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**MISSISSIPPI  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** January 13, 2015  
**Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
2522 Marshall St. NE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

**ATTACHMENT 3**

### **Commissioners in Attendance**

Jerry Faust, St. Anthony; Karen Gill-Gerbig, Lauderdale; Jim Saefke, Fridley; Donna Schmitt, Columbia Heights; Betty Wheeler, St. Paul; Kevin Reich, Minneapolis; and Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park & Recreation.

**Staff and Guests:** Doug Snyder, MWMO; Marcy Bean, MWMO; Stephanie Johnson, MWMO; Dan Kalmon, MWMO; Max Dalton, MWMO; Michaela Neu, MWMO; Tammy Schmitz, MWMO; Udai Singh, MWMO; Steve Christopher, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Shawn Tracy, HDR Engineering; Christa Pearson, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA); Cliff Swenson, MPRB; Renay Leone, MPRB; Charlie LeFevere, Kennedy-Graven; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Commissioner Reich.

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2014 with the following corrections: Wheeler was present, misspellings of attendees names, and Linda Johnson is from Hilltop, not Columbia Heights. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Vreeland, second by Gill-Gerbig to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission recognized the service of Perry Dean on the CAC for 12 years. Wheeler's name is missing from the Tort liability paperwork, Staff will correct.

### **Public Hearing**

Reich opened the public hearing at 3:07 p.m. to receive comments on the 2015 Watershed Plan Amendment. No comments were received. Next steps include working with Minneapolis and MnDot regarding MWMO's response to their comments. The 90-day review period ends on January 31. The BWSR subcommittee will then review in April and final approval is expected in May.

The public hearing was closed at 3:12. Motion by Gill-Gerbig, second by Faust to approve the 2015 Plan Amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports from Staff**

A full-day meeting, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. will be held at MWMO on January 27 for Board and Staff. The day will be similar in structure to the Board Retreat but include Staff. This will introduce a new approach to Board interactions.

The conclusion on the Vikings stadium project is that the cost of treatment is too high and MWMO has politely declined to participate.

Bids received for the Edison High School campus project were higher than expected. Staff is meeting with the project partners tomorrow to discuss how to move forward.

MWMO has the opportunity to participate in a staff exchange. The U of M inquired if Singh could be made available to assist in the setup of a monitoring system with government staff in India for two weeks. Indian staff from the project would then come to Minnesota to work with the University and MWMO. Commissioners were not opposed, but had questions on funding the trip and employee pay. Staff will research further.

Staff requested MWMO Counsel to review banning guns on the premises. Legislature made it very clear that no local authority can ban guns on a premises except for public buildings such as schools, the capitol building and grounds, etc. A sign could be posted to state MWMO bans guns if you do not carry a permit.

Staff reviewed all documents, minutes and purchase information re the contribution to the Minneapolis Park Board's acquisition of 1720 Marshall St NE. There is no time limit mentioned in the agreement for how long the Park Board may use the property prior to converting it into parkland. The 10 year timeline was presented verbally at the time the expenditure was approved and is instaff meeting notes with Park Board staff The building on the property will serve as storage and site plans will include landscaping to reduce impervious surfaces.

The Science Museum is offering coupons through MWMO good through September. The coupons are for discounted admission rates and may also include discounts on other activities at the museum.

### **General Business**

The Board completed the performance review of the Executive Director through WAM Enterprises, LLC on January 2, 2015. Updates to incomplete items were included in the packet. Snyder will have a work plan based on the appraisal prepared for the January 27 meeting for review and acceptance by the Board. The work plan will include proposed tasks, timelines and evaluation criteria. Snyder will also propose a development plan for the items in the appraisal indicating a need to improve. This document can become the basis for the next appraisal.

Motion by Faust, second by Vreeland to postpone action until the January 27 work session. Motion carried unanimously.

MWMO has an ongoing agreement since 2010 with St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) to provide database support for MWMO's real time monitoring network. The deadline for the currently active agreement is December 31, 2015. The recent modeling project in the northeast Minneapolis subwatershed has called into question the validity of our monitoring data. Staff has determined that it is necessary to test the accuracy of the equipment. SAFL has the best facility able to perform these tests. Staff is requesting an amendment to the current contract to allow up to \$100,000 over a five-year contract with no monthly maximum to allow SAFL to continue providing database support and allow collaboration on specific projects such as equipment accuracy testing as the need arises.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Faust to approve the Amendment to SAFL Services Agreement 305-14-13 to increase the total compensation to \$100,000 and extend the deadline to December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

A request to partner with the Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board for land acquisition at 1828 Marshall St NE has been received. The property is currently mixed-use with office, retail and residential units. The Park Board is proposing to allow the leases to continue through their expiration in 2015 and consider park development in 2016. The Park Board has requested funds from the Met Council Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant program for 75% of the total purchase price of \$1,835,000, which is \$1,421,250. The MWMO portion of purchase equals 76% of the 25% local match required by Met Council.

Commissioners discussed setting time limits for when the property should be cleared of structures and that it is in the business of water quality, not assisting in the acquisition of income-generating properties. The Park Board noted that the purpose is to connect trails and that if a building is purposeful there's no reason it should not remain on the property. The shoreline system is a 50-year vision and may not conform within 5 years. The longest-term lease on the property expires in 2018, one of three leases that extend beyond 2015. Concerns with leaving a vacant building include squatters and vandalism. Commissioners asked for a date of structure removal to be specified, perhaps one year after the longest lease expires. Reich suggested a staff to staff memorandum of agreement to codify the agreement on the land use after purchase with a specific date, rather than try to set a date at this meeting. The grant is contingent upon Commission approval of the

purchase and the risk of losing the property if the proposed acquisition is postponed is very high. The original purchase agreement was signed in October, 2014.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Saefke to approve the land acquisition contribution for 1828 Marshall St NE. Motion carried, Faust and Gill-Gerbig opposed.

Commissioners asked for a memo of protocol and a check-in time frame to be drafted to the Board.

Staff is working with counsel to review contracting documents, and will review with new and transition staff members to ensure the same procedures are followed for all contracts. Practices will be reviewed with the goal of identifying minimum requirements for each type of agreement created. A final draft is expected at the March meeting.

In May 2013, the Board approved a motion directing Staff to hire professional services to lead a design/build process for a riverbank restoration project on Nicollet Island. During the design/build RFQ process, more complex site issues were identified so an RFQ for a technical investigation of the site commenced. The findings from that investigation were presented to the Board for review, including processes that drive erosion and estimated loading to the river, along with the design/build plans. The overall cost estimate is just under \$1 million to restore 550 linear feet of the island's shoreline. Channel stability without regular dredging is still in question and the full restoration isn't suggested at this time.

[Faust departed 4:54 p.m.]

[Saefke departed 5:02 p.m.]

Staff will review the cost/benefit analysis for possible projects and monitoring on the island.

Pearson presented the Crochet Coral Reef Project and asked the Board to consider co-hosting a satellite crochet coral reef exhibit at the MWMO facility with a goal of installing the exhibit in August or September 2015. Combined with a crochet workshop, the exhibit will allow MWMO to cooperate with MIA in a visible and tangible project that combines art and water quality. The goal is to be part gallery, community gathering space and call-to-action. The size of the exhibit will be dependent on community interest.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Gill-Gerbig to direct education Staff to work with MIA regarding co-hosting the exhibit and to bring more information on the project to a future meeting. Motion carried, Faust and Saefke absent.

Motion by Vreeland, second by Gill-Gerbig to postpone election of officers to the March meeting due to time constraints. Motion carried, Faust and Saefke absent.

## **Board Updates and Announcements**

The monument in front of the building may be featured in a story that PBS is doing on the artist. More information will follow.

**Public Input**

There were no public comments.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion by Vreeland, second by Gill-Gerbig to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Juntunen  
Recording Secretary

## **Record of Motions**

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