

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

4
5 **September 22, 2022**

6
7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by
10 President Sherry White at 7:00 p.m. on September 22, 2022.

11
12 **MANAGERS PRESENT**

13
14 Sherry White, William Olson, Richard Miller, Arun Hejmadi,
15 Eugene Maxwell and Stephen Sando.

16
17 **MANAGERS ABSENT**

18
19 Jessica Loftus.

20
21 **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

22
23 James Wisker, Administrator; Helen Schnoes, Outreach Manager; Stacy Carlson,
24 Communications Coordinator; Kayla Westerlund, Permitting Program Manager; Chris
25 Meehan, District Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District Counsel.

26
27 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

28
29 *It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller to approve the*
30 *Agenda as distributed. Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).*

31
32 **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

33
34 None.

35
36 **INFORMATION ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE**

37
38 **Introduction of New Staff**

39
40 Ms. Helen Schnoes introduced Ms. Stacy Carlson, the new communications coordinator.
41 The managers welcomed Ms. Carlson to the District.

42
43 **CONSENT AGENDA**

44
45 *It was moved by Manager Sando, seconded by Manager Miller, to approve the items on*
46 *the Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the September 8, 2022, Board meeting*

47 *minutes, approval of the General Check Register, including check numbers 42030*
48 *through 42056 in the amount of \$449,581.09, electronic funds withdrawals of*
49 *\$46,278.44, Managers Per Diems and Reimbursements of \$2,047.19, employee*
50 *reimbursements of \$1,300.00, payroll electronic funds withdrawals and disbursements*
51 *of \$153,068.42 for a total of \$652,275.142; the Surety Check Register for check*
52 *numbers 2159 through 2173 in the amount of \$101,223.00; and the Wire Check*
53 *Register in the amount of \$1,542,075.00 to Wells Fargo for 2018 325 Blake Road*
54 *Refinance; and the following resolutions:*

55
56 *Resolution 22-053: Selection of Vendor and Authorization to Enter into a Contract for*
57 *Audit Services*

58
59 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek*
60 *Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the District*
61 *Administrator to negotiate and enter into an audit contract for fiscal years*
62 *2022-23 with Redpath and Company, at a price not to exceed the amount stated*
63 *in its proposal, on advice of legal counsel; and*

64
65 *Resolution 22-059: Appointment of an Additional TAC Member for the Land & Water*
66 *Partnership Initiative*

67
68 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MCWD Board of Managers*
69 *appoints the following individuals to represent the City of Orono on the*
70 *Technical Advisory Committee for the Land & Water Partnership Initiative:*

- 71 *• Melanie Curtis, Planner – primary representative*
72 *• Laura Oakden, Community Development Director – alternate.*

73
74 *Upon vote, the motion carried 6-0 (Manager Loftus absent).*

75
76 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

77
78 Arden Park Project Report: Manager Sando gave a report on the Arden Park project in
79 Edina, including project outcomes, awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers,
80 and benefits to stream ecology, flood mitigation, and recreation access.

81
82 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the
83 meetings listed on the agenda.

84
85 **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

86
87 None.

88
89

90 **ACTION ITEMS**

91

92 None.

93

94 **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

95

96 **Lamplighter Pond Water Quality Project Briefing**

97

98 Ms. Kayla Westerlund appeared before the Board of Managers to review the feasibility
99 study for the Lamplighter Pond Water Quality Project. She explained that the purpose of
100 her presentation and Board discussion is to determine the Board's interest in advancing
101 the project from feasibility to scheduling a public hearing and executing a cooperative
102 agreement with the City of St. Louis Park at the October 20, 2022, Board meeting. She
103 reviewed the project background, project constraints identified in the feasibility study,
104 and the alternative location for the stormwater management system recommended by
105 City staff, adjacent to the Northside Park parking lot.

106

107 Upon a question from Manager Olson, Mr. Meehan reviewed local drainage conditions
108 and noted that the church parking lot mentioned by Manager Olson is in a landlocked
109 area. In response to a question from Manager Maxwell, Ms. Westerlund confirmed that
110 the escrowed amount of \$490,000 is intended to cover design and construction costs.
111 Manager Maxwell asked if Stantec is assured to be the engineer used by the City. Ms.
112 Westerlund stated this question would be up to St. Louis Park, and the City would likely
113 use its procurement process to select the engineer. Manager Maxwell, Manager Miller,
114 and Manager Olson expressed a strong preference for Stantec designing the project for
115 the sake of continuity. Mr. Wisker stated that the City seems amendable to Stantec
116 serving in this role and will ask that the City consider the Board's preferences. Manager
117 Olson stated that he would support having Stantec's role as a condition in the cooperative
118 agreement as necessary.

119

120 In response to a question from President White, Mr. Meehan explained the process for
121 binding dissolved phosphorus in the proposed stormwater management facility. The
122 managers confirmed that they were comfortable proceeding as recommended, subject to
123 noting the preference for Stantec's role in the project design. Mr. Wisker also noted that
124 this facility would have straightforward operation and maintenance and less risk in
125 performance than some other projects.

126

127 **BOARD INQUIRIES, ISSUES, AND IDEAS**

128

129 None.

130

131 **STAFF UPDATES**

132

133 Administrator's Report

134

135 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

136

137 1. Water levels have continued to decrease with moderate drought conditions, and
138 precipitation year to date is approximately seven inches below normal. Lake
139 Minnetonka is at 927.9, about 18 inches below the Ordinary High Water level..

140

141 2. Groundbreaking for the first phase at 325 Blake Road is scheduled for October 12
142 at 4:30 p.m.

143

144 3. The Citizens Advisory Committee and staff will both have meetings next week to
145 discuss the strategic history review and draft summary of guiding principles.

146

147 4. Alex Steele has obtained some of the hybrid communications technology for three
148 conference rooms.

149

150 5. MCWD received an Ambassador of Excellence Award from the National Oceanic
151 and Atmospheric Administration for partnership and communication with
152 watershed constituents.

153

154 6. Brian Beck recently presented the MCWD's work on machine learning to the
155 Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

156

157 7. Manager Olson noted that the updated web site is about 30-60 days behind
158 schedule, but this is due to an important focus on quality, and initial system
159 security issues no longer present the same deadline as originally set. The goal is
160 for the new website to be shared for review in November.

161

162 Adjournment

163

164 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of
165 Managers adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

166

167 Respectfully submitted,

168

169

170

171 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary