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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

# MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** 12 September 2017

**Attachment 3**

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 PM

**Location:** 2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

## Commissioners in Attendance

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

Staff and Guests: Marcy Bean, Max Dalton, Brett Eidem, Stephanie Johnson, Dan Kalmon, Michaela Neu, Udai Singh and Doug Snyder, MWMO; Nathan Campeau, Barr Engineering, Old Bassett Creek Tunnel project; Glenda Meixell, Anoka Conservation District; Bob Friddle, City of Minneapolis, ESSMF project; Matt Lysne, HCM Architects; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Commissioner Saefke.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve the Agenda, moving item 6.6 to the beginning of General Business. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust, to approve the Minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Consent Agenda

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

## Reports from Staff

Snyder updated the Commissioners on **conferences** MWMO staff will be attending, including presentations expected to be given by staff at conferences. Staff is also planning to submit multiple abstracts for presentations at the Worldwide Water Conference to be held in Minneapolis in June 2018 prior to the October 9, 2017 deadline.

[Reich arrived 3:08 p.m.]

Johnson discussed the outcome of the **Old Bassett Creek Tunnel project**. The Old Bassett Creek Tunnel is the oldest subterranean tunnel in Minneapolis. It is approximately 8,000 linear feet long, running from near Harrison Park under the North Loop area to the Mississippi River. It has been determined that defects in the tunnel liner are at the concrete surface only, so the tunnel can be repaired. The project identified approximately 3,900 cubic yards of sediment ranging from 0-2 feet in depth deposited throughout the tunnel, as well as some man-made blockages. It is difficult to clean out the tunnel due to the blockages. The most critical sediment deposits appear in the upstream reaches near Olson Memorial Highway. This sediment is coming from the land area draining to the tunnel. Staff sampled the sediment and estimate 2,000 lbs of nitrogen and 3,000 lbs of phosphorus are in the tunnel sediment, along with heavy metals and other substances typical of urban runoff, but not enough pollutants to consider the sediment as hazardous waste.

Water from the Mississippi River backs up about halfway up the tunnel for most of each year, with some river sediment settling in the downstream area of the tunnel. Near the middle of the tunnel there is almost no sediment. Daylighting the tunnel isn't a useful option as much of the creek was diverted away from the tunnel and there is no longer a base flow through the tunnel. As a product of the project, Barr has created a list of recommendations re how often the tunnel should be inspected, cost estimates for removing sediment (\$1.5-2 million) and cost-effectiveness of nutrient reduction from sediment removal. Because the removal would be a very cost-effective project for reducing many lbs of sediment at a reasonable cost per lb, staff are working with the City of Minneapolis to pursue the project in 2018. Other components of this project included adding access hatches. A hole was also discovered and repaired that allowed stormwater to seep into the Met Council sanitary line as an ancillary benefit. Staff is also working with Metro Transit, who is building a large garage over the tunnel, to install another access hatch. The schedule to cleanout sediment carried by normal drainage is estimated at every 25 years, but if sediment is settling from the river, cleanout may be required more often. Staff is also discussing the installation of a weir or other abstraction device at the mouth of the tunnel where it meets the river.

The City of Minneapolis applied for a capital project grant for the **East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility** this spring. This facility drains to a regularly flooding area in Northeast Minneapolis so MWMO partnered with Minneapolis Public Works to create a feasibility study to look at potential options to reduce flooding. The results estimated the tanks needed to hold a 10-year storm event on site at \$1.5 million. Using H&H models, holding that stormwater on-site would have a significant impact on flooding in the immediate area; but at only one block away, there is hardly any impact on the current flooding situation. Conclusion is that the benefit is not

worth the cost to install storage tanks. However, the 1.1” abstraction requirement does have an impact for nuisance flooding from short duration, intense rainfall events. Other funding for pollution control will be pursued since the city stores salt and other potential pollutants at the site. The flooding situation will require more than a single project to address and MWMO staff are excited to partner with Minneapolis to do great things with this site and partner on future projects.

MPRB has accepted the lowest bid for the **Hall’s Island project**. Construction, primarily earthwork to construct the island and vegetation, is expected to begin in November. MWMO has approved a \$1.5 million grant for the design and construction of the island. The project includes a three-year maintenance plan for vegetation.

Like at the St. Anthony regional facility, **time-lapse cameras** can be set up to capture the construction progress of Hall’s Island. Nick Busse and Bean will use the photos as a communication tool about the project. The cost to install the cameras would be between \$7,500-\$10,000. Faust noted that there are two benefits, both current “show and tell” and also a historical record for island building. Other Commissioners also expressed support for recording the process.

The **2017 Fridley street reconstruction** project began last Friday. Bids received for the project were less than estimated, so MWMO may pay out less than the full grant amount for this project.

The **Mississippi River Green Team** had a great summer program in 2017 including unique experiences where the kids got to go camping with Wilderness Inquiry at Echo Lake, and also got to work with the U of M Bee Lab training to become Pollinator Ambassadors. This was the tenth year of the program and included a great alumni reunion with past participants.

2017 was the first year of the **Green Team Alumni Internship** program with organizations interested in hiring the intern, Yengsoua Lee, who has gone on to work with Three Rivers Park District. This program will be implemented again in 2018. Additional alumni worked in other programs, including Step UP, and with Minneapolis Parks.

The **annual program evaluation** is underway and final results and a request to continue funding this program are expected at the next meeting.

In August, MWMO applied for a \$25,000 grant through the McKnight Foundation to build the **Integrated Utility Hub (IUH)** partnership and support the feasibility study for that project. The Ecala Group is taking over from MWMO as the convener and facilitator of those meetings, as well as development and pursuit of project funding. Staff’s role has been to gather letters of support as Ecala seeks grants and other funding, as well as meeting with partners to discuss the scope of the feasibility study.

Staff met with the development team for the **Upper Harbor Terminal project** last week. The developers are interested in pursuing a stormwater-platform workshop to look at how

stormwater can be managed on the site as a district system. MWMO and Minneapolis Public Works staff also met to look at managing the site as a district system, along with critical habitat along the river.

Staff is meeting with member cities regarding their **Local Water Management Plans**. Plans have already been received from St. Paul and Lauderdale. Timing is on-track with the local water and comprehensive planning process.

The **Towerside District 2 Feasibility Study** is underway in collaboration with Barr Engineering and the Minnesota Design Center.

## General Business

### **Resolution 2017-037: Funding for a Towerside Framework for Planning and Implementation.**

In July, Towerside hired Minnesota Design Center to develop planning for the project. This funding request will assist that effort and allow other developers to use this work in future projects. This project creates a coordinated conceptual plan and implementation framework; ensures that the Towerside Plan is included in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Comprehensive Plans; facilitates the development of the Innovation District concept which includes replication of the district stormwater systems and improved urban habitation; and provides technical information on habitat corridors, stormwater availability and a water storage analysis across the district. Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve Resolution 2017-037, A Resolution Approving Funding for a Towerside Framework for Planning and Implementation. Motion carried unanimously.

MWMO was contacted by the City of St. Paul after a video of the Towerside project was shown to their Public Works team. They are requesting information on how the Towerside project design was accomplished.

**Resolution 2017-032: Planning Grant Awards.** This Resolution would award Planning Grant funds to three projects out of ten projects submitted for planning grants this year. Two projects are for planning and potential construction projects, one is a curriculum-development project for third through fifth grade students. Motion by Faust, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-032, a Resolution approving the 2017 planning grants to Mill City Church, New City Charter School, and Youth Performance Company. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2017-033: CIP – Water Works Project.** This Resolution would approve a CIP Grant to MPRB for the first two phases of development, the Mezzanine phase, of Water Works Park - a 6-acre park located within Mill Ruins Park and envisioned in the River First initiative. Requirements for the site are being met through a series of BMPs, including an “above-and-beyond” reuse component for irrigation and toilet flushing. This project is budgeted for 2017 in the MWMO Capital Improvement Plan. Motion by Saefke, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2017-033, a Resolution approving funding for stormwater reuse as part of the water works park capital improvement project. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2017-034: CIP – 4th Street Landscape for Habitat.** As an extension of the Towerside District Stormwater System, a habitat-rich landscape plan has been designed for the 4th Street SE (section B) reconstruction, currently under construction. The “above standard” construction will likely occur in spring 2018. The plantings will be irrigated using stored stormwater from the district system in 2022, when the maintenance of the entire district system will be transferred out of MWMO responsibility. Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve Resolution 2017-034, a Resolution approving funding for the 4th Street landscape plantings for habitat as an extension of the Towerside District Stormwater System. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2017-035: CIP – Minneapolis East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility (ESSMF) Project.** The City of Minneapolis applied for a MWMO Capital Project Grant in spring 2017 to work in partnership on stormwater management opportunities at their new ESSMF site, located on the corner of University Avenue NE and 27th Avenue NE. This is a 9-acre parcel being redeveloped from industrial/residential parcels. MWMO has worked with the design team to enhance proposed biofiltration and infiltration practices, add habitat value and stormwater education, and integrate a stormwater capture and re-use system for washing vehicles and/or flushing toilets. Bob Friddle, Director of Facilities Design and Construction with the City of Minneapolis, commented that this was an exciting opportunity for the City, Public Works, MWMO, and the local neighborhood to collaborate on a win-win project. Working with MWMO staff has been a great experience. A similar project to ESSMF will be built at the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility which is looking to expand the campus at that location and include stormwater management as well. The project has big impacts for the neighborhood, residents, staff working at these facilities, and the city in general. This project will prioritize educational signage in the public right-of-way and employee outdoor spaces. MWMO staff worked with the City to obtain a \$150,000 stormwater grant from Met Council for this project and will continue to explore cost-effectiveness of capture/reuse. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2017-035, a Resolution approving City of Minneapolis East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility stormwater management improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2017-036: St. Anthony Village Cooperative Agreement.** This is an agreement to manage the St. Anthony Stormwater Treatment and Research Facility. The facility has been operational for several months and this agreement has been in the works for nearly two years. The agreement allows for MWMO to perform the operations and maintenance of the facility for the first 3.5 years of operation, with the City of St. Anthony Village taking over operations and maintenance on December 31, 2020. After that date, MWMO will continue to be responsible for the research portion of the facility only. Motion by Vreeland, second by Gaasch to approve Resolution 2017-036, a Resolution approving the MWMO entering into an agreement to operate and manage the Saint Anthony stormwater treatment and research facility. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2017-038: Levy/TNT Certification.** The proposed budget is based on the MWMO comprehensive plan, strategic plan, and member CIPs. This budget represents a 0% increase over 2017. Motion by Saefke, second by Vreeland to approve Resolution 2017-038, a Resolution approving the maximum MWMO levy amount for FY2018 of \$5,700,000 and directing staff to submit Truth-in-Taxation documentation to Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey Counties. Motion carried unanimously.

Singh updated the Commission on the **downtown stormwater runoff study**. Using a rainfall simulator and a sampling crew, runoff from roofs, parking lot/asphalt, and concrete surfaces was captured and diverted to a stormwater sampling system. This study was approved in September 2016 and Singh worked with the City to choose sites. Based on the results, Staff may return with a request to continue funding this study for an additional year. Singh and staff also investigated the swirl chamber to determine the amount and type of sediment/debris in the chambers.

[Schmitt departed 4:35 p.m.]

## **Open Public Input**

There were no public comments.

## **Board Updates and Announcements**

Governor Mark Dayton is hosting a series of 25 by 2025 roundtable events. MWMO staff will participate in the North Minneapolis roundtable at the end of September. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Glenda Meixell introduced herself as a Supervisor at the Anoka Conservation District.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen

Recording Secretary

## Record of Motions

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