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

August 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was called to order by President Sherry White at 7:02 p.m. on August 27, 2020. 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 For this reason, until this determination is withdrawn by the District’s presiding officer, chief legal counsel or chief administrative officer, the meetings of the Board and its committees will be convened by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
Rogness: Present
Miller: Present
Olson: Present
Maxwell: Present
White: Present

DISTRICT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

James Wisker, Administrator; Kate Moran, Policy Planning Coordinator; Becky Christopher, Policy Planning Manager; Michael Hayman, Project Planning Manager; Gabe Sherman, Planner – Project 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:
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CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness, to adopt the items on the Consent Agenda, consisting of the approval of the August 13, 2020 Board Minutes; the General Checking Account consisting of checks 41243 through 41277 in the amount of $320,781.73; electronic funds withdrawals in the amount of $30,901.78; manager per diems and reimbursement direct deposits in the amount of $2,250.00; employee reimbursements - direct deposits in the amount of $1,417.30; and payroll direct deposits in the amount of $217,537.58; and the surety checking account consisting of checks 41278 and 41279, and electronic fund transfer of $30.00 to Bremer Bank for a service charge for a total of $6,278.00.

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

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

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

President’s Report: President White reported that she had participated in at meeting on August 18 with the Liaisons for 325 Blake Road, and on August 26 with the Citizens Advisory Committee leadership team for agenda planning.

Policy and Planning Committee Report: Manager Miller reported that the Policy and Planning Committee met and received a detailed briefing on Six Mile Creek Halsted Bay planning process, and an update on the Long Lake Creek Partnership.

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.
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public hearing on 2021 budget and levy

President White opened the public hearing on the 2021 annual budget and levy. Mr. James Wisker appeared before the Board of Managers and reviewed the process in developing the annual budget, as well as an overview of the 2021 budget and proposed levy. He noted that the proposed 2021 budget reflects a decrease in expenditures of $633,756 or 4% for total proposed expenditures of $14,716,421, and the proposed levy of $9,675,993 reflects 0% increase for the fourth consecutive year of no increase in the MCWD’s levy.

There were no comments from the public and President White closed the public hearing.

action items

Resolution 20-063: Approval of the St. Bonifacius Local Water Management Plan

Ms. Kate Moran appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She described the review process and comments by MCWD staff on the draft plan, and noted that the plan now meets all requirements. She noted that the City authorizes the District to continue to administer all of its water resource regulations, and that the City will retain Local Government Unit status for the Wetland Conservation Act.

It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Rogness, to adopt Resolution 20-063 as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby approves the City of St. Bonifacius Local Water Management Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board approves the associated coordination plan and adopts it on behalf of the MCWD; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City is to adopt and implement its LWMP within 120 days, and to notify the MCWD within 30 days thereafter that it has done so.

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

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

Resolution 20-064: Authorization to Apply for Watershed-based Implementation Funding

Ms. Becky Christopher appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. She described ongoing work with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to implement the Clean Water Fund allocation on more of a watershed basis, and with a focus on prioritized targeted measures. Ms. Christopher noted that the West Mississippi Metro area is working on a collaborative work plan for the allocation of $874,153 in total funding. The MCWD staff believes that the best opportunity is the Wolsfeld Woods Ravine Stabilization Project.

It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Hejmadi to adopt Resolution 20-064 as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorize staff to apply for grant funding for the Wolsfeld Woods Ravine Stabilization project through the BWSR Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program.

Upon a question from Manager Hejmadi, Ms. Christopher said that staff is pleased with the direction BWSR is pursuing with this funding and will look forward to further evaluation after this funding cycle. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 7-0 as follows:

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

Resolution 20-065: Adoption of the revised Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board action. He reviewed comments from cities on the draft plan, most of which were seeking clarification and were quickly addressed. The City of Greenwood has been corresponding with the MCWD about the capital improvement plan, seeking a reallocation of $600,000 of the annual CIP to fund aquatic invasive species (AIS) programming on Lake Minnetonka. Mr. Hayman stated that staff’s recommendation is to continue to consider opportunities to improve ecological integrity through managing AIS through the annual budget process, rather than through an
unspecified one-time shift, and thereby avoid potentially disrupting long-planned high impact investments developed with partners set to benefit Lake Minnetonka, Minnehaha Creek, Lake Hiawatha and other critical resources.

*It was moved by Manager Miller, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to adopt Resolution 20-065 as follows:*

> NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the attached 2021 CIP.

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

- Hejmadi: Aye
- Loftus: Aye
- Rogness: Aye
- Miller: Aye
- Olson: Aye
- Maxwell: Aye
- White: Aye

Resolution 20-066: Authorization to Execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Hopkins for Coordinated Planning, Improvements and Development for 325 Blake Road:

Resolution 20-067: Authorization to Release the Request for Proposals for Design Services for 325 Blake Road Stormwater Management and Site Restoration

President White noted the presence of Hopkins Council Member Brian Hunke and Ann Beuch of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative. Mr. Michael Hayman appeared before the Board of Managers to address the request for board approval of the cooperative agreement. He reviewed the work of the Liaisons and discussions to address the Board’s previously stated concerns with the process to solicit developer interest and expectations concerning park dedication fees. Mr. Gabe Sherman appeared before the Board of Managers to review the request for board approval of the release of the RFP for design services.

*It was moved by Manager Olson, seconded by Manager Maxwell, to adopt Resolution 20-066 as follows:*

> NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a cooperative agreement with the City of Hopkins to jointly establish a coordinated planning process for implementation and development at 325 Blake Road, allowing for non-substantive edits on advice of counsel.
President White expressed her appreciation to all involved including the representatives of the City of Hopkins. Hopkins Council Member Rick Brausen noted his presence at the meeting and expressed his appreciation for this work.

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried, 5-2 as follows:

Hejmadi: Aye
Loftus: Aye
Rogness: Nay
Miller: Nay
Olson: Aye
Maxwell: Aye
White: Aye

It was moved by Manager Maxwell, seconded by Manager Miller, to adopt Resolution 20-067 as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the release of the request for proposals for design services for 325 Blake Road stormwater management and site restoration, and allows for the administrator to make non-substantive edits to the document and schedule based on advice of MCWD legal counsel.

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

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

STAFF UPDATES

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Wisker reported on the following items:

1. Three staff presentations, on real time monitoring network, carp management, and machine learning, have been accepted for the annual Water Resources Conference hosted by the University of Minnesota;
2. The Gray’s Bay dam discharge is at 20 cubic feet per second, which is the minimum discharge rate dictated by the operating plan when the lake level is above 928.90 ft. during the month of August. The lake level is currently at 929.09.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, President White declared the meeting of the Board of Managers adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Rogness, Secretary