MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

April 8, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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 For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District’s presiding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

President White called the roll to note attendance:

Hejmadi: Present
Loftus: Present
Sando: Present
Miller: Present
Olson: Present
Maxwell: Present
White: Present

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

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

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

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

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

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

Hejmadi: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Sando: Aye
Miller: Aye
Olson: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
White: Aye

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President’s Report: President White noted that briefing meetings with Hennepin and Carver County Commissioners, and legislators are now complete. She expressed her appreciation for the positive response in these meetings, and in particular noted the alignment of the MCWD’s work with Hennepin County’s climate action plan, and support expressed for the MCWD project at 325 Blake Road.
Operations and Programs Committee Report: Manager Loftus reported that the committee met earlier and received a staff review of the organizational assessment of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

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

ACTION ITEMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hejmadi: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Sando: Aye
Miller: Aye
Olson: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
White: Aye
Resolution 21-028: Authorization to Submit Part II of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

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

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

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

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

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

Hejmadi: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Sando: Aye
Miller: Aye
Olson: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
White: Aye

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Recent rainfall amounted to about 1.5 inches; Lake Minnetonka is currently at an elevation of 929.12. The Gray’s Bay dam is ready for operation, but with a dry
forecast for the next two weeks, it is likely to remain closed for the near term.
Minnehaha Creek is flowing at 60 cubic feet per second.

2. Questions from potential developers for 325 Blake Road are being collected for
provision of collective answers. Manager Miller asked that the Board be provided
with the questions posed by potential developers. Review of proposals is planned
following May 5. Staff is following up on partnership discussions with Hennepin
County, Three Rivers Park District, and the Metropolitan Council. A walking
tour of the site with Commissioner LaTondresse is planned for late Spring. A
public listening session was held on March 31, with about 30 people attending
and providing diverse perspectives. Common themes in this discussion were
about an excitement for opportunities to interact with nature at the site. A
synthesis of the listening sessions and approximately 100 survey responses will be
provided to the Board of Managers for an upcoming meeting.

3. A walking tour of Arden Park is planned for April 27.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Maxwell, Secretary