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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Time: 2:00pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Boardroom

City of Lauderdale, 1831 Walnut Street, Lauderdale, MN 55113

Commissioners in Attendance:

Jerry Faust, St Anthony; Scott Vreeland, MPRB; Paul Ostrow, Minneapolis, Matt Hass, Alternate, St. Paul and Karen Gill-Gerbig, Lauderdale

Staff and Guests: Doug Snyder (MWMO), Dan Kalmon, Zhenya Stone (MWMO), Jenny Winkelman (MWMO), Nancy Dilts (MWMO), Brian Jastram (MWMO), Sarah Nettleton (New Facility Consultant), Teresa Sterns (New Facility Consultant), and Brad Wozney (BWSR)

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by Commissioner Ostrow.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved as written with two additions: Attachment 7E, pertaining to the expansion of the Wetlands Function and Value Assessment and the acknowledgement of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the St. Anthony Water Reuse Project. The consent agenda approved the extension of the Alliance Housing, Inc., 2006 Stewardship Fund Agreement, to terminate on December 31, 2009, for the purpose of enabling the Grantee (and its Contractor) to correct contaminated soils, infiltration problems and replant a raingarden.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Open Public Comment

Douglas Snyder introduced Brad Wozney, Board Conservationist for the Board of Water and Soil Resources. He mentioned that two new city officials will be added to the board in the near future. Some of the funding from sources will be routed through BWSR.

Old Business

Transition Planning—MWMO Board

One or two board members will be leaving at the end of the year. Preparation for that transition should begin now. Commissioner Faust suggested that the executive director's review should be completed before the board transitions. Commissioner Gill-Gerbig commented that any new member would not necessarily replace a former member in the board hierarchy. A new chairman would not necessarily be from Minneapolis, even though Minneapolis has the largest area within the watershed. Commissioner Ostrow noted that the board is very different from when he first began. There have been many accomplishments. Commissioner Vreeland suggested that new members be given a manual to help explain duties and the history of the MWMO.

View From the Big River

Snyder explained that staff commitments are cutting into planning for the View from the Big River for this year. Snyder explained that next year the boat workshop could be done in the spring and the land workshop could be held in the fall, the board voted to postpone the projects until next year.

Faust explained that he was disappointed that the League of Minnesota Cities' river workshop had to be cancelled for lack of registration. He felt that the \$50.00 charge and competition with information on greening St. Paul buildings contributed to the workshop's lack of success. He thanked Jenny Winkelman and John Bilotta (NEMO) for their efforts.

Staff Updates

Education Program Update/Jenny Winkelman

Dragon Boat Festival

MWMO, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Golden Harvest Grocery and Capitol Region Watershed District, co-sponsored a dragon boat (*Cleanwater Golden Dragon Zaj Dej Hw*) at the Dragon Festival held at Phalen Park this year. In the races, our boat came in seventh in a field of twenty-six and everyone had fun. Watershed education materials were dispersed through the festival, targeting Hmong 1.5 generation participants. We had 40 people on our team and they brought about 200 friends and family.

Summer Turf Maintenance Workshops and Certification Program

The Summer Turf Maintenance workshops and Voluntary Certification Program developed by Fortin Consulting for the MWMO and PCA were piloted in July. The workshops were marketed to private and public staff who manage large areas of turf grass such as at the university, the Capitol, parks, cemeteries, townhome associations, and industrial settings. The demand exceeded the capacity of the three pilot workshops. They were hosted by the Minnesota Extension Service, MN Landscape and Nursery Association, City of Saint Anthony, PCA and the MWMO. We now need to develop a manual for the workshops and figure out a way to make the training available on an ongoing basis and not be dependent on small grants.

Vreeland suggested that someone should look into the ramifications of pesticides being used by the public for emerald ash borers. Gill-Gerbig added that our best advice should be that an arborist should administer pesticides.

Planning Update/Dan Kalmon

Third Generation Watershed Management Plan

Comments have been returned on the Joint Powers Agreement, and they will be resent in August to board members. We would like to work with board members to understand how members see the implementation happening. If there are additional costs to a member due to the plan, should the MWMO help pay that entity to comply? That discussion, according to Snyder, should be held before the plan goes to BWSR for formal review.

A meeting about the Joint Powers Agreement will be held in August, and a five-member (MWMO) meeting with Dan Kalmon, Snyder, and the MWMO attorney will be held in September or early October. The BWSR submission will be early next year. Kalmon will seek approval for the plan at the March board meeting.

Getting groups involved now and reasserting the role of the watershed would be a good idea at this point, according to Ostrow. Faust suggested that the MWMO put together a twenty-minute presentation that would be available for cable television. Snyder suggested that all members have a staff contact to help shuttle through this portion of the plan.

RSP/Doug Snyder

The agreement for MWMO's move to the new building is ready to sign. According to Snyder, the MWMO will move at some point next week (July 20th to 24th).

Jurisdictional Authorities

This project, originally approved in 2007, will define jurisdictional authorities within the watershed. It will include state, county, local and other authorities involved with water regulation. After meeting with several providers, Barr Engineering, the most responsible bidder, was selected to pursue this project. Barr had the best understanding of what the project entailed, according to Kalmon. The board voted to contract with Barr Engineering for the Jurisdictional Authorities and Responsibilities Project, with a funding cap of \$32,829.00 (which includes the initial agreement of \$29,845.00 and a 10% project contingency).

Wetland Function and Value Assessment

This project, part of the MWMO's original plan, seeks to assess natural wetlands based on Dave Thill's (Hennepin County) experience with Minnesota routine assessment methodology. Thill developed this tool and is a leader in this type of evaluation. Contrary to popular conception, which minimizes wetlands in the

MWMO, there are probably 50 – 80 wetlands within the watershed. The original study was budgeted at \$20,000.00 but will probably exceed that amount. The board voted to contract a watershed-wide wetland function and value assessment with Hennepin County Environmental Services with a project funding cap of \$35,000, which includes a 10% contingency.

Facility Development/Teresa Sterns and Sarah Nettleton

After a long discussion concerning board oversight of the new facility project, the board decided to request that the executive director report to and consult with the MWMO executive committee regarding budgetary, design, change order or scheduling issues which arise, with an eye to bringing any significant issues to the full board if deemed necessary by the committee. Board meetings more frequently than once every two months, suggested by Gill-Gerbig, was also cited as a possibility, if the need arises.

Teresa Sterns explained that innovative design and energy conservation are two of the goals set by the MWMO for its new facility. Zoning codes have not, as of yet, caught up with green concepts, according to Ostrow, but the MWMO should be able to reach its objectives. Local neighborhood organizations presently support the new building, and Snyder plans to attend upcoming meetings of those groups.

The board voted to support the schedules provided by Sterns for the design and construction of the new facility. Within the next few weeks, meetings with staff, CAC members and board members will be arranged. The proposed schedule foresees completion of the new facility in fall of 2011.

Budget/Doug Snyder

In a nod to the difficult economy, the budget has been designated to remain flat for 2010 at this time. The levy percentage will be set at the next board meeting. Concerning capital projects, both the Minneapolis Park Board and the City of Minneapolis are focusing on land acquisitions rather than construction projects for 2010. Snyder said that the Minneapolis Park Board needs to let the MWMO know which projects would be viable for partnerships. Vreeland suggested that the board review past, present and possible future budgets in order to make informed decisions. Ostrow commented that a summary of such budgets would be useful, but the MWMO needs to remember that its focus is the management of water, not procuring open spaces.

Exactly *how* the MWMO participates in partnerships will be one consideration for next year. The board may want to consider a maximum percentage of participation, e.g., a fifty percent contribution for stormwater projects and/or seventy-five percent for land purchases, for its investments. Faust asserted that project moneys should be awarded based only on the merit of the request.

Water Reuse System, Saint Anthony Village—Jerry Faust

Faust invited the board and MWMO staff to a ribbon-cutting ceremony to take place after the next board meeting on September 8, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. The board decided to start the September meeting at 2:30 p.m., so that there would not be a time lapse between the meeting and the ceremony.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

**MWMO Board of Commissioners Meeting
Recorded Motions: July 14, 2009**

Motion to approve the agenda

Moved: Commissioner Faust

Second: Commissioner Vreeland

The meeting agenda was approved as written with two additions: Attachment 7E, pertaining to the expansion of the Wetlands Function and Value Assessment and the acknowledgement of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the St. Anthony Water Reuse Project.

Motion passed unanimously.

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye--Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion to approve the consent agenda

Moved: Commissioner Ostrow

Second: Commissioner Vreeland

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda approved the extension of the Alliance Housing, Inc., 2006 Stewardship Fund Agreement, to terminate on December 31, 2009, for the purpose of enabling the Grantee (and its Contractor) to correct contaminated soils, infiltration problems and replant a raingarden.

Motion passed unanimously.

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye--Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting

Moved: Commissioner Gill-Gerbig

Second: Commissioner Faust

Motion passed unanimously.

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye - Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion to postpone the new land-based workshop, A View to the Big River to 2010.

Moved: Commissioner Vreeland
Motion passed unanimously.

Second: Commissioner Faust

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye - Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion for the MWMO to contract with Barr for the Jurisdictional Authorities and Responsibilities Project, with a funding cap of \$32,829.00, which includes the initial agreement of \$29,845.00 and a 10% project contingency.

Moved: Commissioner Vreeland
Motion passed.

Second: Commissioner Gill-Gerbig

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye - Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion to contract a watershed-wide wetland function and value assessment with Hennepin County Environmental Services, with a project funding cap of \$35,000, which includes a 10% project contingency.

Moved: Commissioner Ostrow
Motion passed unanimously.

Second: Commissioner Vreeland

Voting:

Aye - Faust

Aye - Vreeland

Aye - Hass

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye - Ostrow

Motion: The executive director, at his discretion, shall consult with the executive committee of the MWMO as to any budgetary, design, change order or scheduling changes for the new facility project. The executive committee will decide if the full board needs to make a decision about a particular matter.

Moved: Commissioner Faust
Motion passed unanimously.

Second: Alternate Commissioner Hass

