



1224 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413-1036

(612) 465-8780  
(612) 465- 8785 fax

[www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org)

MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION

## MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2011

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Area

**Location:** MWMO Offices, 1224 Marshall Street NE, Suite 201, Minneapolis, MN 55113

### Commissioners in Attendance:

Jerry Faust, St Anthony; Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Karen Gill-Gerbig, Lauderdale, Diane Hofstede (after 2:15 pm), Minneapolis, and Liz Wilenski, Alternate, MPRB

Staff and Guests: Doug Snyder (MWMO), Dan Kalmon (MWMO), Zhenya Stone (MWMO), Jenny Winkelman (MWMO), Kari Oquist (MWMO), Erica Sniegowski (MWMO), Lorrie Stromme (MWMO), Nancy Dilts (MWMO), Rachel Olmanson (MWMO) (after 3:00 p.m.), Brian Jastram (MWMO)(after 3:00 p.m.), Lois Eberhart, City of Minneapolis, Alison Fong, City of Minneapolis, Jim Kosluchar, City of Fridley

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Commissioner Faust.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved as written. The consent agenda included: approval of the draft agenda, approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting, and approval of an expenditure of up to \$240 to send CAC members (at \$30 each) to the Watershed Assessment Summit sponsored by the Izaak Walton League.

### Open Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### Staff Reports

#### **Stewardship Fund—Nancy Dilts**

Nancy Dilts presented the three Planning Grant funding recommendations that both the CAC and staff agreed upon; the board approved this action. Four Planning Grants were approved in January, bringing the total number of Planning Grants funded in FY 2011 to seven. One of the other proposals is being redirected to the Education and Outreach Program for implementation and funding.

Five of ten proposals submitted were awarded in the spring Mini-grant cycle. Commissioner Hofstede asked if the Stewardship Fund sends information to previous applicants. Dilts stated those contacts and more receive Stewardship Grant information. She asked commissioners to forward any requests concerning possible projects to her.

### **Joint Watershed Research Grants—Doug Snyder**

The Joint Watershed Research Grant Program is a partnership with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Last year, the request for proposals was put out in April. Four projects have been accepted, and we have been working with all of those projects. We have primarily focused on two of the projects. The first looks at a research project on stormwater treatment from the top of a bluff with a fen immediately below. That project would monitor water to check the impact of stormwater on the underlying wetlands.

The second proposal would investigate stormwater harvesting, collecting and use; this is a priority in the MIDS group to which we belong. If the project is developed, it will result in a white paper that may inform credit for stormwater management through minimal impact design.

MIDs stormwater management is focused on the developing urban fringe. There is currently money in the governor's and the house budgets to continue the MIDs process. MPCA is presently leading the discussion, but the group has many participants, including agencies, developers, watershed, consultants and others. It will be at least two years before MIDs will be instituted.

Commissioner Vreeland asked how MID projects differed from LID projects. Doug Snyder explained that they are basically the same thing—both are design approaches geared to provide the least amount of environmental degradation. Lois Eberhart, of the City of Minneapolis, commented that her office views them in the same way.

The board voted to provide \$47,500, the MWMO's half, to fund the Joint Watershed Research Program tied to the MIDS program and for the project which would monitor the impact of stormwater on wetlands.

### **Education and Outreach—Jenny Winkelman**

Education about Snow and Ice Control

The filming stage of the cable TV program about winter maintenance for residents is nearly complete. The final product is on schedule for fall release. Jenny introduced and showed the DVD *Winter Maintenance for Small Sites* at the Road Salt Symposium in February.

View from the Big River: a Workshop about Land Use and Water Quality

June 7, 2011 (from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m) is the date for the *View to the Big River* program. Based on the board's request last year and a discussion this year, it was decided to hold it after the legislative session; hopefully more of our state representatives will be able to participate. If any board members are not able to attend, please consider sending your staff. Commissioner Faust requested inviting Ron Schara. The commissioners offered to help extend personal invitations and make calls to those invited.

The Mississippi River Green Team (MRGT)

Recruitment this year has been complicated and months earlier than in the past due to a new streamlined structure for youth employment programs in the City of Minneapolis. Sources that leveraged funding for youth summer stipends in past years have been reduced; however, the MRGT has been recommended for special funding as an "enclave program." If additional funding is needed from the MWMO to field the crews this summer, a request will be brought to the board at the May meeting. Commissioner Vreeland pointed out that Mayor Rybek had touted the benefits of Step Up and asked if the Step Up Program had been helpful; Winkelman said the new structure for youth employment programs goes through Step Up, so we are already part of that process. Step Up is also working with us to help place MRGT graduates into summer jobs.

### **Third Generation Watershed Management Plan/Joint Cooperative Agreement (JCA)—Dan Kalmon**

Dan Kalmon said significant progress had been made with constituent review of the plan. Volume standards for stormwater have been temporarily removed, and the MWMO is looking to put a reasonable standard in place for both the public and private sectors. All issues are being reviewed.

The JCA needs to pass in order for the plan to be adopted. The JCA should be complete and send to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in April. That board will receive a copy of the plan on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Faust and Kalmon acknowledged the collaboration and cooperation from supervisory and constituent agencies involved with approval of both the JCA and plan; as an urban agency, a great deal of review is required for final approval of both documents.

### **Administration—Doug Snyder**

Snyder is:

- Reviewing the Policy and Procedures Manual draft
- Evaluating health, dental, and cafeteria plans. He will return to the board with suggestions.
- Meeting with the Landscape Architecture Department at the University of Minnesota to share half of the cost for an intern on a project in the spring.
- Bids for the construction of the new building are due April 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> is a mandatory pre-bid meeting.
  - The general contractor will be selected in May.
  - A building enclosure testing has been added to confirm energy efficiency.
  - Furniture selection will begin towards the end of the month and continue for a few months.
- Ramsey Metro Watershed District, SAFL and the MWMO are inviting participants to a meeting to establish a Stormwater Research Council focused on stormwater research, operation and maintenance of best management practices and development of new control technologies.

### Six Cities Watershed Management Organization

Coon Rapids, Blaine, and Hilltop have established formal resolutions to join Coon Creek Watershed. Fridley has formally requested joining the MWMO. The MWMO has requested that any decision wait until our current plan and JCA Amendment are completed; BWSR is comfortable waiting for the process to finish before making a decision. If the cities are admitted to the MWMO, the JCA will have to be redone, and part of the plan will have to be rewritten.

### Legislative Update

There is presently a one-time allocation to update the Stormwater Manual and an appropriation for a full-time employee to work in waste load allocation.

### **Commissioner Updates**

A goal-setting seminar was conducted at the City of Saint Anthony. Faust stated that one of the city's goals is environmental conservation, primarily focusing on water; this is one way to save money. Winkelman and Faust presented at a salt and sanding symposium sponsored by the Freshwater Society.

Vreeland stated that Pat Nunally received a grant to establish a river atlas and would hope that the MWMO would help provide information for that endeavor. Lois Eberhart, in responding to a question from Vreeland, stated that a tunnel is being repaired under 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where an outfall is being widened. Vreeland also noted that Minnehaha Creek Watershed has a "splash email list" which provides flooding predictions for Minnehaha Creek. Vreeland and other commissioners commented on the flooding of the Mississippi and hoped homeowners at risk would get flood insurance quickly.

Commissioner Hofstede said the City of Minneapolis had received a grant to install cameras on the Broadway Bridge to observe the river's flooding. At this time, no one knows if sandbags will be needed. Minneapolis is doing business outreach to Sweden and France, and the city is recasting its image with a focus on water.

### **Presentation—Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) Chloride Project—Brooke Asleson**

Brooke Asleson presented the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Project findings and proposed approaches to remedy problems. Road salt impacts fish, aquatic communities, birds, amphibians, habitats, terrestrial plants and soils. Several partnerships with the MPCA have been developed, and all are working to provide guidance to a project team seeking solutions to chloride-based impacts.

The team reviewed targeted statistical physical findings, updated existing data compilations, and assessed previously established literature in order to identify impaired bodies of water, protect unimpaired waters, develop salt application rates, create analytical models, refine targeted education and outreach information, draft and finalize a chloride management plan (which includes implementation and long-term monitoring), and coordinate stakeholder processes.

Continued research will help provide a better understanding of how chloride interacts with the environment and will contribute to finding the most efficacious ways to properly manage water resources.

Vreeland and Gill-Gerbig asked Asleson about Shingle Creek. Asleson said Shingle and Nine-mile Creeks are used as examples in the report. Kari Oquist pointed out the MWMO is in partnership with the MPCA in this endeavor through its monitoring program. Obstacles for the MWMO include not having established protocols for big river monitoring and concern for workers on unstable ice. The U.S. Geological Survey does do monitoring with an airboat on the Mississippi River during winter, but currently not in the MWMO reach of the river.

Faust, Gill-Gerbig, and Hofstede commented on the need for residential participation in the inception of any program designed to reduce the use of salt in winter. Hofstede suggested identifying locations for the general public where deicers, which are safer for the environment than salt, may be purchased.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

MWMO Board of Commissioners Meeting

Recorded Motions: March 8, 2011

**Motion to approve the consent agenda, including the approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting, the March 8, 2011 draft agenda, and a one-time request of up to \$240 (\$30/person) for members of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to attend the Watershed Assessment Summit 2011: Managing Water on the Land from a Watershed Perspective on March 12, 2011.**

**Moved:** Commissioner Vreeland

**Second:** Commissioner Gill-Gerbig

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Voting:**

Aye - Faust

Aye – Vreeland

Absent -- Hofstede

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Absent—Hass

**Motion to accept and fund the following Planning Grant awards for 2011:**

**Planning Grants**

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Highpoint Center for Printmaking	Raingarden	\$6,550.00
Kroening Interpretive Center	River/Stormwater Interpretive Exhibit and Outdoor Best Management Practice	\$10,000.00
Minnesota Erosion Control Association	Erosion Control Professional Development Workshops	\$10,000.00
<b>Total Awarded:</b>		<b>\$26,550.00</b>

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**Moved:** Commissioner Vreeland

**Second:** Commissioner Gill-Gerbig

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Voting:**

Aye - Faust

Aye – Vreeland

Absent - Hofstede

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Absent -- Hass

**Motion to fund the following Joint Watershed Management Program projects, not to exceed \$47,520.00:**

**PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:**

The allocation will come from the Watershed Assessment and Research Program. The total requested amount of funding for the two projects is \$95,040. MWCD and the MWMO will each contribute \$47,520.00.

1. Project Title: Groundwater Recharge: Nicols Fen, Kennealy/Harnack Trout Streams

Project Manager: Todd Hubmer

Sponsoring Organization: Gun Club Lake Watershed Management Organization

Requested from JWR GRANT : \$ 20,040

Matching Funds: \$ 17,000

2. Project Title: Stormwater Harvesting: Accounting of Benefits and Feasibility Analyses

Project Manager: Brett Emmons

Sponsoring Organization: Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc.

Requested from JWR GRANT: \$ 75,000

Matching Funds: \$ 5,200

**Moved:** Commissioner Hofstede

**Second:** Commissioner Vreeland

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Voting:**

Aye - Faust

Aye – Vreeland

Aye - Hofstede

Aye – Gill-Gerbig

Aye -- Absent