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**MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 9, 2017

Attachment 3

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Commissioners in Attendance

Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Jim Saefke, Fridley; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; Cailin Rogers, St. Paul; Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; and Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB).

Staff and Guests: Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Abby Moore, Udai Singh, Doug Snyder, MWMO; Joshua Foss, The Ecala Group; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke, to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff

In the MWMO CIP schedule, the 10-year plan estimated \$3.5 million in funding for integrative stormwater management across the Towerside site. Of that amount, \$1.7 million is designated for stormwater reuse, initiative water resource planning and other stormwater management projects in 2017. Many subprojects on this site come together to build a comprehensive picture of stormwater management, creation of urban habitat, and restorative elements.

MWMO has completed studies with The Ecala Group to understand the benefits of managing stormwater through an integrated utility hub (IUH). The IUH is a stormwater system integrated with water supply and wastewater management for higher restorative benefits. The MWMO focuses only on the stormwater portion of the integrated system. A second study was a site-level analysis on the 20-acre Phase II site which has challenges in managing 100-year storm events since there is no overflow available. Staff have been preparing for a feasibility study and site-level work on Phase II. Hennepin County, Met Council, BCBS and the McKnight Foundation have attended meetings to learn more about the IUH approach and Staff hopes to gain support from these and other entities to do a feasibility study for an IUH facility in this area. Staff will also contact the Capitol Region Watershed District, which covers most of the St. Paul side of the Towerside development, to learn how they are involved and whether they would be interested in participating in the project.

The District Stormwater system at Towerside captures, filters and stores runoff from an approximately eight-acre area in a 206,575-gallon underground storage tank for reuse. Staff has gained approval from the City of Minneapolis to reuse this water to irrigate the Towerside Green 4th Street ROW plantings. As a result, Staff is proposing funding the additional plantings in the Green 4th Street ROW from 29th Avenue SE to TCF Stadium. There are 2015 budgeted funds for projects of this nature. The plantings are habitat and stormwater-friendly. Staff anticipates bringing a funding request for this project to the Board in July. The plantings will include grasses, shrubs, and trees. Minneapolis Park Board will not plant anything other than trees, so this three-tiered system is above-and-beyond what is normally seen in an urban setting. The landowners would be responsible for future maintenance.

A subgrant agreement with Metro Blooms has been completed. MWMO received grants from BWSR and Hennepin County to pursue outreach to local businesses and installation of green projects on those business properties. Metro Blooms will begin the outreach process later this month.

A feasibility study was completed for the installation of green infrastructure in downtown Minneapolis along 5th Street S. Based on designs it is a cost-effective and prudent project, but there are significant utility conflicts so the project will be confined to a one-block area of 5th Street. Staff anticipates seeking a grant for the project in July

Staff have begun working on a feasibility study and inspection with the City of Minneapolis and Barr Engineering on the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel project. Staff may present a grant request in July for this project.

Seven Capital Grant applications were received by the April 7 deadline. Anoka County requested a grant for work in Riverfront Regional Park, just upstream of the Minneapolis water treatment facility. MWMO may partner with Anoka County to complete streambank restoration on the property. City of Minneapolis Property Development Services also submitted a grant application for a site in NE Minneapolis to install a number of stormwater management practices.

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the re-opening of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is on June 3. MWMO has been invited to participate in the ceremony.

Staff is still working on eliminating a few bugs in the monitoring equipment and sand filter system at the St. Anthony regional stormwater treatment system.

The underground storage tank at Edison Green Campus is leaking. MWMO is working with contractors to get the leaks plugged and resume full functionality of the site, which should be operational by summer.

The redesigned MWMO website has been nominated for an award in the Government Communicators Group. Staff will learn whether the website will win the award next week.

Elizabeth Dunbar at Minnesota Public Radio is planning to do a story with MWMO on the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel restoration project on May 16.

Snyder compiled notes after the last meeting about the contract bidding laws in Minnesota and MWMO's practices in this area that may be reviewed at the summer retreat..

General Business

Resolution 2017-021: 1NE Stormwater MOU. The 1NE Watershed covers approximately 2,000 acres and encompasses portions of NE Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, and Fridley. Localized flooding occurs at numerous areas in the 1NE Watershed and the majority of the watershed drains untreated directly to the Mississippi River. MWMO, Minneapolis and MPRB are working together on a planning and design effort to improve stormwater management, increase flood resiliency, reduce pollutant loading to the Mississippi and improve ecological function within the watershed area. The participating parties developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to identify the goals and roles and responsibilities of each partner as the project moves forward. Staff is requesting Board approval of the MOU. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-021, a Resolution approving the MOU for planning for stormwater management improvements in the 1NE Watershed. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-022: 1NE Stormwater Planning and Preliminary Design. Staff is requesting to move forward with the first project in the MOU. MWMO is leading this component, sent RFPs to six engineering firms, and received four responses for a 30% preliminary design. Staff recommends accepting the proposal from SRF and adding a 10% contingency to their proposal, which did not include a built-in contingency. Motion by Vreeland, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-022, a Resolution approving funding for the 1NE watershed stormwater management planning and preliminary design project, adding \$24,700 to a separately-held contingency fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-023: Fridley Street Reconstruction Capital Project Grant. The City of Fridley identified two areas for additional stormwater management in their 2017 street reconstruction efforts, for which they've requested MWMO partnership: 1) Main Street Pond Excavation, and 2) 53rd Avenue Diversion. Staff wrote a letter to the city to outline concerns regarding modeling showing reductions in capacity and increased maintenance. Fridley plans to move forward with the project. Motion by Saefke, second by Vreeland to approve Resolution 2017-023, a Resolution approving funding for stormwater improvements as part of the City of Fridley 2017 street reconstruction and trail additions project. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-024: Upper Harbor Terminal Professional Services RFQ. This Resolution would allow staff to prepare and release a request for quotes for the Upper Harbor Terminal feasibility study. Planning and community engagement will commence between now and July for concept designs of the area. The project will proceed to feasibility studies and preliminary designs in July. Up to \$3.5 million dollars have been identified for use in regional or district systems on both public and private land. This 50-acre site is owned by Minneapolis with an enormous potential for scale and opportunity for water quality treatment and green infrastructure on site. The MWMO Board has also stated that land within two blocks of the river is a critical priority for water treatment. Motion by Vreeland, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-024, a Resolution approving release of an RFQ for the Upper Harbor Terminal Stormwater and Riverbank Restoration Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017-025: Towerside Phase II District Stormwater System RFQ. This Resolution would allow staff to prepare and release a request for quotes for a stormwater district feasibility study for this project. Staff has reviewed the informational background for the site and believes there is opportunity to address stormwater management. The developer is covering the costs for the required stormwater management and is open to MWMO funding and installing additional stormwater management projects on this 21-acre site. Staff anticipates a request for funding to install additional projects on the site in July. This project is the district stormwater system base layer and does not include the IUH, but could be plugged into the hub in the future. Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve Resolution 2017-025, a Resolution approving an RFQ for a Towerside Phase II District Stormwater Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

Ecala IUH Planning Study Presentation: Joshua Foss, President of The Ecala Group, presented a Restorative One Water Vision based on the recently completed study. Ultimately, water can be reclaimed and reused instead of one-use to wastewater. Inputs to the IUH are sewer, stormwater and solid waste. Outputs from the IUH are potable water, heating, cooling and electricity. Outputs to market include fertilizer, reclaimed materials, and organic vegetables and seafood. Food and energy production are currently some of the largest uses of freshwater. An IUH in a restored watershed reduces pollution, recovers nutrients, treats stormwater and provides a secure alternative water supply, as well as conserving upstream land and freshwater. The technology is currently in use, but hasn't been integrated in this way before. Three preliminary models were completed for uses of 300,000 gallons to 5 million gallons of water through the system per day. The mid-scale proforma was reviewed. The IUH feasibility study shows Towerside could support a One Water pilot project.

Commissioners expressed concern that black-water conversion systems haven't been proven and the "payback" timeframe is based on uncertain numbers. It was suggested that MWMO may not have capacity of resources in staff and funding to manage such a large project and additional partners like Met Council and Hennepin County should be included.

MWMO and Ecala will continue the conversation re the IUH system in the future.

Monitoring Team Presentation: Due to time constraints, this presentation will occur at the July meeting. There is a Channel 5 news spot on the monitoring team.

Open Public Input

There were no public comments.

Board Updates and Announcements.

Rogers thanked Singh and Nick Busse for participating in the Kasota Park Cleanup as St. Anthony Park is working to better preserve and protect the Kasota Park ponds.

Vreeland will send a link to Snyder to Unnatural, a document created by Berger Partnership about making a city ecologically function like nature. Snyder can distribute it to the rest of the Commissioners.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary

Record of Motions

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke, to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-021, a Resolution approving the MOU for planning for stormwater management improvements in the 1NE Watershed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-022, a Resolution approving funding for the 1NE watershed stormwater management planning and preliminary design project, adding \$24,700 to a separately held contingency fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Saefke, second by Vreeland to approve Resolution 2017-023, a Resolution approving funding for stormwater improvements as part of the City of Fridley 2017 street reconstruction and trail additions project. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Rogers to approve Resolution 2017-024, a Resolution approving release of an RFQ for the Upper Harbor Terminal Stormwater and Riverbank Restoration Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve Resolution 2017-025, a Resolution approving an RFQ for a Towerside Phase II District Stormwater Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.