

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING
MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

August 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was called to order by President James Calkins at 6:50 p.m. at the District office, 18202 Minnetonka Boulevard, Deephaven, Minnesota.

MANAGERS PRESENT

James Calkins, Lee Keeley, Jeffrey Casale, Mike Klingelhutz.

MANAGERS ABSENT

Pamela Blixt, Richard Miller, Brian Shekleton

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Evenson, District Administrator; Udai Singh, District Water Quality Specialist; Ellen Heine, District Land Conservation Specialist; Michael Panzer, District Consulting Engineer; Chuck Holtman, District Counsel.

WATERSHED DISTRICT HISTORY PRESENTATION

Mr. Evenson introduced Deborah Morse-Kahn, an historian who has been working with the District on signage at mill sites and other locations throughout the watershed. As an element of the District's 40th Anniversary work this year, Ms. Morse-Kahn has created a traveling exhibit showing the relation of European settlement and development within the watershed to its water resources.

Ms. Morse-Kahn informed the Board that the exhibit has been on display at the Longfellow House, the Washburn Library and Minnetonka City Hall and will be displayed at the Lowry Nature Center and the District's Fall 2007 "Blue Tie" event. In her work, Ms. Morse-Kahn investigates how people have worked and made decisions as individuals and communities and what has resulted from that over time. Ms. Morse-Kahn's presentation included watercolors of Lake Minnetonka, the Minnehaha Creek bluffs and Minnehaha Falls during the "contact period" between First Americans and European settlers. The presentation also included photographs of Minnehaha Creek and the Falls from 1850 to the mid-20th Century. Ms. Morse-Kahn presented the history of six verified mills on the creek. Notable remnants from pre-European settlement include burial mounds, water meadows, migration habitat and Big Woods remnants.

DROUGHT IMPACT ON WATERSHED

Mr. Singh introduced Jeff Madejczyk, Wenck Associates, a biologist who has worked with Mr. Singh in developing the presentation.

Mr. Singh and Mr. Madejczyk reviewed the impacts of drought on the watershed. The presentation included defining forms of drought; reviewing precipitation data; reviewing stream/creek flow data and lake levels; discussing the impact of drought on water quality; discussing drought impact on fish, wildlife and macroinvertebrates; and reviewing public concerns that have been communicated to the District. Mr. Singh concluded that there are both detrimental and beneficial features of drought and that while the present conditions represent a dry period, in the bigger context they do not qualify as a drought condition with a serious natural resource impact.

The Board discussed the concept of returning the pre-settlement hydrology of the watershed and the difficulty of understanding that system due to the many changes. These include establishment of the Lake Minnetonka outlet, the dredging of channels that created the present-day lake, the alteration of natural marshy areas along Minnehaha Creek and within the lower watershed, ditching in the upper watershed and the overall increase in flashiness within the system.

DISTRICT COMPUTER POLICY

Mr. Evenson introduced District intern Nat Kale. Mr. Evenson asked Mr. Kale to inventory the District computer system and staff use and develop recommendations. The system is six years old and running out of space. Mr. Evenson identified as a major question whether the District should upgrade all at once or more gradually to coincide with longer term needs.

Mr. Kale indicated that the system has redundancy to preserve documents but that the backup system is not immediately accessible. The District is running out of server space and the system is not compatible with more modern software. Mr. Kale also recommends developing a policy for hardware/software replacement and an upgrade standard. Mr. Kale referred the managers to his written report included in the workshop packet.

Further recommendations from Mr. Kale include developing a stand-alone work station for Arc-GIS and formulating workstation needs on the basis of which departments are using that software. Planning, water quality, land conservation and compliance/enforcement all make use of the software. Finally, Mr. Kale said that he has obtained and reviewed three quotes for server upgrades.

Mr. Evenson noted that the District is at a growth point regarding computer capability needed to match the District's evolution to a mid-size organization. Systems will run

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\$60,000 to \$80,000. He is doing a mid-year assessment to determine what is available in the budget. Mr. Evenson also reported that Manager Casale has set up a meeting with a computer consultant to talk more about this. Mr. Evenson will prepare a one-page summary for the Board summarizing its options.

Mr. Kale reviewed the three quotes with the Board. ComNet International is a national company that would replace the server and provide company representatives to provide installation and security. The system is a standard Windows-based system. Creative Visions offers a similar proposal. It is a more local company and its price would be \$10,000 less because it would not charge for first-year maintenance. Real Time is the District's present vendor. It offers an open-source system without license cost so the cost is much less. However, it has less capability and needs more in-house administration.

Manager Casale recommended that every station have the same configuration apart from features such as Arc-GIS. He believes that this reduces maintenance cost. The question to him is what the configuration choices are. He urged that the District look broadly at this question. He does not favor an open-source system such as Linux, given the strong need for the District to integrate with many other systems.

The Board discussed the need to design the system with an eye to the data-intensive aspect of the District's work, such as its telemetry and the Lake Minnetonka bathymetry. Mr. Evenson stated that the District certainly will be looked to as a repository of data. Manager Casale concurred that the issue is more than simply updating hardware and base-line software. Manager Calkins also noted that the District shortly will be reviewing its hydrologic and hydraulic model for updating.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the workshop meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Keeley, Secretary