

47 *\$160,249.81 for a total of \$281,222.54; the Surety Check Register for check number*
48 *2187 in the amount of \$3,300.00; and the Wire Check Register in the amount of*
49 *\$148,865.00 to Richfield 2020A for 2013B Refinance; and the following Resolution:*

50
51 *Resolution 23-008: Authorization to Renew Metro Watershed Partners Membership*

52
53 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
54 *Watershed District Board of Managers authorize the District Administrator to*
55 *spend \$6,000 to renew MCWD's Metro Watershed Partners annual*
56 *membership.*

57
58 *Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0 (Managers White and Olson absent).*

59
60 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

61
62 President's Report: Manager Loftus noted there would be no President's Report given
63 President White's absence.

64
65 Policy and Planning Committee: Manager Miller noted that the Committee met earlier in
66 the evening and had a detailed discussion facilitated by Manager Loftus to identify future
67 MCWD priorities in preparation for an upcoming Board retreat.

68
69 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: Manager Loftus directed the managers to the
70 meetings listed on the agenda.

71
72 **ACTION ITEMS**

73
74 Resolution 23-009: Authorization to Amend the Phase II Design Contract with HDR for
75 325 Blake Road Restoration and Redevelopment to Include Structural Engineering
76 Services

77
78 Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the request for
79 board action. He reviewed the design process for the MCWD project elements at 325
80 Blake Road and noted that a key focus has been how to create a unique, welcoming and
81 visually impactful space at the Gateway to Greenway parcel at the corner of Blake Road
82 and Lake Street. The Board of Managers previously opted to pursue a pergola
83 overlooking Minnehaha Creek with swing benches, an artistic representation of the
84 watershed in the pavement, and lettering on top of the structure reading "Minnehaha
85 Creek," complemented by a native planting area that provides a buffer between Blake
86 Road and the pergola.

87
88 In working on the pergola design, the project designers have determined that a structural
89 engineering analysis is necessary to ensure constructability and safety of the structure.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
01-26-23

90 The proposed scope of work includes structural analysis, connection detail development,
91 and drawing review of the pergola structure for a budget of \$15,800. Mr. Sherman
92 reviewed more detail on design options for the pavement at the pergola area.

93
94 Manager Miller inquired whether this pergola element could be constructed separately on
95 its own timetable. Mr. Sherman explained that this element is part of the overall bid
96 package but it could be broken out separately if desired. Manager Miller noted that this
97 element completes Cottageville Park and it may be worth additional cost to complete on
98 its own schedule so that it could be done by the summer of 2023.

99
100 Mr. Sherman reviewed the pavement options for the pergola area, including sandblasting,
101 engraved pre-cast pavers, engraved granite, and colored pavers.

102
103 Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the contract
104 amendment. In response to a question from Manager Loftus, Mr. Hayman reviewed the
105 earlier scopes for design services. He noted further that the MCWD is working with the
106 City of Hopkins on Cottageville Park and should be ready for Board review of that work
107 in late March or so.

108
109 ***It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 23-***
110 ***009: Authorization to Amend the Phase II Design Contract with HDR for 325 Blake***
111 ***Road Restoration and Redevelopment to Include Structural Engineering Services as***
112 ***follows:***

113
114 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
115 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on***
116 ***advice of Counsel, to amend the Agreement between Minnehaha Creek***
117 ***Watershed District and HDR Engineering, Inc. (entitled “325 Blake Road***
118 ***Regional Stormwater and Greenway / Cottageville Park Phase II Riparian***
119 ***Restoration Schematic Design – Phase II Contract Amendment for 60/90/100%***
120 ***Design”) to include structural engineering services for the pergola at the***
121 ***Gateway to Greenway parcel, in an amount not to exceed \$15,800.***

122
123 ***Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0 (Managers White and Olson absent).***

124
125 Returning to the discussion of the pavement options, Mr. Sherman reviewed the size,
126 placement and scale of the pergola site. Manager Miller noted that the Minnehaha Creek
127 Watershed is a very large area and it is an important opportunity to educate the public
128 about this context. Manager Sando agreed. In response to a question from Manager
129 Loftus, Mr. Sherman noted the ability to explore metal inlay. Manager Maxwell
130 expressed concern with winter salting impacting concrete pavers, and so he would favor
131 granite as a more durable option. Manager Hejmadi stated that he felt it would be
132 important for this site to reflect the quality of work in the whole project; it will be an

133 iconic destination and it is important to do this right. Mr. Sherman thanked the managers
134 for their suggestions.

135

136 Resolution 23-010: Authorization to Execute a Contract for a Classification and
137 Compensation Study

138

139 Mr. Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board
140 action. He reviewed the background and process for the previous classification and
141 compensation study in 2018. He reviewed the scope for the updated study.

142

143 *It was moved by Manager Hejmadi, seconded by Manager Miller to adopt Resolution*
144 *23-010: Authorization to Execute a Contract for a Classification and Compensation*
145 *Study as follows:*

146

147 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***
148 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District***
149 ***Administrator, on the advice of Counsel, to enter into a contract with Baker***
150 ***Tilly to conduct a position classification and compensation study, in an amount***
151 ***not to exceed \$36,700.***

152

153 In response to a question from Manager Hejmadi, Mr. Wisker noted the general effort to
154 be responsive to the currently volatility in the labor market. Manager Hejmadi noted the
155 recruiting challenge in a volatile employment situation nationally. Mr. Wisker noted that
156 the longer term view and strategic focus of the MCWD's work continues to be an
157 attractive asset for recruiting talented staff. ***Upon vote, the motion carried, 5-0***
158 ***(Managers White and Olson absent).***

159

160 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

161

162 Long Lake Creek Partnership Roadmap

163

164 Ms. Becky Christopher presented the Long Lake Creek Partnership Roadmap, including:

165

- 166 • findings from the subwatershed assessment, broken into issues, drivers, and
167 management strategies;
- 168 • prioritized projects, costs, and benefits;
- 169 • a recommended implementation strategy, including sequencing of projects,
170 roles, and funding sources;
- 171 • and a framework for ongoing partner coordination, evaluation, and adaptive
172 management.

173

174 Manager Miller expressed his appreciation for the roadmap and the quality of the work.
175 He suggested that it would merit further Board study through the Policy and Planning

176 Committee. Manager Loftus said she also appreciated this good work, including the cost
177 estimates. Manager Hejmadi expressed his appreciation for excellent work and noted the
178 connection to the Land & Water Partnership program. He suggested that it would be
179 helpful to have feedback from the city partners.

180

181 Mr. Wisker noted that this roadmap had been developed in house by staff and thanked
182 Ms. Christopher and Mr. Beck for their leadership, as well as the mapping and data
183 analysis presentation by Mr. Steele. Manager Maxwell departed at this point in the
184 meeting.

185

186 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to refer the Long*
187 *Lake Creek Partnership Roadmap to the Policy and Planning Committee for further*
188 *study. Upon vote, the motion carried, 4-0 (Managers White, Olson and Maxwell*
189 *absent).*

190

191 Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk Update

192

193 Upon recommendation of Mr. Smith, *it was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by*
194 *Manager Hejmadi to move into closed session for the purpose of receiving confidential*
195 *legal advice from Mr. Radio concerning litigation strategy in the Minnehaha Preserve*
196 *Boardwalk case. Upon vote, the motion carried, 4-0 (Managers White, Olson and*
197 *Maxwell absent).*

198

199 Whereupon, the Board of Managers moved into closed session.

200

201 The Board of Managers returned to open session.

202

203 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

204

205 Manager Miller offer two suggestions. First, he asked if staff could provide PowerPoint
206 presentations to the managers after meetings. Second, he noted the changes in the
207 manager appointment process following the *City of Circle Pines v. Anoka County*
208 decision and suggested that the Operations and Programs Committee explore legislative
209 options.

210

211 **STAFF UPDATES**

212

213 Administrator's Report

214

215 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

216

- 217 1. The removal of the old defective Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk has
218 commenced. Approximately 900 feet of boardwalk have been removed and the

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Board of Managers
01-26-23

- 219 remainder will be removed next week; the new lumber is arriving to keep the
220 project on schedule;
221
222 2. The mayor and city engineer of Deephaven have reached out with some
223 stormwater management concepts which may be potentially appropriate for the
224 Land & Water Partnership program; staff will undertake further review and keep
225 the Board apprised;
226
227 3. The Hennepin County clerk has communicated that the applications for manager
228 appointments closed on December 31. The County Board will receive recorded
229 interviews in Committee on January 31, and may act on appointments on
230 February 7;
231
232 4. President White and Mr. Wisker have meetings scheduled with Commissioner Conley on
233 February 3 and with the office of Commissioner Fernando on February 14.
234

235 **Adjournment**

236
237 There being no further business, Manager Loftus declared the meeting of the Board of
238 Managers adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

239
240 Respectfully submitted,

241
242
243
244 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary