro  
235 watershed districts. Manager Olson suggested that MAWD continue to advocate for a strong  
236 watershed approach to allocation of Clean Water Legacy funds.

237

238 **STAFF UPDATES**

239

240 Administrator's Report

241

242 Mr. Wisker reviewed upcoming events on the calendar; grant submissions for Six Mile Creek  
243 and Minnehaha Creek projects; an update on Minnehaha Creek flow data and the current  
244 elevation of Lake Minnetonka at 929.01; plans to consider aeration of Grays Bay; management  
245 plans to open and close the weir at Lake Nokomis; and an upcoming meeting with Carver  
246 County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik.

247

248 **Closed Session: Performance Evaluation of the Administrator**

249

250 President White noted that the Board of Managers would go into a closed session for the  
251 performance evaluation of the Administrator. The Board of Managers then went into closed  
252 session for this purpose at 9:29 p.m. and concluded the closed session at 10:55 p.m.

253

254 **ADJOURNMENT**

255

256 There being no further business, the meeting of the Board of Managers was adjourned at 10:55  
257 p.m.

258

259 Respectfully submitted,

260

261

262 Kurt Rogness, Secretary