

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

4  
5                                   **April 8, 2021**

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 7:01 p.m. on April 8, 2021. President White noted that this  
11                                   meeting was convened electronically through WebEx, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes  
12                                   13D.021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her determination that it is not prudent for  
13                                   the Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, to meet in person, and it is not feasible  
14                                   to provide for any member of the Board, or of the public, to meet at the regular meeting  
15                                   location. For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District's presiding  
16                                   officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and  
17                                   its committees will be convened by telephone or other electronic means as the presiding  
18                                   officer determines appropriate. All such meetings will be noticed and conducted in  
19                                   accordance with §13D.021 and all other applicable terms of the Open Meeting Law.  
20                                   President White noted that, pursuant to §13D.021, all votes will be by roll call.

21  
22                                   President White called the roll to note attendance:

23  
24                                   Hejmadi:       Present  
25                                   Loftus:         Present  
26                                   Sando:         Present  
27                                   Miller:         Present  
28                                   Olson:         Present  
29                                   Maxwell:       Present  
30                                   White:         Present

31  
32                                   **DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

33  
34                                   James Wisker, Administrator; Alex Steele, GIS Technician; Tom Dietrich, Permitting  
35                                   Program Manager; Chris Meehan, Consulting Engineer; and Louis Smith, District  
36                                   Counsel.

37  
38  
39                                   **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

40  
41                                   None.

42  
43                                   **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

44  
45                                   *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to approve the Agenda*  
46                                   *as distributed. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0 as follows:*

47  
48 Hejmadi: Aye  
49 Loftus: Aye  
50 Sando: Aye  
51 Miller: Aye  
52 Olson: Aye  
53 Maxwell: Aye  
54 White: Aye

55  
56 **CONSENT AGENDA**

57  
58 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Hejmadi, to approve the*  
59 *Consent Agenda consisting of approval of the March 25, 2021 Board minutes; and the*  
60 *following resolution:*

61  
62 **Resolution 21-026: Authorization to Execute a Contract for Six Mile Marsh**  
63 **Prairie and Laketown Wetland Vegetation Maintenance**

64  
65 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
66 ***Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on***  
67 ***advice of District Counsel, to execute a contract with Prairie Restorations, Inc.,***  
68 ***in the amount of \$31,900 for vegetation maintenance at the Six Mile Marsh***  
69 ***Prairie Restoration & Laketown Wetland and establish a project maintenance***  
70 ***budget in the not-to-exceed amount of \$35,090 and authorizes the District***  
71 ***Administrator, in his judgment, to authorize change orders obligating the***  
72 ***District up to that amount.***

73  
74 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*

75  
76 Hejmadi: Aye  
77 Loftus: Aye  
78 Sando: Aye  
79 Miller: Aye  
80 Olson: Aye  
81 Maxwell: Aye  
82 White: Aye

83  
84 **BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

85  
86 **President's Report:** President White noted that briefing meetings with Hennepin and  
87 Carver County Commissioners, and legislators are now complete. She expressed her  
88 appreciation for the positive response in these meetings, and in particular noted the  
89 alignment of the MCWD's work with Hennepin County's climate action plan, and  
90 support expressed for the MCWD project at 325 Blake Road.

91  
92 Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the  
93 committee met earlier and received a staff review of the organizational assessment of the  
94 Citizens Advisory Committee.

95  
96 Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule: President White directed the managers to the  
97 meetings listed on the agenda; all of the meetings to be noticed and held via WebEx. She  
98 noted that Executive Committee will meet to review the annual audit on April 22.

99

100

101 **ACTION ITEMS**

102

103 Resolution 21-027: Authorization to Renew GIS and WISKI Maintenance  
104 Agreements and Licenses

105

106 Mr. Alex Steele appeared before the Board of Managers and provided an update on the  
107 implementation of the MCWD's strategic information technology plan. He reviewed the  
108 request for board action to renew GIS and WISKI maintenance agreements and licenses.

109

110 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Olson to adopt Resolution 21-*  
111 *027 as follows:*

112

113 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
114 ***Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes***  
115 ***the renewal of GIS software maintenance and licenses for an amount of***  
116 ***\$15,662.00.***

117

118 ***AND, NOW THEREFORE, BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnehaha***  
119 ***Creek Watershed District Board of Managers***  
120 ***hereby authorizes the renewal of WISKI software maintenance and licenses for***  
121 ***an amount of \$14,520.00.***

122

123 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*

124

125 Hejmadi: Aye  
126 Loftus: Aye  
127 Sando: Aye  
128 Miller: Aye  
129 Olson: Aye  
130 Maxwell: Aye  
131 White: Aye

132

133

134 Resolution 21-028: Authorization to Submit Part II of the Municipal Separate Storm  
135 Sewer System (MS4) Permit Application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
136 (MPCA)

137  
138 Mr. Tom Dietrich appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the background  
139 and process for the issuance of the new MS4 General Permit, which was issued on  
140 November 16, 2020 and provides for 150 days for the MCWD to apply for coverage. Mr.  
141 Dietrich noted that the new General Permit does not establish any significant impacts to  
142 MCWD operations, but does create partnership opportunities with cities.

143  
144 *It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Sando to adopt Resolution 21-*  
145 *028 as follows:*

146  
147 ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek***  
148 ***Watershed District Board of Managers: authorizes the District Administrator to***  
149 ***submit the application for reauthorization under the NPDES/SDS General***  
150 ***Small MS4 Permit to the MPCA.***

151  
152 Upon a question from Manager Miller, Mr. Dietrich provided examples of partnership  
153 opportunities with cities to collaborate in site inspections. Manager Loftus expressed her  
154 appreciation for this collaborative approach, noting the high costs for consultants for  
155 many smaller cities and the value of efficiencies to city partners. Manager Hejmadi  
156 expressed his appreciation for the value of this collaborative approach.

157  
158 *Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:*

159  
160 Hejmadi: Aye  
161 Loftus: Aye  
162 Sando: Aye  
163 Miller: Aye  
164 Olson: Aye  
165 Maxwell: Aye  
166 White: Aye

167  
168  
169 **STAFF UPDATES**

170  
171 Administrator's Report

172  
173 Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

- 174  
175 1. Recent rainfall amounted to about 1.5 inches; Lake Minnetonka is currently at an  
176 elevation of 929.12. The Gray's Bay dam is ready for operation, but with a dry

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- 177 forecast for the next two weeks, it is likely to remain closed for the near term.  
178 Minnehaha Creek is flowing at 60 cubic feet per second.  
179  
180 2. Questions from potential developers for 325 Blake Road are being collected for  
181 provision of collective answers. Manager Miller asked that the Board be provided  
182 with the questions posed by potential developers. Review of proposals is planned  
183 following May 5. Staff is following up on partnership discussions with Hennepin  
184 County, Three Rivers Park District, and the Metropolitan Council. A walking  
185 tour of the site with Commissioner LaTondresse is planned for late Spring. A  
186 public listening session was held on March 31, with about 30 people attending  
187 and providing diverse perspectives. Common themes in this discussion were  
188 about an excitement for opportunities to interact with nature at the site. A  
189 synthesis of the listening sessions and approximately 100 survey responses will be  
190 provided to the Board of Managers for an upcoming meeting.  
191  
192 3. A walking tour of Arden Park is planned for April 27.  
193  
194

195 **Adjournment**

196  
197 There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of  
198 Managers adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

199  
200 Respectfully submitted,

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202  
203  
204 Eugene Maxwell, Secretary  
205